

CITY OF FIRCREST
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2015 **COUNCIL CHAMBERS**
7:00 P.M. **FIRCREST CITY HALL, 115 RAMSDALL STREET**

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 Matthew Jolibois, Shannon Reynolds, David R. Goodsell, Hunter T. George, Denny Waltier and Jason Medley were present.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT

Viafore reported on a meeting he had yesterday with representatives of Point Ruston. He stated that the Point Ruston representatives are proposing to change the current laws regarding annexation with legislative intervention, and if successful, would enable that portion of Point Ruston that is located in the City of Ruston to be annexed to the City of Tacoma. He noted that following his meeting with Point Ruston representatives he met with officials from the City of Ruston. Viafore stated his position was neutral on the issue.

Discussion ensued and the Council retreat was scheduled for February 9, 2015 for a discussion on individual Council visioning and a visioning discussion. Rosenblatt stated he would provide a copy of last year's agenda and minutes from the previous Council retreat in this week's packet. Also to be included as an agenda item at the meeting will be the form that will be used for the City Manager Performance Evaluation.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION & LIAISON REPORTS

Water, Sewer, Storm

Waltier reported meeting with Public Works Director Wakefield regarding the Water, Sewer and Storm utilities, noting they touched on a wide range of topics and had a great discussion. He stated they focused their discussion on 2015 sewer projects, stormwater issues, and intriguing ideas and goals that will be brought forward in the near future.

Street, Facilities & Equipment

Jolibois stated he met with Wakefield and Utility Foreman Davis and made comments related to potential strategies for the replacement of the street sweeper. He further discussed possible beautification on the hillside and the intersection at Emerson and 67th Street and concluded by stating that he had some ideas for an LED streetlight replacement program on Regents Boulevard, specifically the business areas, and suggested contacting lighting experts. Jolibois suggested that a study session be scheduled to discuss these issues.

Responding to Viafore, Wakefield stated the street sweeper will last the calendar year. Viafore commented that the hillside at 67th and Emerson is privately owned and the City can't beautify something it doesn't own. Discussion ensued on pursuing non-motorized and pedestrian access grant opportunities for that area and other areas in the City.

Public Safety, Court

Reynolds noted that she met with Court Administrator Olsen and commented that the Court staff is able to process in-house the number of traffic infraction incidents that occur in Fircrest.

Pierce County Regional Council

Waltier stated he attended the January meeting of the Pierce County Regional Council, noting that Lauren Walker was elected as Chair. He indicated that the discussion centered on the downsizing of Joint Base Lewis McChord and it was suggested that representatives voice concern on this subject. Waltier concluded by reporting that the General Assembly is scheduled for February 19, 2015 at the Puyallup Park Pavilion, from 6:00 to 9:00 P.M. and that RSVP's should be sent to Cindy Anderson.

Investment Committee

Viafore reported that Finance Director Corcoran is monitoring the bonds, noting that one bond is callable on February 6, 2015, and the market has made it attractive that the bond may be called. Viafore stated an update on the bond will be provided in two weeks.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Viafore requested the City Clerk read the consent calendar as follows: approval of Voucher No. 205324 through Voucher No. 205361 in the amount of \$205,760.59; approval of Payroll Check No. 11570 through Payroll Check No. 11576 in the amount of \$91,439.31; approval of the January 13, 2015 Regular meeting minutes; and approval of the January 20, 2015 Special meeting minutes.

MOTION

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

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance amending FMC 6.08.130 relating to the schedule of rates and charges for solid waste collection

Rosenblatt indicated that the public hearing was held on January 13th. He noted that the proposed amendments are per the agreement with Westside Disposal and concluded by stating that Neil Holden from Westside Disposal was present to respond to inquiries.

Medley stated that due to an ongoing dispute between Westside Disposal and him and his family he had a conflict of interest and would need to recuse himself. At 7:25 P.M. Medley left Council Chambers.

Viafore invited public comment. None was provided.

ORDINANCE NO. 1557

Moved by Goodsell, seconded by George to adopt proposed Ordinance No. 1557, an ordinance amending Section 1 of Ordinance No. 1546 and FMC 6.08.130 relating to the schedule of rates and charges for solid waste collection. Ayes: Jolibois, Reynolds, Goodsell, Viafore, George and Waltier. Noes: None. Recused: Medley. Motion carried.

At 7:26 P.M. Medley returned to Council Chambers.

2015 Salary Ordinance amendment

Corcoran stated the amendment includes the addition of the Landscape/Maintenance Worker, noting the position was budgeted during the 2015 budget process. Corcoran concluded by stating that the Landscape Maintenance Worker could be hired once the ordinance is adopted.

Viafore invited public comment. None was provided.

ORDINANCE NO. 1558

Moved by Medley, seconded by Waltier, to adopt proposed Ordinance No. 1558, an ordinance amending Section 1 of Ordinance No. 1552 and FMC 2.44.050 relating to salaries of non-union City employees. Ayes: Jolibois, Reynolds, Goodsell, Viafore, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Motion carried.

Agreement with Ryan, Swanson and Cleveland, PLLC for legal services

Rosenbladt stated the resolution would allow retainage of special legal counsel for future contractual issues.

Viafore invited public comment. None was provided.

RESOLUTION NO. 1371

Moved by Waltier, seconded by George, to adopt proposed Resolution No. 1371, a resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with Ryan, Swanson & Cleveland, PLLC to provide legal services. Ayes: Jolibois, Reynolds, Goodsell, Viafore, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Motion carried.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Rosenbladt stated that Tacoma Community College (TCC) has scheduled a community meeting on March 2nd at 6:00 P.M. in the gymnasium at the Community Center to gather community interest regarding their proposal to construct a traffic signal at the intersection of 64th and 19th Street.

Rosenbladt reported on an Association of Washington Cities (AWC) \$1,250 scholarship opportunity available to six Washington State students. He noted that information would be distributed to local high schools. Rosenbladt stated a selection committee would be formed to evaluate the applications, interview the top two candidates, and make a recommendation to AWC. Rosenbladt recommended that the application pool be limited to Fircrest residents.

Rosenblatt called attention to Senate Bill 5167 scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee on Commerce & Labor at 8:00 A.M. on Friday, January 30th. He reported the schedule for the hearing is subject to change but would be monitored closely as Friday approached.

Viafore stated that as Chair of the Council he is generally the spokesperson for public entities but would be relinquishing that role to George and Medley unless there were objections. No objections were noted. Waltier stated he was planning on attending as an observer. Viafore requested an update on Friday's proceedings in this week's packet.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Jolibois requested an Executive Session to discuss comments made during the January 15, 2015 Tacoma School Board Study Session. City Attorney Smith stated that would not qualify as an item for Executive Session.

Reynolds stated she forwarded the AWC Scholarship information to Rosenblatt after discovering it and urged Council's support. She felt that even if a Fircrest resident doesn't get recommended it could still keep young people interested in the city. Reynolds noted she provided Rosenblatt with a draft flyer and contacted some of the local-area schools who indicated willingness to post the information if the proper channels were followed. Following discussion there was interest to proceed with the scholarship opportunity for a Fircrest resident.

George stated that the Ruston issue shouldn't involve Fircrest and felt there are other ways for Point Ruston to accomplish what they wanted without going to the Legislature and having a law passed that could have a potentially detrimental precedent-setting effect on others. He stated his personal opinion is to say neutral and encourage them to battle it somewhere else. George stated he would like to have a future discussion, and perhaps a study session, about moving towards the use of a hearings examiner to decide quasi-judicial land use matters instead of the matters being decided by the Planning Commission and City Council. George concluded by stating that regarding the upcoming testimony on the Senate bill regarding liquor, his intention is to talk to the Legislators about the importance of what is being asked of them and to also inform them of Council's plans to engage the community, the immediate neighbors, and the entire City, and it isn't Council's intention to immediately make a decision on liquor.

Waltier commented about a federally-funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for sidewalks, ADA ramps, bike lanes and decorative street lights that was recently received by the City of University Place and suggested that Fircrest become more pro-active in grant applications. Discussion ensued regarding the need for additional information and if there was interest from Council to sit on the Board. Viafore outlined the role and responsibilities of the Board, noting that four positions on the board are filled by nominees from the Pierce County Cities and Town Association. He stated the Board serves in an advisory capacity to assist the County with implementation of federally funded programs and activities through Community Development block Grants. Viafore concluded by noting that Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month.

Medley stated that Council would act responsibly if the liquor law was changed and would go forward with public input prior to any decisions being made. Medley commented that Council could stay neutral to a certain point regarding Point Ruston. He stated that there shouldn't be support from Fircrest with Point Ruston's plan of a legislative fix and asked that Viafore not speak in support of what Point Ruston wants to do on behalf of Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Viafore stated Council would take a six-minute recess at 7:54 P.M. and convene into Executive Session at 8:00 P.M., not to exceed the hour of 9:00 P.M., for Item 14-A – to discuss potential litigation. City Manager Rosenblatt, City Attorney Smith and Public Works Director Wakefield were invited to attend. At 8:19 P.M. Viafore reconvened the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by George, seconded by Goodsell, to adjourn the meeting at 8:19 P.M. Ayes: Jolibois, Reynolds, Goodsell, Viafore, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Motion carried.



David M. Viafore, Mayor



Lisa Keely, City Clerk