

**CITY OF FIRCREST
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, May 12, 2009
7:00 P.M.**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FIRCREST CITY HALL, 115 RAMSDELL STREET**

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Kathy L. McVay called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers Matthew Jolibois, Chris Gruver, Robert Thaden, Hans Hechtman and David M. Viafore were present. Councilmember Mike Weinman was absent.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION & LIAISON REPORTS

Environment, Planning and Building

Jolibois reported staff received a call from a party interested in a mixed-use, retail and condominium, development of property located on Mildred street. The party expressed concern about the ten dwelling units per acre maximum density and was invited to provide comment to the Planning Commission or staff on that issue.

Finance and Information Technology

Viafore encouraged Councilmembers to review the financial reports included in their packets and noted the May 18, 2009 study session would include discussion of the 2009 Adopted Budget.

CONSENT CALENDAR

McVay requested City Clerk Rosenblatt read the consent calendar as follows: approval of Voucher No. 39427 through Voucher No. 29491 in the amount of \$334,912.80, approval of Payroll Warrant No. 30436 through Payroll Warrant No. 30487 in the amount of \$96,349.04, approval of Payroll Warrant No. 30488 through Payroll Warrant No. 30498 in the amount of \$5,389.57, approval of Payroll Warrant No. 30499 through Payroll Warrant No. 30507 in the amount of \$74,666.09, approval of Payroll Warrant No. 30508 in the amount of \$<764.94>, approval of Payroll Warrant No. 30509 in the amount of \$126.06, approval of the Minutes of the April 28, 2009 Regular Council Meeting, setting Budget Study Sessions for October 5, 12 and 26, 2009 at 6:00 p.m., setting a public hearing on October 27, 2009, at 7:15 p.m., to receive comments on revenue sources for the 2010 Budget including property taxes, setting a public hearing on November 10, 2009, at 7:15 p.m., to receive comments on the Preliminary 2010 Budget and setting a public hearing on November 24, 2009 at 7:15 p.m., to receive comments on the 2010 Budget.

MOTION

Moved by Thaden, Seconded by Gruver, to approve the Consent Calendar as read. Ayes: Jolibois, Gruver, Thaden, McVay, Hechtman and Viafore. Noes: None. Absent: Weinman. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Expressing support for the Wellness Program

Wellness Coordinator Stahlnecker stated Council was being asked to adopt a resolution that would show support for the City of Fircrest employee wellness program. Adopting that resolution will allow Fircrest to qualify and apply for wellness activity grants. Association of Washington Cities (AWC) studies show there was an average return of three to five dollars for every dollar spent for wellness programs through lower medical and workman's compensation claims, decreased absenteeism, wiser use of health care resources and improved productivity. AWC encourages comprehensive wellness programs and in the future wellness programs may be required in order to qualify for lower cost insurance plans. The Wellness Committee has set a goal to qualify for the AWC Well City Award in two years. Responding to Gruver, Stahlnecker stated Recreation Coordinator Moreno and Community Service Officer Maenhout also serve on the Wellness Committee and that the Wellness Committee newsletter would be provided to Councilmembers in the future.

RESOLUTION NO. 1089

Moved by Gruver, Seconded by Thaden, to adopt Resolution No. 1089, expressing support for the City of Fircrest Employee Wellness Program. Ayes: Jolibois, Gruver, Thaden, McVay, Hechtman and Viafore. Noes: None. Absent: Weinman. Motion Carried.

Grant agreement with the Department of Justice for technological supplies and upgrades

Police Chief Cheesman stated the proposal before Council was to authorize execution of a grant agreement with the United States Department of Justice for technological supplies and upgrades of current equipment. If the grant was awarded the Police Department would purchase a new laptop computer that would serve as a backup computer, remaining funding would be used to upgrade current laptop computers and to purchase air cards through 2010. Responding to Hechtman, Cheesman stated the department currently has nine laptops, one for each officer and one for himself. A different grant application has been submitted to fund an additional police officer position.

RESOLUTION NO. 1090

Moved by Thaden, Seconded by Gruver, to adopt Resolution No. 1090, authorizing the City Manager to execute a grant agreement with the United States Department of Justice Programs for technological supplies and upgrades of current equipment. Ayes: Jolibois, Gruver, Thaden, McVay, Hechtman and Viafore. Noes: None. Absent: Weinman. Motion Carried.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Brandon stated he enjoyed his vacation and expressed appreciation to Rosenblatt for acting as City Manager while in his absence.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS

Recreation Director Grover stated staff has been researching alternatives for the diving board. Possibilities include slides, water sports equipment for basketball, water polo or volley ball, pool side rock climbing equipment and in pool activity islands. He explained costs range from approximately \$600 for water sports equipment to slides that could cost as much as \$60,000. Grover also reported the golf themed Mother and Son Night was a success with 70 people in attendance.

Gruver voiced support for a pool slide and noted slides are popular at other municipal pools. She explained funding from the sale of the 44th/Alameda property was designated for Parks and Recreation and thought that funding could be used. Viafore also supported a pool slide and stated \$37,531 in funding was remaining in the Park Bond line item. He voiced concern about water sports equipment competing with family activities in the shallow end of the pool and about additional duties for life guards if they had to monitor swimmers playing team water sports. Hechtman clarified water sports were played in the deep end of pools. He could also support a slide but explained, to be attractive to kids, it would have to be high, with a water flume for speed and some twists and turns. McVay requested a report for the May 18, 2009 study session.

Interim Public Works Director Larkin stated the Tacoma Fire Department training burn for the property at 542 Electron Way was scheduled for Saturday, May 30, 2009, weather permitting. The burn should begin in the morning and be over by mid-afternoon and not impact the pool opening event that evening. Responding to Councilmember inquiries, Larkin stated Electron Way would be closed between the Fircrest Park parking lot and Contra Costa but Contra Costa would remain open. The Fircrest tennis courts and Tot Lot would be closed, possibly for the weekend to allow staff to clean up after the burn. Tacoma Fire Department would be sending notification flyers to nearby neighborhoods. Viafore inquired about police involvement for traffic control. McVay explained the fire department has regulations regarding control of the area and traffic surrounding the burn.

Larkin reviewed the sequence of events. Prior to May 29, 2009 flooring, rugs and tile would be removed and on May 29, 2009 the fire department would remove the roof. Staff plans to transplant one large rhododendron from the property to the east end of the Public Safety Building generator. Three deciduous trees between the house and Contra Costa would be removed. Fir trees would be flocked with fire retardant material but some lower branches may be scorched. Most of the debris should fall into the basement. Bids have been obtained for temporary fencing that will be installed as soon as the burn is completed. Bids for demolition and grading of the site will be obtained through the small works roster. Viafore requested no additional landscaping/screening at the generator site until a plan was developed. He suggested temporarily moving the rhododendron away from the house and maintaining it on the property until a permanent location can be determined. Suggestions were made to put notification on the reader board and City buildings. Responding to McVay, Larkin stated the large flowering tree on Electron was far enough away that it shouldn't be damaged by the burn.

Larkin stated the Kwanzan Cherry trees have bloomed and staff was preparing to remove the nine trees that were previously identified as diseased or dying. Viafore suggested waiting until a plan was developed before removing any trees. He inquired whether public works or facilities staff would perform the work and about funding the project since the budget adjustment that included moving beautification funds from Parks to Street did not pass. McVay requested staff develop a plan and bring this issue back to Council.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Jolibois again recommended the appointment of a Municipal Development Committee. He stated the street tree project for Regents Boulevard was an opportunity to do something extensive that would perpetuate Fircrest as it was intended to be. He suggested leaving the trees as they are until the details of a plan could be developed. Jolibois felt someone in the past picked the Kwanzan in order to have cherry blossom trees on the boulevard but explained the ideal cherry blossom tree has always been the Yoshino. Gruver inquired about appointing the committee Jolibois had been suggesting for the past three or four years. McVay explained when a request with parameters was presented Council could consider it.

Gruver reported Police Chief Cheesman and police officers participated in the "Shoot, Don't Shoot" firearms training. She also reported Parks staff and the Fircrest Community Club were working on the Hawaiian themed pool opening party and that Recreation Coordinator Moreno has shown her an advance copy of the Recreation brochure. Gruver also reported McVay would be judging a photo contest as part of the Fircrest Art Show on June 8, 2009. Gruver inquired about permitting for Skate Wheelz Arena. City Attorney Smith stated a complaint was being prepared and would be filed with municipal court within 10 days and served within two weeks.

Hechtman inquired about the status of a previous request concerning the Whittier tennis court gate and debris flaking on the court from the expansion joint and overlay. He also inquired about a request to extend the parking lot barrier at Whittier Park to keep vehicles off the fields. Grover stated the Facilities Manager had been informed of the issues. Hechtman requested an update in Council's packet.

Hechtman stated blackberry bushes were growing out over sidewalk and blocking the view of traffic at the corner of Claremont and Alameda. He stated they had been cut back previously and suggested they could be cut back and then sprayed to eliminate the problem for the summer. Viafore explained the bushes were on private property even though they were in the right of way. In the past summer workers may have cut them back as part of sidewalk maintenance. McVay stated code enforcement could send a letter notifying the property owners of the problem. Hechtman felt this was a safety issue and noted there were other intersections throughout the City with site issues.

Hechtman inquired if the abandoned construction site on San Juan had been inspected for safety issues. Gilmore stated the concrete walls were inspected and comply with code. As for other potential safety issues staff has not been able to make contact with the property owner.

Viafore complimented Utility Foreman Davis for looking out for Fircrest rate payers by requiring a roadway patch on Emerson be corrected to meet standards. He requested an ordinance be brought before Council in the next 90 days regarding citing drivers for inattentive/multi tasking while driving. Cheesman stated he has talked with other jurisdictions about similar ordinances. Viafore voiced concern about the recent outages of the telephone system and suggested staff review upgrading the system.

Viafore also voiced concern about a potential Tacoma traffic signal on Orchard Street for traffic from the landfill area and he reviewed the history of Council's concerns. Larkin stated the Tacoma proposal was for a single signal at 34th Street that would not encompass Holly Drive. Actuation would be for southbound to eastbound left turns and for exiting 34th Street. When traffic on Orchard was stopped for traffic exiting 34th Street the next sequence would allow left turn movement southbound to eastbound so

that when the green light came back on for Orchard Street there would not be a queue of traffic blocking turns into Holly Drive. Viafore suggested staff review Council's policy and issues with signaling for 34th Street and requested staff keep Council informed about any planned changes.

Hechtman suggested the signal would impact the Fircrest side of Orchard with garbage truck traffic. Larkin stated the City had written assurance from Tacoma that they were not going to use 34th Street as a primary entrance for refuse trucks into the landfill. All refuse trucks and long haul semis would enter off Mullen. A fair number of trucks would be using 34th Street coming out from the landfill area. McVay stated 34th Street was also the main entrance to the fire department maintenance facility.

Viafore requested staff schedule for a study session and invite Tacoma to attend and explain their proposal. He reviewed previous discussion with Tacoma about Fircrest's preference for any signaling to match up to Holly Drive and Tacoma indicating they would develop but didn't need signaling. Viafore cautioned staff not to sign off on any signaling proposal without consulting Council and the Police Department because Fircrest had the liability and responsibility to maintain the west side of Orchard Street. Viafore clarified when the Holly Drive development took place, Tacoma did not object and signed off on it. When Tacoma developed on 34th Street Fircrest did not sign off and Fircrest objected to Tacoma developing 34th Street if they wanted a light.

Viafore requested an update on the Public Works Trust Fund loan and the time frame for the Relocation of Backyard Sewer Mains Project. Viafore inquired about the \$16,415 in Parks Fund for the Cherry tree program and inquired if there was any ability to transfer that money to Street Fund without Council's concurrence. Corcoran explained transferring budgeted funds from the General Fund to the Street Fund would have to be done by an ordinance that required a super majority of Council.

Viafore reported an excellent response from citizen's for beautification donations and noted the response was greater than this time last year. He inquired about a previous request for an update on pending litigation and asked when Council could expect that to be made. Brandon stated staff was working on it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

McVay requested Council move into executive session at 8:06 P.M. not to exceed the hour of 8:30 P.M. to discuss the City Manager performance evaluation. The City Manager was invited to attend. She stated no action would take place following the executive session except to adjourn. At 8:37 P.M. McVay returned to Council Chambers and stated the executive session would be extended, not to exceed the hour of 9:00 P.M. At 8:52 P.M. McVay reconvened the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Hechtman, Seconded by Thaden, to adjourn the Regular Meeting At 8:53 P.M. Ayes: Jolibois, Gruver, Thaden, McVay, Hechtman and Viafore. Noes: None. Absent: Weinman. Motion Carried.