CITY OF KENNEWICK
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
November 5, 2024

City Council Present – In Person:

Gretl Crawford, *Mayor*
Chuck Torelli, *Mayor Pro Tem*
Loren Anderson, *Councilmember*
Brad Beauchamp, *Councilmember*
Jim Millbauer, *Councilmember*
John Trumbo, *Councilmember*

City Staff Present:

Erin Erdman, *City Manager*
Laurencio Sanguino, *City Attorney*
Jessica Platt, *Finance Director*
John Cowling, *Public Works Director*
Chad Crouch, *Executive Services Director*
Chad Michael, *Fire Chief*
Cary Roe, *Deputy City Manager*
Lisa Beaton, *Deputy City Manager*
Krystal Townsend, *City Clerk*
Jeremy Lustig, *Deputy Public Works Director*
Isaac Merkl, *Police Commander*
Cody Lewis, *IT Director*
Anthony Maui, *Planning Director*
Robert Ball, *Deputy Fire Chief*
Dana Dollarhyde, *Exec Assistant/Lead Communications Specialist*

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Crawford called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Townsend stated all Councilmembers were in attendance with the exception of Councilmember McShane and a quorum was established.

MOTION:	Mayor Pro Tem Torelli moved to excuse the absence of Councilmember McShane.
SECOND:	Councilmember Anderson.
DISCUSSION:	None.
VOTE:	**The motion passed unanimously (6-0).**

Mayor Pro Tem Torelli led the pledge of allegiance. There were no invocations.

Retirement Service Recognition: Liz Edmonson, 36 Years, Police Department

Mayor Crawford presented Ms. Edmonson with a plaque and read it into the record. Ms. Edmonson expressed appreciation for the support she received throughout her career.

Retirement Service Recognition: Brian Pochert, 27 Years, Police Department

Mayor Crawford presented Officer Pochert with a plaque and read it into the record. Officer Pochert expressed appreciation to everyone who has supported him during his career.

At 6:35 p.m. Mayor Crawford announced a 10-minute recess to celebrate the 63 years of service Ms. Edmonson and Officer Pochert gave to the City of Kennewick.

At 6:45 p.m. Mayor Crawford called the meeting back to order.

2. **VISITORS: None.**

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION:	Councilmember Trumbo moved to approve the agenda as presented.
SECOND:	Mayor Pro Tem Torelli.
DISCUSSION:	None.
VOTE:	**The motion passed unanimously (6-0).**

4. **CONSENT AGENDA**

a. **Meeting Minutes: October 15, 2024, City Council Regular Meeting**
Motion to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2024, City Council regular meeting as presented.

b. **Meeting Minutes: October 22, 2024, City Council Workshop Meeting**
Motion to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2024, City Council workshop meeting as presented.

c. **Meeting Minutes: October 29, 2024, City Council Special Meeting**
Motion to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2024, City Council special meeting as presented.

d. **Claim Roster: Toyota Center Operations and Box Office Accounts**
Motion to approve the Claims Rosters for the Toyota Center Operations and Box Office Accounts for September 2024 in the amount of $1,220,798.87 comprised of check numbers 27623-27696 in the amount of $257,527.27 and electronic transfers in the amount of $963,271.60

e. **Claims Roster: Columbia Park Golf Course Account**
Motion to approve the Claims Roster for the Columbia Park Golf Course Account for September 2024 in the amount of $42,579.93, comprised of check numbers 2879-2891 in the amount of $3,584.39 and electronic transfers in the amount of $38,995.54

f. **Payroll Roster: For the Pay Period Ending 10/15/2024**
Motion to approve the Payroll Roster for the pay period ending 10/15/2024.

g. **Acceptance of Work: 2023 City-Wide Asphalt Overlay Project**
Motion to accept the work of Granite Construction Company for contract P2301-23, 2023 City-Wide Asphalt Overlay, in the amount of $1,781,011.03.

h. **Acceptance of Work: Deschutes Ave and Columbia Center Blvd Intersection Improvements**
Motion to accept the work of Ellison Earthworks, LLC for contract P2010-23, Deschutes Ave. and Columbia Center Blvd. Intersection Improvements, in the amount of $2,142,618.05.

i. **Resolution 24-19: 2017 Water System Plan (WSP) Amendment**
Motion to adopt the resolution as presented. The City Clerk assigned resolution 24-19.

j. **Acceptance of Work: Steptoe St. and Gage Blvd. Intersection Improvements**
Motion to accept the work of Apollo, Inc. for contract P2012 Steptoe St. and Gage Blvd. Intersection Improvements Project, in the amount of $3,137,157.89.

k. **Contract: 2022 General Sewer Plan Supplemental Agreement No. 3**
Motion to authorize the City Manager to sign the Supplemental Agreement No. 3 with J-U-B Engineers, Inc. for the 2022 General Sewer Plan update (P2114).

MOTION:	Councilmember Anderson moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.
SECOND:	Mayor Pro Tem Torelli.
VOTE:	**The motion passed unanimously (6-0).**

5. ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

a. **Ordinance: Setting Water Utility Rates**

Mr. Cowling provided a staff report for the water and sewer rate items simultaneously (5.a and 5.b.) and stated the city's consultant, Angie Sanchez Virnoche, was present via Zoom and ready to answer questions if necessary. Mr. Cowling, together with Mr. Roe, responded to Council questions.

The City Clerk read the ordinance by title:

AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO WATER CHARGES AND AMENDING SECTIONS 14.13.030, 14.13.040, 14.13.050 AND 14.13.100 OF THE KENNEWICK MUNICIPAL CODE;

MOTION:	Mayor Pro Tem Torelli moved to adopt the ordinance as presented.
SECOND:	Councilmember Millbauer.
DISCUSSION:	None.
VOTE:	**The motion passed unanimously (6-0).**
The City Clerk assigned ordinance number 24-6067.	

b. **Ordinance: Setting Sewer Utility Rates**

The City Clerk read the ordinance by title:

ORDINANCE RELATING TO SANITARY SEWER CHARGES AND AMENDING SECTIONS 14.26.010, 14.26.020, 14.26.030, 14.26.040 AND 14.26.70 OF THE KENNEWICK MUNICIPAL CODE

MOTION:	Councilmember Anderson moved to adopt the ordinance as presented.
SECOND:	Mayor Pro Tem Torelli.
DISCUSSION:	Council mentioned appreciation for the detailed staff reports and presentations at the workshop meetings.
VOTE:	**The motion passed unanimously (6-0).**
The City Clerk assigned ordinance number 24-6068.	

6. PUBLIC HEARING:

a. **Establishing a Transportation Benefit District** *Public Hearing; Final Action is Scheduled on November 19*

Ms. Beaton and Ms. Platt provided a comprehensive staff report and responded to Council questions.

Mayor Crawford opened the public hearing at 7:10 p.m.

No one provided testimony.

The public hearing was closed at 7:10 p.m.

Final action is scheduled for November 19, 2024.

b. **Ordinance: 2025 Property Tax Levy**

Ms. Platt provided a comprehensive staff report and responded to Council questions. Ms. Platt mentioned the ordinance required a slight correction to the increase as 1.01% rather than 1.0101% as presented.

Mayor Crawford opened the public hearing at 7:15 p.m.

One resident spoke in favor of increased services over decreased taxes.

No one spoke in opposition to the matter.

The public hearing was closed at 7:17 p.m.

The City Clerk read the ordinance by title:

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR A PROPERTY TAX LEVY IN THE CITY OF KENNEWICK FOR THE YEAR 2025 IN ACCORD WITH STATE LAW;

MOTION:	Mayor Pro Tem Torelli moved to adopt the ordinance as amended [an increase of 1.01%].
SECOND:	Councilmember Anderson.
DISCUSSION:	Council spoke to the modest increase and spoke in appreciation to citizen involvement in the budget discussion over the course of several meetings together with the necessity of taxes to cover the cost of rising expenses. Council also spoke to relief available through the County for those with eligible conditions.
VOTE:	**The motion passed unanimously (6-0).**

The City Clerk assigned ordinance number 24-6069.

c. **2025/2026 Biennial Budget** *First Public Hearing; Second Public Hearing and Final Action is Scheduled on November 19*

Ms. Platt provided a comprehensive staff report and stated the budget is balanced. Ms. Platt described the upcoming process to include a second public hearing on November 19 and possible final action/adoption of the budget. Council asked questions and sought clarification on several figures. Ms. Platt, Ms. Erdman and Ms. Beaton addressed the inquiries.

Mayor Crawford opened the public hearing at 7:31 p.m.

Two residents provided general statements regarding budgeting/funding priorities but did not provide specific testimony in favor or against the budget document.

The public hearing was closed at 7:34 p.m.

Council concurred that messaging outreach is important to assist citizens with understanding the budget details so they are well informed. Council further discussed details of the budget and differences between the 2023/2024 budget and the preliminary budget for 2025/2026.

A second public hearing and potential final action is scheduled for November 19, 2024.

d. **Resolution: Preliminary Latecomers Reimbursement Agreement for S Colorado Street Sewer**

Mr. Lustig provided a detailed staff report and, together with Mr. Roe, responded to Council questions.

Mayor Crawford opened the public hearing at 7:46 p.m.

No one provide testimony in favor or against the matter.

The public hearing was closed at 7:46 p.m.

MOTION:	Councilmember Millbauer moved to adopt the resolution as presented and authorize the City Manager to sign the Preliminary Latecomers Reimbursement Agreement for S Colorado Street Sewer.
SECOND:	Councilmember Anderson.
DISCUSSION:	None.
VOTE:	**The motion passed unanimously (6-0).**
The City Clerk assigned resolution number 24-20.	

e. **Resolution: Vacation of a portion of a 40.00 foot Utility Easement Located at 3404 W 46th Ave**

Mr. Cowling described the project and noted there were no staff objections to the vacation.

Mayor Crawford opened the public hearing at 7:49 p.m.

The homeowner spoke in favor of the resolution and described the basis for the request.

The public hearing was closed at 7:50 p.m.

MOTION:	Mayor Pro Tem Torelli moved to adopt the resolution as presented and authorize the Mayor to execute all necessary documents.
SECOND:	Councilmember Trumbo.
DISCUSSION:	Council spoke in favor of the project.
VOTE:	**The motion passed unanimously (6-0).**
The City Clerk assigned resolution number 24-21.	

7. NEW BUSINESS:

a. **2025 Legislative Agenda**

Ms. Erdman introduced Briahna Murray, Partner with Gordon Thomas Honeywell, the City's contract lobbyist. Ms. Murray gave an indepth overview of the proposed 2025 legislative agenda and together with Chief Guerrero, responded to Council questions.

Ms. Erdman recommended Council approve the 2025 legislative agenda as presented.

MOTION:	Councilmember Anderson moved to approve the 2025 legislative agenda as presented.
SECOND:	Mayor Pro Tem Torelli.
DISCUSSION:	None.
VOTE:	**The motion passed unanimously (6-0).**

b. **Contract: 2025-2028 Collective Bargaining Agreement - IUOE**

Mr. Crouch presented the contract for approval, highlighted the key elements of the contract, and expressed appreciation for those involved in the negotiation process. No questions were raised.

MOTION:	Councilmember Millbauer moved to authorize the Mayor and CM to sign the collective bargaining agreement as presented.
SECOND:	Mayor Pro Tem Torelli.
DISCUSSION:	Discussion included the merits of open, observable labor negotiations to ensure transparency for citizens, the City, and union members. Appreciation was expressed to the negotiating teams.
VOTE:	**The motion passed unanimously (6-0).**

c. **Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase 2 Project**

Mr. Lustig provided a comprehensive staff report. No questions were raised.

MOTION:	Councilmember Millbauer moved to authorize the City Manager to sign the Progressive Design Build (PDB) Agreement Amendment #2 with Merrell Bros, Inc. for the WWTP Phase 2, Step 2 construction, accepting the guaranteed maximum price (GMP) of $43,580,974
SECOND:	Councilmember Trumbo (who spoke in favor of the project during his second).
DISCUSSION:	None.
VOTE:	**The motion passed unanimously (6-0).**

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

9. VISITORS:

A resident spoke to encourage an investment in arts-related tourism and economic development in Kennewick.

10. COUNCIL COMMENTS/DISCUSSION:

Councilmembers reported on their respective activities, upcoming events, items of concern, and spoke in support of staff and their efforts to improve the City of Kennewick.

11. ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Crawford concluded the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Krystal Townsend

Krystal Townsend, CMC, CPRO
City Clerk

At the time of publishing these minutes, the City Council meeting recording is available at:
https://kennewickwa.new.swagit.com/videos/319374