

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

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2014** **COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**7:00 P.M.** **FIRCREST CITY HALL, 115 RAMSDELL STREET**

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**CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor David M. Viafore called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers Shannon Reynolds, David R. Goodsell, Hunter T. George, Denny Waltier and Jason Medley were present. Councilmember Matthew Jolibois was absent.

**PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT**

Viafore introduced St. Charles Boy Scout Troop 294, noting they were present to observe the civic process and working on their communications badge.

Viafore recommended adding Item 9A - 2015 Budget Discussion and Direction to the end of the New Business agenda. No objections were noted.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Brian Rybolt, 1036 Daniels Drive, spoke about repeated power outages in his neighborhood. City Manager Rosenblatt, responding to Viafore, stated he would contact Tacoma Power Account Executive Keil Drescher regarding any necessary tree trimming that should occur to help prevent the outages.

**COMMITTEE, COMMISSION & LIAISON REPORTS**

**Street, Facilities & Equipment**

Medley stated the Christmas decorations are being installed and things are going well. He concluded by voicing confidence that the Regents Boulevard Grind and Overlay Project issues would be worked out.

**Public Safety, Court**

Waltier stated things were going smoothly in the Police Department.

**Pierce County Regional Council**

Waltier reported that the Pierce County Regional Council was continuing with discussions on the Growth Management Act and Transportation Plans.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Viafore requested the City Clerk read the consent calendar as follows: approval of Voucher No. 205020 through Voucher No. 205080 in the amount of \$123,229.98; approval of Payroll Check No. 11446 through Payroll Check No. 11451 in the amount of net amount \$90,602.03; Batch void of Payroll Check No. 11452 through Payroll Check No. 11512; approval of the November 12, 2014 Regular meeting minutes; and approval of the November 17, 2014 Special meeting minutes.

**MOTION**

**Moved by George, seconded by Waltier, to approve the consent calendar as read. Ayes: Reynolds, Goodsell, Viafore, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Absent: Jolibois. Motion carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Consulting Services Agreement with Jeff Boers and Associates**

Permit Coordinator Stahlnecker stated that Council is being asked to authorize an amendment to the consulting service agreement with Jeff Boers, extending the term of said agreement through December 31, 2015, increasing the hourly rate from \$80.00 to \$85.00, and providing registration reimbursement for the AWC Planning Directors Conference.

Responding to Viafore, Stahlnecker noted that the registration cost is \$300 and is included in the budget.

Viafore invited public comment. None was provided.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1358**

**Moved by George, seconded by Goodsell, to adopt proposed Resolution No. 1358, a resolution authorizing the City Manager to amend the consulting service agreement with Jeff Boers (Jeff Boers and Associates) extending the term of said Agreement through December 31, 2015, increasing the hourly rate, and providing registration reimbursement for the AWC Planning Directors Conference. Ayes: Reynolds, Goodsell, Viafore, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Absent: Jolibois. Motion carried.**

**Professional Services Agreement with Sound Inspection LLC**

Stahlnecker stated that Council is being asked to authorize an amendment to the professional services agreement with Sound Inspection LLC to extend the date of the agreement to December 31, 2015. Stahlnecker reported that Sound Inspection LLC provides building, plan review and inspection services. Stahlnecker stated the City has had a relationship with Sound Inspections LLC since 2003 and recommended that Council authorize the amendment.

Viafore invited public comment. None was provided.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1359**

**Moved by Waltier, seconded by Medley, to adopt proposed Resolution No. 1359, a resolution authorizing the City Manager to amend the professional services agreement with Sound Inspection LLC extending the term of said Agreement from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015. Ayes: Reynolds, Goodsell, Viafore, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Absent: Jolibois. Motion carried.**

Professional Services Agreement with Carol Morris, Morris Law P.C.

Rosenblatt stated this would extend the agreement with Morris Law, in particular Carol Morris, through 2015, and noted there are several land use issues coming up where her services would probably be necessary.

Waltier stated his observation has been that attorney Morris is always well prepared and provides great counsel.

Viafore invited public comment. None was provided.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1360**

**Moved by Medley, seconded by George, to adopt proposed Resolution No. 1360, a resolution authorizing the City Manager to amend the professional services agreement with the law firm of Morris Law, P.C. for special legal counsel services in land use matters and environmental law through December 31, 2015. Ayes: Reynolds, Goodsell, Viafore, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Absent: Jolibois. Motion carried.**

Hearings Examiner Agreement with the City of Tacoma

Rosenblatt stated that Council is being asked to authorize an amendment to the agreement with the City of Tacoma for a Hearings Examiner to conduct dangerous dog hearings, extending the term of said agreement to December 31, 2015 and increasing the hourly rate to from \$118.07 to \$128.70. Rosenblatt stated there have been two incidents that will probably necessitate the use of a Hearings Examiner

Viafore invited public comment. None was provided.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1361**

**Moved by George, seconded by Medley, to adopt proposed Resolution No. 1361, a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to the agreement with the City of Tacoma for Hearings Examiner services for dangerous dog hearings and appeals extending the term of said agreement and increasing the hourly rate. Ayes: Reynolds, Goodsell, Viafore, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Absent: Jolibois. Motion carried.**

Agreement with Summit Law Group

Rosenblatt stated that Council is being asked to authorize an amendment to the professional services agreement with Summit Law Group to extend the date of the agreement to December 31, 2015 and authorize an increase in rates. He noted that Summit Law can provide personnel services and assistance with police guild negotiations to Fircrest should the need arise and extending this agreement would provide continuity of service for any needs in 2015.

Viafore invited public comment. None was provided.

**RESOLUTION NO. 1362**

**Moved by Goodsell, seconded by George, to adopt proposed Resolution No. 1362, a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment #8 to the agreement with Summit Law Group to provide personnel services. Ayes: Reynolds, Goodsell, Viafore, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Absent: Jolibois. Motion carried.**

**Budget Motion to reallocate \$26,500 from General Ending Fund Balance for additional insurance costs**

Corcoran stated that on September 9, 2014, Council approved Resolution #1344 acknowledging the change to the By-Laws and Interlocal Agreement which revised the CIAW fiscal year to December 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. She indicated this resulted in additional prorated premiums to be paid in the year 2014 which were paid in September. Corcoran indicated that the invoice has been received for the premium coverage for the new fiscal year, necessitating a budget adjustment of \$26,500 to cover the additional three months.

Viafore invited public comment. None was provided.

**MOTION**

**Moved by George, seconded by Goodsell, to authorize the Finance Director to reallocate \$26,500 from General Ending Fund Balance to Facilities-Insurance line item for additional insurance costs due to CIAW's change in their fiscal year. Ayes: Reynolds, Goodsell, Viafore, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Absent: Jolibois. Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**2014 Amendments to the Fircrest Comprehensive Plan**

At 7:18 P.M. Viafore opened the public hearing and outlined the format.

Principal Planner Boers stated the proposal is to update the City's Comprehensive Plan by adopting a new Park, Recreation and Open Space Element and amending the Capital Facilities Elements and the Housing Element. He noted the proposal was initiated in response to a Growth Management Act (GMA) requirement for cities, towns and counties to periodically review and update their Comprehensive Plans and Development Regulations to ensure that they remain fully consistent with State law. Boers reported there is a June 30, 2015 deadline to satisfy the periodic update requirement. Boers noted that Fircrest is using a phased approach on the project and will update remaining elements and the development regulations in 2015. Boers stated the elements presented tonight need to be consistent with the GMA as amended, Vision 2040 from the Puget Sound Regional Council, and the Pierce County Countywide Planning Policies. He noted the Planning Commission held a public hearing on November 4<sup>th</sup> and recommended approval to Council of the proposed three amendments. Boers noted the Commission considered comments from the Department of Ecology as well as comments from the Pierce County Health Department. Boers stated that the Department of Commerce was provided with a Notice of Intent to Adopt the plan amendments, which triggered the 60-day state agency comment period ending on December 8<sup>th</sup>. Boers concluded with a description of the three proposed element amendments.

Responding to Viafore, Chief Cheesman confirmed there were 1.33 commissioned officers per 1,000 population in Fircrest.

Viafore invited public comment. None was provided.

## **MOTION**

**Moved by Waltier, seconded by George, to continue the public hearing to December 9, 2014. Ayes: Reynolds, Goodsell, Viafore, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Absent: Jolibois. Motion carried.**

## **2015 Budget**

At 7:29 P.M. Viafore opened the public hearing and outlined the format.

Finance Director Corcoran stated tonight's hearing is the second public hearing and provides an opportunity for citizen comments on the 2015 Preliminary Budget.

Viafore invited public comment. None was provided.

At 7:30 P.M. Viafore closed the public hearing.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Viafore referenced a November 21, 2014 memo from Corcoran regarding items that have been discussed at Council meetings that need consensus if they are to be included in the final 2015 Budget.

### **1. Add money for lobbyist**

Medley stated he brought the issue forward and asked that up to \$20,000 be included in the budget for a lobbyist. He felt it is important to allocate some money to hire a lobbyist and is in the City's best interest that it be done correctly, as neither the Council nor the City Manager had the time or ability to get this done properly.

Discussion continued on the necessity for hiring a lobbyist and there was Council consensus to not include funding for a lobbyist in the budget.

### **2. Feasibility Study for Recreation Center**

No objections noted to waiting until mid-year before proceeding.

### **3. Lawn Maintenance Contract**

Rosenblatt stated that pursuant to Medley's recommendation, \$25,000 should be included in the budget to hire part-time staff and purchase equipment for landscape maintenance. He reported disappointment in the work performed with the current contract and felt that staff could do a much better job. Rosenblatt stated the proposal includes someone working year-long for 20 hours per week including full-time for 13 weeks in the summer.

There was Council consensus to perform landscape maintenance in-house and include \$25,000 in the budget for part-time staff and to purchase necessary equipment.

4. Additional Parks/Recreation Seasonal/Casual

George stated he brought the initial proposal forward and appreciated the solution that has been provided.

There was Council consensus to move \$4,000 from Recreation to Parks Seasonal & Casual.

5. Evaluation of Pool Hours to eliminate break

Corcoran stated that staff is still evaluating George's recommendation and recommended that a study session be held in the first quarter of 2015. If necessary, a budget adjustment might be necessary.

No objections to staff's recommendation.

6. Add money for Police Emphasis for visibility

Rosenbladt stated it was a police officer's job to be visible in the City and if the Police Chief would tell them to be more visible, they would. Rosenbladt stated that \$8,500 seemed high, noting that in addition to the amount already budgeted for overtime, there are several other overtime opportunities and perhaps there are times when the officers are getting stretched too thin. Rosenbladt concluded by recommending that officers drive through the City during their regular shift pursuant to direction from both the Police Chief and Sergeant, and expressed concern with the amount of overtime that occurs presently.

George noted this is one of his priorities, and since he initially requested this, he has noticed increased police presence in his neighborhood. George stated that due to legitimate concerns with next year's budget, and the current conversation about overtime, he would like to re-visit the issue sometime next year. He concluded by asking that the police officers be more visible, as that was his reason behind suggesting the overtime, and reported he is removing his request at this time.

There were no objections to removing this request.

7. Purchase new Police Interceptor vehicle

Waltier stated this was his request and noted that the police vehicles are on a ten-year cycle. Waltier reported that when the Crown Victoria's were surplus previously the City received approximately \$200 for each one. He noted that there has been a lot of information regarding the Ford Interceptors and when they run their cycle and are surplus, the amount received for them is \$4,000 - \$5,000. Waltier said the subject should be reviewed mid-year and concluded by stating the police image is important to him because driving around in a new interceptor creates a positive image versus driving around in a Crown Victoria.

Discussion continued on insufficient funds to replace the car at this time, the current process used to replace the vehicles on a ten-year cycle, higher ERR replacement costs if an interceptor is purchased, and waiting to discuss the issue in the future.

There was Council consensus to revisit the issue in April.

At 8:24 P.M. Viafore stated Council would take a five-minute recess.

At 8:29 P.M. Viafore reconvened the meeting.

8. Technology in Public Works – Smart Board/TV/DVD for training

There were no objections to staff evaluating the cost benefit of a smart board.

9. Advertising for Pool

As the Councilmember that suggested this, George stated he was on board with the suggestion that staff evaluates other methods and needs for pool advertising.

There were no objections that staff continues evaluating the issue.

10. Sign at Pool

As the Councilmember that suggested this, George stated he was in agreement that staff researches the issue and brings back the information to Council.

There were no objections that staff continues researching the issue.

11. Use of \$85,000 from REET for gym improvements

There were no objections to waiting until further research or a feasibility study is completed.

12. What is included in the \$16,000 (\$4,000 per fund) in the Public Works yard repair

Viafore stated he received the information he requested on what was included in the \$16,000 repair items and asked that Rosenblatt keep Council informed of the repair items so there are no surprises.

Corcoran, responding to Viafore, stated that a report of 2015 budget changes from preliminary would be prepared and mailed to Council next week including the modifications, along with updated Beginning Fund Balances and any necessary rollover amounts. Viafore requested that Councilmembers contact the Finance Director upon receipt of that information if there are questions or concerns.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

Rosenblatt stated he would keep Council informed of the Washington State Liquor Control Board's (WSLCB) letter to Charley's Steak & Ale, LLC regarding its Statement of Intent to Revoke Liquor License and a Request for Hearing. He indicated the deadline is November 25<sup>th</sup>, and as of early this afternoon, the owner of Charley's hadn't filed the paperwork to request a hearing.

**MOTION**

**Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Medley, to authorize the City Manager to close City Hall, the Police station office, and the Public Works office from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm on December 19, 2014 for the purpose of an Employee Wellness luncheon. Ayes: Reynolds, Goodsell, Viafore, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Absent: Jolibois. Motion carried.**

**MOTION**

**Moved by Goodsell, seconded by Reynolds, to authorize the City Manager to close all City buildings at noon on December 24, 2014. Ayes: Reynolds, Goodsell, Viafore, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Absent: Jolibois. Motion carried.**

**MOTION**

**Moved by George, seconded by Medley, to authorize the City Manager to close the Roy H. Murphy Community Center at 5:00 pm on December 31, 2014. Ayes: Reynolds, Goodsell, Viafore, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Absent: Jolibois. Motion carried.**

Rosenblatt reported that due to the short week and upcoming Thanksgiving holiday there would not be a packet provided tomorrow. He concluded by providing copies of a map from the engineering firm hired by Tacoma Public Schools of Whittier Field that showed the wetland delineation in proximity to the possible soccer/football field. Rosenblatt noted that due to current regulations, Whittier Field would be lost due to setbacks and required plantings, and Tacoma Public Schools determined the project isn't feasible at this time. Rosenblatt confirmed that the permit required to re-surface the fields triggered the new requirements and guidelines regarding wetland setbacks and new plantings.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Public Works Director Wakefield stated the alley sewer project is going well, is ahead of schedule and under budget. The soft starts for the wells will be completed this week. The remaining fluoride monitors were hopefully going to be installed by year end. He reported that the City was not successful in getting the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) grant that the City applied for regarding the Alameda Avenue improvements. Wakefield concluded by stating that the Christmas decorations were being installed.

Cheesman stated that Officer Miller received special recognition from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for his outstanding efforts towards DUI enforcement.

Parks and Recreation Director Grover stated there was a good turnout at the Holiday Bazaar, including some seniors that were bused from senior centers in the area. He noted they were looking forward to the December 7<sup>th</sup> tree lighting ceremony.

**COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

Viafore thanked everyone for coming and stated he would be sending, on behalf of the City, a card to Chief Batiste. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

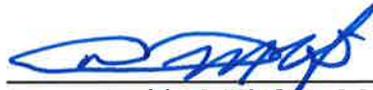
Responding to George, Cheesman stated he hadn't yet received a response regarding the South Sound 911 radio fees that might or might not be charged. George called attention to the South Sound 911 press release regarding two sites that are finalists for their future headquarters, noting that the Fircrest property on Mildred Street is the preferred site.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Goodsell, seconded by George, to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 P.M. Ayes: Reynolds, Goodsell, Viafore, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Absent: Jolibois. Motion carried.**

November 25, 2014

Fircrest City Council Meeting Minutes – Regular 9



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David M. Viafore, Mayor



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Lisa Keely, City Clerk