

**CITY OF FIRCREST
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**FEBRUARY 16, 2016
6:00 P.M.**

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

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Matthew Jolibois called the special meeting to order at 6:00 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.

Individual Council visioning and visioning discussion and Council's top three priorities (initiatives)

George identified the following three priorities:

- Enhance communications: Explore our options, including upgrading our website and moving into social media, among other things.
- Boost public safety: Work closely with Chief Cheesman for an in-depth look at police operations to understand how much time is dedicated to patrol, and are there operational changes that could be made to increase patrols? Also, consider adding another officer to the department due to the increase in property crimes - criminals are coming into the city and are causing problems for our residents -- enhanced police patrols will discourage criminals from coming here.
- Rec Center/park bond: Once ARC completes the feasibility study and submits it, we need to form a steering committee of stakeholders (soccer club and other regular users, as well as general users) and develop a park bond that balances needs with what we think citizens can/will afford. That will require more public engagement, via meetings, an online survey, etc.

Discussion ensued and clarification was provided regarding the finished product of the feasibility study that will provide options, concepts, remodeling options, etc. Rosenblatt provided information on what will be necessary to get the bond on the November 2016 ballot, i.e., an adopted resolution, contracting with bond counsel, cost, etc., and suggested there be further discussion about possibly placing the item on the ballot at a special election in 2017.

Reynolds identified the following priorities:

- Consider thinking about taking credit and debit cards at the Parks – potential sources of revenue are being turned away
- Work on ordinance that would ban smoking in the Parks
- Get into compliance as a Tree City – the aspect is more of a value benefit to Fircrest in environmental stewardship
- Branding - visibility could have twofold consequences: (1) take on an unpaid intern to get the branding launched on the city's website while also helping out a local college student, and (2) help get accessibility to disabled and differently-abled persons

Discussion continued regarding costs related to the use of credit and debit cards and whether or not to pass the costs onto the consumer, and an outline of the current system that utilizes credit card payments for utility bills.

Medley identified the following priorities:

- Create an ERR policy that addresses what occurs when equipment isn't replaced according to the replacement schedule, i.e., not continuing to add money to the ERR fund when a piece of equipment is scheduled to be replaced, but isn't, creating a situation where contributed funds aren't sufficient to replace the equipment when it is determined to be replaced
- Update some of the City's policies, in particular some potentially outdated policies within the City's Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual, and consider modifying the process used for nominations to boards and commissions and the introduction of term limits for Councilmembers within the Council's rules
- Provide updates and maintenance at the Public Works building, i.e., replace the worn carpeting in the halls, insulation in the bays, and add garage doors to the bays to enhance security

Wittner identified the following priorities:

- Pedestrian safety due to vehicles not stopping at crosswalks, in particular, the crosswalk on Emerson Street near Thelma Gilmur Park and the crosswalk at the intersection of Electron and Contra Costa – perhaps consider adding signage or lighting specifically for the crosswalk and implementing a police emphasis to ticket drivers that don't stop at crosswalks
- Expand/develop a walking/running trail system through Tacoma's holding basin from behind Whittier Park
- Improve social media presence on the City's website

Discussion continued regarding the funding cycle for RCO grants and to consider that as a possible funding source for the trail.

Waltier identified the following priorities:

- As the envy of most cities, maintain the City's strong financial position and continue to control costs
- Increase the community's input into issues that will be discussed by the recently formed communications committee, and increase the utilization of digital information to decrease paper and printing costs
- Continue to make the Community Center the centerpiece of the community and place a high priority on the feasibility study that is underway

Surina identified the following priorities:

- Reinforce the community's culture, i.e., try to figure out a way to disperse the historical information, and the core values, symbols and heroes that tie into the City's history
- Develop a walking trail in Tacoma's holding basin, and perhaps get some assistance from local eagle scouts to assist
- Create Fircrest's identity – what it actually is to be someone from Fircrest

Discussion continued about Fircrest's archetype, the visions held by Major Bowes and Roy Thompson, and the possibility of creating a museum to show some of the more historical pieces of Fircrest.

Jolibois identified the following priorities:

- Form a Communications Committee
- Form a New Urbanism Committee
- Council discussion regarding Council visioning and initiatives

Discussion continued regarding the Communications Committee and the probable creation of an on-line survey to garner community interest.

Formation of ‘The New Urbanism’ Committee consisting of both City Council and Planning Commission members

Jolibois stated his idea behind the New Urbanism Committee was an extension of the joint meeting held with the Planning Commission to carry on the dialogue and get more focus coming up to a second joint meeting, and a list of things that need to be identified and worked on. City Manager Rosenblatt suggested that the Committee is open to the public and held in a location that is open and accessible, with a 24-hour minimum public notice provided.

Jolibois noted there is a catalog that is available at the reception desk that shows items available for purchase with Fircrest’s logo. He further requested a list of phone numbers for Councilmembers, Commissioners and department heads. Discussion continued on topics for upcoming study sessions – no smoking in the Parks, an ERR funding policy, Council term limits, pedestrian safety and crosswalk options, a ‘look back’ on Fircrest’s history, bond an historical slide show with captions on the city’s webpage, an historical article included in the Town Topics to include older photos and captions; some type of policy to recognize staff for long-term service to the City, and perhaps spotlighting and highlighting employees in the Town Topics.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Waltier, seconded by George, to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 P.M. Ayes: Surina, Reynolds, Wittner, Jolibois, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Motion carried.

Matthew Jolibois, Mayor

Lisa Keely, City Clerk