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COUNCIL ROOM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 450 S. MAIN ST., RICHLAND CENTER, WI 53581 & VIRTUALLY

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**CALL TO ORDER CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Mayor Coppernoll at 6:30 PM. Alderpersons present: Ron Fruit, Karin Tepley, Tom McCarthy, Rachel Schultz, Douglas Martyniuk, and Ryan Cairns. Virtual: Melony Walters and Steve Downs. Absent: None.

**Others Present:** Ashley Oliphant, City Administrator; Misty Molzof, City Clerk/Treasurer; Jasen Glasbrenner, Director of Public Works; Darcy Perkins, Municipal Services Specialist; Scott Gald, Utilities Superintendent; Billy Jones, Police Chief; Jodi Mieden, Parks and Recreation Director; Media; Nova Video representative and The Richland Observer; and members of the public.

Molzof confirmed the meeting was properly noticed on Friday, February 27, 2026, and the amended agenda was properly noticed on Monday, March 2, 2026, by 4:30 pm.

**APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA:** *Motion by Schultz, second by Martyniuk to approve the amended agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously 8-0.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** *Motion by Fruit, second by Martyniuk to waive the reading of the minutes of February 3, 2026, in lieu of printed copies and approve said minutes. Motion carried unanimously 8-0.*

#### **CITY AND UTILITY DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS AND CONCERNS**

**Glasbrenner, Director of Public Works** provided updates on capital improvement planning, team projects, pothole repair, airport master planning, tree trimming and brush removal, and the closure of the transfer station (landfill).

**Molzof, City Treasurer/Clerk**, provided updates on upcoming election dates.

**Mieden, Parks and Recreation Director**, reported on the Annual Activity Guide, winter recreation and tournaments, aquatic center start-up, the upcoming Diamond Jo trip, and seasonal staffing.

**Gald, Utilities Superintendent**, reported that approximately 2,100 electric and 850 water AMI meters have been installed; the Electric Utility received a Diamond Safety Award; APPA data indicates public power is approximately 17% less expensive nationwide and 20% less expensive locally; an MOU with Sextonville is in development; PSC, DNR, and audit processes are ongoing; and the Valley View and W. Seminary projects are currently out for bid.

**Jones, Police Chief**, reported on February activity, including 149 calls for service, 16 criminal complaints, 5 ordinance violations, 3 juvenile cases, 13 traffic citations, and 3 warrants. Parking violations generated \$4,170.42 in revenue. The department is fully staffed.

**Oliphant, City Administrator**, reported on County ambulance services, noting that the County has engaged a firm to conduct a study. At the most recent meeting, there was consensus among participants that a countywide service is necessary. The County Executive and Finance Committee are expected to review the matter at an upcoming meeting. Countywide services may provide greater access to funding opportunities.

#### **MAYOR AND ALDERPERSONS**

**Tepley** requested that Running provide a future update regarding the taxi service. She also reported that the Council Rules Ad-Hoc Committee continues to meet and anticipates completing its work by the end of the month. The Library strategic plan is in progress, including a public input survey. The Library has implemented a state park pass checkout program and is working on updated signage.

**Fruit:** reported that the Richland School District is engaged in strategic planning and will hold two public input sessions in April (April 26 and April 29), encouraging community participation.

**Coppernoll:** reported that the Highway 14 East project is scheduled to begin this year, including resurfacing, guardrail installation, and turn lane improvements. He also attended the Public Power Legislative Rally in Washington, D.C.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** *No action taken.*

Coppernoll provided an opportunity to review meeting materials and ask questions; none were raised.

**UTILITY TREASURER'S REPORT:** *No action taken.*

**PAYMENT OF BILLS:** *Motion by Cairns, second by Schultz to approve bills entered from February 4, 2026, through March 3, 2026, in the total amount of \$2,927,118.25, which includes \$3,217.22 of Greater Richland Tourism bills, and \$2,923,901.03 of general fund bills. Upon roll call vote, motion passed unanimously (8-0).*

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION**

**Public Hearing** on Proposed Zoning Amendment to Chapter 400 Relating to Planned Unit Developments

Glasbrenner provided background information on Planned Unit Developments.

Mayor Coppernoll opened the public hearing at approximately 7:07 pm.

Mayor Coppernoll called for public comment three times; no comments were received.

*Motion by Tepley, second by McCarthy to close the public hearing at approximately 7:08 pm. Motion passed unanimously (8-0).*

**Ordinance Amendment #2026-03:** Chapter 400 Relating to Planned Unit Developments: *Motion by Schultz, second by Fruit to approve Ordinance #2026-03, an Ordinance amending Chapter 400 relating to Planned Unit Developments. Motion passed unanimously (8-0).*

**Innovative Public Advisors (IPA) Symons Recreation Complex Assessment:** *No action taken.*

Staff from IPA presented a summary of findings from the Symons Recreation Complex Assessment, funded through the Wisconsin Department of Revenue Innovation Planning Grant. Council consensus was to proceed with meeting with the County and School District and to schedule a special session to determine the application of the Innovation Grant, which is due by the end of March 2026.

**MOU for Reunification with the Richland School District:** *Motion by Fruit, second by Martyniuk to approve the MOU for reunification with the Richland School District as presented. Upon roll call vote, motion passed unanimously (8-0).*

**Resolution #2026-04, A Resolution to Combine Municipal Wards for Voting Purposes:** *Motion by Schultz, second by fruit to approve Resolution #2026-04, A Resolution to Combine Municipal Wards for Voting Purposes. Upon roll call vote, motion passed unanimously (8-0).*

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION (CAIRNS)**

**Radio Building Space Agreement with Richland County:** *Motion by Cairns, second by Tepley to approve the radio building space agreement with Richland County as presented. Upon roll call vote, motion passed unanimously (8-0).*

Chief Jones explained that the Police Department previously maintained a repeater on a building that was struck by lightning. After replacement, and concurrent with the County's radio project, it was determined the repeater would be better located on the County tower (situated on City-owned property with no existing lease agreement), where it can also serve as a backup system for the County. The County agreed to house the repeater at a total installation cost of \$10,314.47 and requested a \$5,000 contribution from the city. The repeater is installed and operational. The County will cover electrical costs; the city will maintain the access road. Each party is responsible for its own equipment. The agreement includes 60/90-day termination provisions. The City will initially pay the full invoice, with reimbursement from the County upon execution of the agreement. Oliphant noted the agreement now includes necessary termination language to protect both parties.

**Community Meal Site Agreement:** *Motion by Cairns, second by Tepley to approve the Community Meal Site Agreement as presented. Upon roll call vote, motion passed unanimously (8-0).*

Mieden reported that the agreement is up for biennial renewal, with updated dates from January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2028, and revised hours of operation beginning at 7:45 a.m. instead of 8:00 a.m. Existing fees of \$10 per day or \$300 per month will remain unchanged.

**Airport Equipment Purchase (City Match):** *No action taken.*

Glasbrenner reported that grant funding has been awarded through federal and state airport programs and must be utilized within four years. The program typically requires a 5% City match, of which 50% is reimbursed by the State, resulting in a net City cost of 2.5% of the total project. The city is considering revising specifications to better suit a smaller airport.

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION (FRUIT)**

**Approval of Licenses:** *Motion by Fruit, second by Schultz to approve a Temporary Alcohol Beverage License for Richland County Performing Arts Council at 182 N Central Avenue on March 14, 2026. Motion passed unanimously (8-0).*

#### **APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, BOARDS AND CONFIRM APPOINTMENTS**

Appoint Poll Workers, Tabulators, Chief Inspectors, and Emergency Poll Workers (non-residents) for 2026-2027 Elections: *Motion by Schultz, second by Tepley, to approve poll worker list as presented. Motion passed unanimously (8-0).*

**PUBLIC COMMENT** *No Council action will be taken on any matter originating under this item.*

SuZanne Fish reminded those present of the upcoming Race for Grace event on May 9 and encouraged community support.

Sharon Schmitz thanked the Council and administration for their work over the past year and expressed appreciation for Oliphant's handling of the Ambulance meeting, noting it was informative and well presented.

John Litviak expressed concerns regarding lack of response to his communications with the Mayor and Alderpersons, stated that the Mayor has not been present during posted office hours, and alleged that the Police Chief spoke about him in a disrespectful manner.

**Closed Session:** Legal consultation regarding Panorama Estates & Tax Settlement Non-Compliance.

*Motion by Tepley, second by Fruit to adjourn to closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat., 19.85(1)(g) to confer with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved as it pertains to: Panorama Estates, and Tax Settlement Non-Compliance. Motion passed unanimously (8-0).*

**Meeting adjourned to closed session at 8:25 pm.**

**Open Session:** Reconvene in open session pursuant to Wisconsin Stat, Sec 19.85(2) to vote on matters discussed during closed session. **Meeting reconvened in open session at 10:03 pm.**

**Panorama Estates:** *Motion by Tepley, second by Schultz to authorize the City Attorney to proceed with legal remedies as discussed in closed session. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously (8-0).*

**Tax Settlement Non-Compliance:** *Motion by Fruit, second by Tepley to approve city attorney proceed with legal remedies as discussed in closed session. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously (8-0).*

**ADJOURNMENT:** *Motion by Tepley, second by Fruit to adjourn at approximately 10:10 pm. Motion carried unanimously (8-0).*

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Misty D. Molzof, City Clerk/Treasurer