

CITY OF FIRCREST
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2014 **COUNCIL CHAMBERS**
7:00 P.M. **FIRCREST CITY HALL, 115 RAMSDELL STREET**

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Pro Tempore Matthew Jolibois called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers Matthew Jolibois, Shannon Reynolds, Hunter T. George, Denny Waltier and Jason Medley were present. Mayor David M. Viafore and Councilmember David R. Goodsell were excused. Viafore arrived at 7:12 P.M.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION & LIAISON REPORTS

Parks & Recreation

George reported that Parks and Recreation Director Grover is continuing to research the feasibility study for the Community Center.

Finance, IT

Wellness Coordinator Stahlnecker provided an overview on the wellness program and a year-end wrap up of the year's wellness events. Stahlnecker concluded by calling attention to the Well City signage that was provided due to the City's wellness efforts and earning the Well City award. There was Council consensus that the signs are placed at the two main entrances to Fircrest. Responding to Reynolds, Stahlnecker noted that a copy of the statewide wellness survey would be provided to Council when it is received.

Viafore arrived at 7:12 P.M.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Viafore requested the City Clerk read the consent calendar as follows: approval of Voucher No. 205081 through Voucher No. 205163 in the amount of \$1,092,863.48; approval of Payroll Check No. 11513 through Payroll Check No. 11519 in the amount of net amount \$91,657.87; approval of Payroll Check No. 11520 through Payroll Check No. 11525 in the amount of \$5,529.54; approval of Payroll Check No. 11526 through Payroll Check No. 11531 in the amount of \$78,785.28; approval of the November 25, 2014 Regular meeting minutes; and setting a public hearing on January 13, 2015 at 7:15 P.M. to receive comments on a proposed solid waste rate adjustment.

Viafore requested that the November 25, 2014 minutes be withdrawn.

MOTION

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

Viafore stated that the printed minutes reflect a date of December 19th for continuation of the public hearing on the Comprehensive Plan amendments. He noted that even though that accurately reflects what was stated in the motion, the intent of Council was that the public hearing be continued to December 9, 2014.

MOTION

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Jolibois to correct the minutes to read December 9, 2014 for the continuation of the public hearing and not December 19, 2014. Ayes: Jolibois, Reynolds, Viafore, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Excused: Goodsell. Motion carried.

Viafore invited public comment. None was provided.

MOTION

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Medley, to approve the corrected minutes of the November 25, 2014 regular meeting. Ayes: Jolibois, Reynolds, Viafore, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Excused: Goodsell. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING

2014 Amendments to the Fircrest Comprehensive Plan (Continued)

At 7:17 P.M. Viafore opened the public hearing and outlined the format.

Principal Planner Boers stated that tonight represents a continuation of the public hearing that was opened on November 25, 2014 to take public testimony on amendments to the City's Comprehensive Plan. Boers stated that the City was undergoing a phased approach to meet the Growth Management Act (GMA) update requirements. Boers reported one of the reasons the hearing was continued to tonight was due to the 60-day state agency comment period that ran through December 8th. Boers stated that comments were received from the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). Boers reported that comments from PSRC suggested attention in some areas that won't be dealt with until 2015 when the Land Use Element is updated. He noted that comments from WSDOT indicated support for the amendments, with one suggested edit to the Capital Facilities Element that would include language that eliminated barriers to achieve neighborhood-level walking routes and noted that language has been included in the revised Capital Facilities Vision within the Capital Facilities Element.

Responding to Waltier, Boers stated that the City does take advantage of the resources identified in the correspondence received from PSRC.

Viafore invited public comment. None was provided.

At 7:21 P.M. Viafore closed the public hearing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Amendment #8 to the Agreement with Summit Law Group to provide personnel services

Rosenblatt stated the resolution was presented at the November 25, 2014 meeting, but the day after the resolution was adopted, the City received word from Summit Law that the final version of their rates hadn't been provided. Rosenblatt stated that Resolution No. 1362 should be rescinded and a new resolution would correct the matter.

Viafore invited public comment. None was provided.

RESOLUTION NO. 1363

Moved by Waltier, seconded by George, to adopt proposed Resolution No. 1363, a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment #8 to the agreement with Summit Law Group to provide personnel services and rescinding Resolution No. 1362. Ayes: Jolibois, Reynolds, Viafore, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Excused: Goodsell. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Amending the Comprehensive Plan Capital Facilities Element, Housing Element and adopting a Comprehensive Plan Park, Recreation and Open Space Element

Boers stated the Ordinance would amend the City's Comprehensive Plan Housing and Capital Facilities Elements and would add a Park, Recreation and Open Space Element. Boers noted that the Ordinance refers to Exhibit A (Capital Facilities Element), Exhibit B (Housing Element), and Exhibit C (Park, Recreation and Open Space Element). Boers noted that the WSDOT additions are included and referenced in the Ordinance.

Viafore invited public comment. None was provided.

ORDINANCE 1555

Moved by Medley, seconded by George, to adopt proposed Ordinance No. 1555, an Ordinance of the City Council of the City of Fircrest, Washington amending the City of Fircrest Comprehensive Plan, updating the Housing and Capital Facilities Elements and including a Park, Recreation and Open Space Element. Ayes: Jolibois, Reynolds, Viafore, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Excused: Goodsell. Motion carried.

Adopting the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2015

Finance Director Corcoran stated the Preliminary Budget was provided to Council on September 23, 2014, and since that time two public hearings on the budget had been held and one public hearing on revenue sources. She reported that several study sessions were held, Council had received a report showing all the requested changes to the Preliminary Budget, and concluded by stating the total budget for 2015 is \$23,448,847.

Jolibois stated he will be voting no on the budget because of the 2015 backyard sewer replacement capital projects. He indicated he has asked for information identifying the cost effectiveness of borrowing \$2.54 million in funds and paying over \$800,000 in interest and feels there is insufficient data to make a decision that is cost effective. Jolibois indicated he also has an underlying sense of a conflict of interest on who gets the contract to do the engineering work on the three projected sewer projects and stated it is paramount that there is an understanding that the project plan and an idea laid out by the company that is going to be potentially receiving the contract. Jolibois asked for attorney clarification on this issue. Jolibois stated that Council passed a Parks Plan and the Tot Lot was to have a certain specified fence but that was changed arbitrarily. Jolibois concluded by stating that overall this budget lacks a certain amount of vision and he thinks it continues the momentum of mediocrity. Jolibois concluded by stating he has won two elections from telling people he would get things going into the budget with his vision but he gets resoundingly voted down and tonight he is voting no.

Responding to Waltier's inquiry about what the effect would be to the budget if Wainwright isn't constructed, Corcoran stated that a budget adjustment wouldn't be necessary as long as a fund doesn't go over budget, but noted it would be necessary if there wasn't enough revenue coming in to cover the expenditures in the fund. She stated the City hasn't ever been in that position because Fircrest budgets the Ending Fund Balance.

George stated there have been good discussions on the budget and voiced appreciation to staff for figuring out a way to maintain the hiring level in Parks Maintenance by utilizing existing resources. George complimented Medley for introducing the idea to perform landscape maintenance in-house and noted that by asking the right questions he was able to figure out a way to do it better with less money. He concluded by stating that Fircrest is a small town, is in better shape than most other cities in Pierce County that are the size of Fircrest, stated the budget is a responsible one and he shares the concerns regarding construction of Wainwright Elementary.

Viafore invited public comment. None was provided.

Viafore noted that the budget is a working document, presented by the City Manager, with modifications made by elected officials. He stated the budget is solid, the utilities are solvent and affordable and the streets are getting done. Viafore noted the City is moving in a forward direction and there isn't another City that ran as smoothly as Fircrest during the recession. Viafore stated it is a privilege to be as financially solvent as Fircrest. Viafore concluded by stating that Fircrest funds its Ending Fund Balance, and the Ending Fund Balance could handle the effects of the school not being constructed in 2015. He complimented staff on their efforts with the budget and the plan to polish the Parks and go out for a park bond.

ORDINANCE NO. 1556

Moved by Waltier, seconded by George, to adopt proposed Ordinance No. 1556, an Ordinance of the City of Fircrest, Washington adopting the annual budget of the City of Fircrest for the fiscal year 2015.

Viafore requested a roll call vote.

Ayes: George, Medley, Reynolds, Waltier and Viafore. Noes: Jolibois. Excused: Goodsell. Motion carried.

Agreement for Public Defense Services with Pierce County for Indigent Legal Defense Services

Court Administrator Olsen stated the agreement is for public defense services with the Pierce County Department of Assigned Counsel. She noted the contract amount submitted for 2015 is allocated in the 2015 Legal Services Budget.

Responding to Waltier, Olsen stated that Pierce County bills every six months for the exact amount of the contract.

Viafore invited public comment. None was provided.

RESOLUTION NO. 1364

Moved by Medley, seconded by Waltier, to adopt proposed Resolution No. 1364, a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an Agreement for Public Defense Services with Pierce County for indigent legal defense services. Ayes: Jolibois, Reynolds, Viafore, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Excused: Goodsell. Motion carried.

Pierce County Regional Council (PCRC) Appointments for 2015

Rosenblatt stated this Resolution, if adopted, would continue with Waltier as the PCRC representative with Viafore as the alternate.

Viafore invited public comment. None was provided.

RESOLUTION NO. 1365

Moved by George, seconded by Medley, to adopt proposed Resolution No. 1365, a resolution appointing Councilmember Denny Waltier as representative to the Pierce County Regional Council, and further appointing Mayor David M. Viafore as alternate representative to the Pierce County Regional Council for 2015. Ayes: Jolibois, Reynolds, Viafore, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Excused: Goodsell. Motion carried.

Agreement with the Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County to provide animal sheltering services

Chief Cheesman stated the agreement, if approved, would authorize a contract with the Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County for animal sheltering services for the year 2015. He stated the cost for these services would be \$7,668, to be paid in monthly increments of \$639.00, which is a \$12.75 per month increase over what was paid in 2014.

Responding to George, Cheesman stated the contract is based on the presumption of 90 animals turned into the Humane Society, which is based on a two-year average.

Viafore invited public comment. None was provided.

RESOLUTION NO. 1366

Moved by George, seconded by Waltier, to adopt proposed Resolution No. 1366, a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute the Agreement between the Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County and the City of Fircrest for Animal Sheltering Services for 2015. Ayes: Jolibois, Reynolds, Viafore, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Excused: Goodsell. Motion carried.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT

Viafore reported there were no agenda items for the December 15, 2014 study session and inquired if there was interest to cancel the meeting.

Viafore invited public comment. None was provided.

MOTION

Moved by Waltier, seconded by Medley, to cancel the December 15, 2014 Council Study Session. Ayes: Jolibois, Reynolds, Viafore, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Excused: Goodsell. Motion carried.

Viafore stated the next regularly scheduled meeting is December 23rd and reported that historically the meeting had been cancelled due to its close proximity to Christmas. There was interest to cancel the regular meeting of December 23rd and schedule a special meeting on December 29th at 4:00 P.M.

Viafore invited public comment. None was provided.

RESOLUTION NO. 1367

Moved by Medley, seconded by George, to adopt proposed Resolution No. 1367, a resolution authorizing the cancellation of the second regular meeting in December 2014. Ayes: Jolibois, Reynolds, Viafore, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Excused: Goodsell. Motion carried.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Rosenblatt thanked the Public Works crew, Parks Maintenance Supervisor Piercy, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor Mims and Parks and Recreation Director Grover for their work on the Tree Lighting Ceremony. He further thanked Piercy for his work on the laminated Santa's. Rosenblatt concluded by wishing everyone a Merry Christmas.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Cheesman thanked Council for all their work on the 2015 Budget. He reported the sleigh ride is upcoming on December 17th and 18th and provided handouts for the event. Cheesman concluded by thanking Council for asking that his dad light the Christmas tree at the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony, noting it meant a great deal to him and his family.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Councilmembers wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy and prosperous New Year.

Jolibois inquired if the timer for the Christmas music being played at Alice Peers Park could be adjusted so that the music wouldn't turn off until 8:00 P.M. or 8:30 P.M.

Reynolds requested information on the interest that has to be paid back on the backyard sewer replacement project loans, i.e., the total and schedule, commenting that it is important to have that information. She stated that Council has now committed to the loan in the 2015 budget and it would be helpful to know what Council is getting into.

Corcoran stated there is very little left in the Public Works Trust Fund loan, and was hopeful it would be exhausted by the end of the year. She further noted there was a Department of Ecology loan available and the only amounts billed to that to date were costs from the Princeton Street Lift Station. Responding to Viafore, Reynolds noted she was interested in an input/output analysis projection that would provide a number in the ball-park range. Viafore suggested that Public Works Director Wakefield, Corcoran and

Rosenblatt meet and produce figures showing the principal payments, interest and terms once they have determined the amounts needed from the loans. Reynolds concluded by stating she would available to assist with the economic outlook outcome regarding changes to the liquor consumption law.

Viafore complimented everyone for their efforts with the Tree Lighting Ceremony and sleigh. He commented about the positive comments he heard from someone that didn't reside in the City. Viafore noted the Douglas fir tree used in the Tree Lighting Ceremony at Alice Peers Park looks great when the Christmas star is on it, but he reported that the top might be rotten and one day it is going to be gone. Viafore recognized the passing of Fircrest residents Lloyd Silver and Dan Little. Viafore concluded by asking that staff be more conscious about expenditures when purchasing Christmas lights. He stated he really likes the Christmas light but this year \$1,200 was spent this year, and approximately roughly the same amount the prior two years. He noted the lights last longer than one year, this is a lot of money, and the City should be trying to stretch dollars as much as possible. He stated that staff needs to be prudent when purchasing additional lights and that they should be stored and saved. Viafore stated if any lights are being thrown away that the Finance Department should be involved. Viafore inquired if there was draft language available yet from Olympia regarding the liquor consumption law, noting he had members of the House waiting to assist Fircrest. Viafore noted that Fircrest isn't 'dry' or 'blue', as liquor is allowed to be sold in all the Neighborhood and Community Commercial Districts; it just can't be consumed in the areas that were part of Fircrest during the vote of 1975.

George stated his in-laws were visiting from Texas and they had a great time at the Tree Lighting Ceremony. He reported on an upcoming meeting with State Representative Dick Muri to discuss the City's desire that the Legislature modify the language regarding the liquor consumption law. George suggested that Council consider adopting a resolution in support of changing the liquor consumption law that would become part of the legislative record to send to Olympia. He noted he would provide a draft to Rosenblatt so that it could be sent in a packet and discussed at the meeting on the 29th of December or at the first meeting in January.

Waltier noted that more people were at this year's Tree Lighting Ceremony than in past years and it was great to see the amounts of young children that were present. He commented that the big island decorations looked good and the crew did a great job. Waltier asked that the Alice Peers Park tree be investigated after hearing comments that it is rotten. He suggested that Council proceed cautiously and methodically on the liquor law changes and urged Council to be on the same page. Waltier concluded by thanking everyone for their attendance at tonight's meeting.

Medley stated he attended the meeting with Rosenblatt, Boers and Senator Steve O'Ban and that O'Ban had asked that contact be made with other legislators to get a bill introduced on both sides. Medley stated he contacted Muri and State Representative Kilduff. He noted that O'Ban had suggested that someone from Council make a presentation, noting that his schedule was flexible. Medley concluded by thanking Wakefield for time spent as his liaison to Street, Facilities & Equipment noting that the crew does a great job and deserves thanks for a job well done.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by George, to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 P.M. Ayes: Jolibois, Reynolds, Viafore, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Excused: Goodsell. Motion carried.



David M. Viafore, Mayor

December 9, 2014

Fircrest City Council Meeting Minutes – Regular 8



Lisa Keely, City Clerk