

CITY OF FIRCREST
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2016
7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FIRCREST CITY HALL, 115 RAMSDELL STREET

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Matthew Jolibois called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers Blake Surina, Shannon Reynolds, Brett Wittner, Hunter T. George, Denny Waltier and Jason Medley were present.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT

Jolibois welcomed members from the Tacoma Fire Department to present a report on the Fircrest Fire Insurance Rating. Mike Fitzgerald, Assistant to the Chief of Budget and Finance introduced himself and noted that also present from the Tacoma Fire Department were Joe Meinecke, Planning Manager and Public Information Officer, and Mike Mitchell, Assistant Chief to Fire Operations. Fitzgerald described the Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau, noting they were a non-profit that evaluates fire protection capabilities of communities as they relate to fire insurance rating. Fitzgerald stated that the Fircrest Protection Classification has improved from Protection Class 4 to Protection Class 3, effective May 1, 2016. Fitzgerald responded to an inquiry regarding why the survey was conducted and noted it was not for property loss prevention or for life safety purposes but for the purpose of gathering information needed to determine a fire insurance relevant Public Protection Classification that may be used to develop fire insurance rates or loss costs. Fitzgerald stated the change to the rating was worth celebrating and will apply to commercial properties in the community in the short term and individual dwellings in the long-term. Fitzgerald provided an update on incident activity in the City of Fircrest, noting that there was a 6% increase in incidents from 2014 to 2015.

CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Guy Snell, 2025 Grandview Drive, University Place, provided comment regarding locating a family friendly pizza establishment in the community. He indicated that he had previously spoken with some Councilmembers and thought he would open up dialogue with Council to see if there would be a good fit in the community to locate his business. Snell expressed concern with some of the code language, particularly regarding delivery services and hours of operation while serving alcohol. Snell encouraged Councilmembers to contact him off the record to discuss ideas and business plans. Discussion continued and it was suggested to Snell that he follows up with staff in the Planning and Building Department.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION & LIAISON REPORTS

Parks & Recreation

Surina stated he met with Parks and Recreation Director Grover and discussed the ongoing feasibility study of the Community Center and Pool. Surina reported that he discussed with Steve Atkinson, a planner from the City of Tacoma, about the possibility of constructing a running trail through the Holding Basin and further noted he was following up with individuals in the Russel Foundation to discuss grant opportunities. Surina reported on a discussion he had with Parks Maintenance Supervisor Piercy regarding water underneath Whittier Fields and indicated he also would be contacting Public Works Director Wakefield to discuss his ideas. Surina noted that he discussed the RCO Grant with Grover and the current plan to construct a cyclone fence around the perimeter of the Tot Lot. Surina submitted a sample of a wrought iron fence with monument pillars every 20 to 30 feet that could be

considered in lieu of the cyclone fence and stated he would be happy to submit additional drawings that would illustrate his ideas. He further suggested that green shrubs and plants are planted between the fence and the Tot Lot to create a ‘live’ appearance. Surina provided an outline of his understanding of deadlines within the RCO grant ideas and stated he thought this fence idea could be accommodated. Surina concluded by providing an historical overview of Frederick Olmstead, the individual who laid out the plan of Fircrest.

Discussion continued regarding the RCO grant, the adopted budget, the partnership with Kiwanis and their commitment to the project, the PROS Plan, Resolutions adopted by Council to apply for and accept the RCO grant and a March 15, 2016 RCO deadline to begin construction. There was Council desire to re-visit the Tot Lot fence and Council consensus for Grover to contact RCO and inquire if there is leeway in the grant regarding what the money can be spent on and when it can be spent. Police Chief Cheesman asked that Kiwanis be included in future discussions regarding the Tot Lot fence, as Kiwanis has been raising money to contribute towards the cyclone fencing and has already contributed \$3,000.

Discussion concluded with a request that Surina bring forward fencing illustrations at the next meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Jolibois requested the City Clerk read the consent calendar as follows: approval of Voucher No. 207151 through Voucher No. 207218 in the amount of \$90,057.32; approval of Payroll Check No. 12059 through Payroll Check No. 12063 in the amount of \$6,237.91; approval of Payroll Check No. 12064 through Payroll Check No. 12069 in the amount of \$86,481.21; approval of Payroll Check No. 12070 through Payroll Check No. 12075 in the amount of \$94,677.78; approval of the January 26, 2016 regular meeting minutes; and approval of the February 2, 2016 special joint City Council/Planning Commission meeting minutes.

MOTION

Moved by George, seconded by Medley, to approve the Consent Calendar as read. Ayes: Surina, Reynolds, Wittner, Jolibois, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance granting a franchise to Astound Broadband for transmission of telecommunications

Rosenbladt stated this is before Council for the first reading, noting the proposal is to authorize the execution of a ten-year franchise with Astound Broadband. He reported this franchise would provide Astound Broadband, LLC, dba Wave Division Holdings, LLC, the right to install fiber optic and telecommunication services in the rights of way. Rosenbladt stated they are looking at primarily going through Fircrest and to see what develops in the market. Rosenbladt outlined the numerous areas that Astound provides services and indicated that Astound would be obtaining a pole attachment agreement from Tacoma Power. Rosenbladt concluded by stating this isn't for cable television services but for telecommunications, private line, and internet access.

Rosenbladt responded to Surina's inquiry about fiber optics that were previously installed by Click! Network of Tacoma and George's suggestion that other jurisdictions where Astound has a franchise be contacted to see what benefits or free services that were provided by Astound that might be available for Fircrest that could be included in the franchise.

Agreement with the Pierce County Metro Canine Unit

Cheesman stated that Council is being asked to adopt a resolution allowing the City Manager to direct the Police Chief to execute an agreement with the Pierce County Metro Canine Unit for use of their trained canine unit team. Cheesman stated he feels it is in the best interest of the community to enter into the agreement. Cheesman noted there is no charge for use of the Pierce County Metro Canine Unit. He stated they may need to request the Metro K-9 services and by signing on as an agency participating without a canine team will allow the field officers the quick response of a trained and qualified canine unit when needed. Cheesman concluded by stating there is a great working relationship with the Metro Canine Unit.

RESOLUTION NO. 1418

Moved by Waltier, seconded by Medley, authorizing the City Manager to direct the Police Chief to execute an agreement with the Pierce County Metro Canine Unit.

Jolibois invited public comment. None was provided.

VOTE

Ayes: Surina, Reynolds, Wittner, Jolibois, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Motion carried.

Nomination for Position Two on the Zoo/Trek Authority Board

Rosenblatt indicated that Council is being asked to select a name for nomination to Position Two, noting this nomination must be from the eleven larger cities and towns in population. Rosenblatt stated, as identified in the agenda summary, the money that is collected is used to provide funds for capital and operating costs for parks and nationally accredited zoos, aquariums and wildlife preserves. Rosenblatt reported that Council took no action on this nomination when it came before Council several years ago.

MOTION

Moved by Waltier, seconded by Medley, to take no action on the issue.

Jolibois invited public comment. None was provided.

VOTE

Ayes: Surina, Reynolds, Wittner, Jolibois, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Motion carried.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Rosenblatt complimented Council and staff for their efforts that resulted in the Washington Surveying and Rating Bureau reducing Fircrest's Protection Class rating from a 4 to a 3, resulting in potentially reduced insurance rates for commercial businesses. Rosenblatt suggested that Council has a discussion regarding goals and initiatives at the upcoming study session of February 16th. There was consensus that this item be placed on the upcoming study session agenda.

Waltier stated that as a result of being placed on the Municipal Development Committee, and his unfamiliarity of what the role of that Committee is, he googled Municipal Development and found it to be a Canadian term describing development in Canadian communities. Waltier indicated finding that Municipal Development in the United States is commonly referred to as a City's Comprehensive Plan. Waltier stated with that information, he suggested it would be beneficial to discuss the Municipal Development Committee with Council, as a whole, at the upcoming study session. Waltier stated it would be helpful for Council to discuss the Committee's mission statement, role, and responsibilities so that everyone is on the same page. Jolibois stated when the City does municipal projects there aren't set standards and the decisions seem to be left up to the engineers without regard to Fircrest's history, i.e., Regents Boulevard and the projects to reconfigure sidewalks. He noted there needs to be a sense of what Fircrest is and stated it is up to Surina, as chair, to set the mission statement. Jolibois noted that the kind of designs and elements that can be incorporated into the Emerson Street sidewalk project need to be discussed by this Committee. Jolibois stated he doesn't want the projects to look like they are built in anywhere-ville USA, and that there is the identity and historical position that started out with Roy Thompson when the City was laid out. Surina highlighted some of the things that he is excited about regarding the Committee and feels it is an opportunity to do some good things. Rosenblatt stated he recently came across a Municipal Development Committee mission statement that was prepared by Jolibois and noted that could be provided in Friday's packet. Waltier again suggested that this item be a Council discussion on February 16th so that the entire Council, as a whole, has input into what the Committee of three is about to do. Jolibois stated that the discussion will take place at the Committee level and the issues will be clarified at the first Committee meeting.

George suggested that there be a placeholder on the February 16th study session to provide the possibility to discuss matters that were surfaced earlier by the prospective pizza business owner. City Attorney Smith recommended against discussing it at this time and noted that an application hasn't been submitted.

Regarding the recently formed City Council/Planning Commission Joint Informal Meeting group that had been formed to include Medley, Surina, Reynolds, and Commissioners Foss, Halgren and Michaelsen, Rosenblatt noted that only two Commissioners could attend without the presence of a Planning Commission quorum. He further suggested that a Committee is created instead of a Joint Informal Meeting group and also that the meeting is advertised and held in a public place to avoid Appearance of Fairness issues. Discussion continued and it was decided that formation of this Committee should be placed on the upcoming study session agenda.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Cheesman stated that Fircrest's National Night Out event was judged and recognized as best in the nation for communities with a population of between 5,000 and 15,000 and distributed a New Spirit magazine with Fircrest's event pictured on the back. Cheesman concluded by briefly describing the school lunch buddy program.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

George congratulated staff on the fire insurance rating and suggested the issue is a good story for the next edition of the Town Topics.

Waltier congratulated Chief for all of his efforts on the National Night Out event and the subsequent award. Waltier stated he has had the Friday packet emailed to him twice and because of that, has avoided 99 pieces of paper that needed to be printed out.

Medley congratulated the Chief and the City for the fire insurance issue. He concluded by noting the recent passing of Dana Swanson.

Jolibois thanked Cheesman and his volunteers to make National Night Out special.

Wittner thanked Cheesman for his efforts and everyone else who participated by selling tulips to raise money for Kiwanis.

Reynolds stated she is still intending to bring forward a smoking ordinance in the coming weeks and asked for assistance from Surina and Cheesman. Reynolds brought forward an idea she had a year ago and suggested scheduling an open house at City Hall. Reynolds concluded by stating she might be bringing forward a training request for her attendance at this year's National League of Cities conference and is in the process of looking for financial assistance to bring the costs down.

Surina stated he also felt it is a good idea to include information about the fire rating reduction in the next Town Topics. Surina mentioned Chief Cheesman as one of the community's heroes and to place first the National Night Out event made him proud of what he has accomplished.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Jolibois stated Council would take a five-minute recess at 8:40 P.M. and convene into Executive Session for Item 14-A – Pending Litigation, not to exceed the hour of 9:10 P.M. City Manager Rosenblatt and City Attorney Smith were invited to attend.

At 8:47 P.M. Jolibois reconvened the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Medley, seconded by Waltier, to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 P.M. Ayes: Surina, Reynolds, Wittner, Jolibois, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Motion Carried.


Matthew Jolibois, Mayor


Lisa Keely, City Clerk