

CITY OF FIRCREST
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2016 **COUNCIL CHAMBERS**
7:00 P.M. **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 Mike Fitzgerald from the Tacoma Fire Department. Fitzgerald provided a recap on the 2016 monthly and quarterly incident totals for the City of Fircrest. Responding to an inquiry from Jolibois regarding how the fire department is working on mental health concerns, Fitzgerald stated that a number of public agencies are pursuing a joint initiative for a new pilot that will provide a more stable and long-term solution for mental health problems. Fitzgerald stated that the parties more closely involved in this effort are members of the EMS division and noted he would have someone from that division provide a letter with more detail. Jolibois reported on attending a reception regarding mental health concerns with the South Sound Behavioral Health Coalition and suggested that there be an upcoming study session on this subject.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION & LIAISON REPORTS

Parks & Recreation

Surina reported that he and Jolibois had been in contact with the Rotary Club regarding the implementation of a park adoption program where the Rotary Club would raise volunteers to help clean up the park, get rid of invasive species, and provide assistance with long-range planning. Surina stated his understanding that Masko Park was dedicated as a veteran's memorial park at one time, it has the rhododendron musical garden where rhododendrons are named after famous composers, and thought that type of thing could be revitalized. Surina voiced his desire that the entrance to Masko Park be more of a Japanese garden motif, and suggested further discussion on that issue. Surina further stated that he and Jolibois met with Krystal McArthur Kyer, Executive Director with the Tahoma Audubon Society, to request assistance from the Audubon Society regarding an agreement with them to begin sprucing up Thelma Gilmur Park and to continue fulfilling Thelma's vision of Thelma Gilmur Park. Surina stated he was hopeful that Thelma Gilmur Park could be adopted as well and stated the Audubon Society has already done a lot of work in Thelma Gilmur Park and has identified native vegetation within the park as well as the invasive species. Surina suggested collecting bark chips from the city's tree trimming program and stated that he had already reached out to Utility Superintendent Davis regarding storing the chips in the Public Works yard to be used by volunteers to place around vegetation at Masko Park. Surina stated that the Audubon Society recommended that Fircrest hire an arborist to check out the health of the trees in Thelma Gilmur Park and stated that he passed along information to Parks and Recreation Grover of a resident arborist. Surina stated he recommended to Grover that the backstops be replaced in the baseball fields and further that he had contacted a public liaison person at Lowe's Hardware regarding getting the materials donated and Fircrest would place a Lowe's nametag on the back of the backstop for their generous donation. Surina highlighted a discussion he had with a member of the Fircrest Soccer Club regarding keeping her informed about the progress on the Whittier field drainage issue and the restoration of Leach Creek in the back of the property and tying that in with the drainage issues. Surina stated he asked City Manager Rosenbladt to set up a meeting with the City of

Tacoma and the City of University Place's Public Works, Parks and Recreation Director Gary Cooper regarding Cooper's plan to connect the Chambers Creek Trail System with the Leach Creek Trail System and Surina's desire to continue that trail system across Emerson Street through the City of Tacoma Holding Basin and then into Fircrest. Surina noted that the fence has been completed around the Tot Lot and looks very clean. Surina concluded by highlighting a program called SAIL (Stay Active and Independent for Life), a program created by a Fircrest resident of strength and balance training for seniors and suggested that placards be placed within the park with very specific balance exercises.

Finance and Information Technology

George provided an update on the progress of the Communications Committee, noting that they are working on replacing the City's website. George noted that the timing of the website replacement is ideal due to GoDaddy's plan in six months to upgrade and replace the platform presently being used by the City. George stated that staff has been looking at contracts and RFP's used by other jurisdictions and is further working on gathering examples of social media policies. George concluded by stating it appeared that the City might have its own Facebook page in the near future.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Jolibois requested the City Clerk read the consent calendar as follows: approval of Voucher No. 207401 through Voucher No. 207502 in the amount of \$306,805.36; approval of Payroll Check No. 12108 through Payroll Check No. 12112 in the amount of \$93,803.14; approval of Payroll Check No. 12113 through Payroll Check No. 12122 in the amount of \$6,453.19; approval of Payroll Check No. 12123 through Payroll Check No. 12128 in the amount of \$86,757.77; approval of the March 21, 2016 Special City Council meeting; approval of the March 22, 2016 Regular City Council meeting; approval of the March 30, 2016 Special City Council meeting; Setting a public hearing for April 26, 2016 at 7:15 pm to receive comments on proposed amendments to Fircrest Municipal Code Title 22; and Setting a public hearing for April 26, 2016 at 7:15 pm to receive comments on proposed amendments to the Fircrest Critical Areas Ordinance.

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

Resolution selecting an elected official to Zoo/Trek Authority Board

City Manager Rosenblatt stated that at the March 8, 2016 meeting, Council adopted Resolution No. 1420, inserting the name of Denise McCluskey of the City of University Place to Position Two on the Zoo/Trek Authority Board. The Zoo/Trek Authority position requires a total vote representing 60% of the Pierce County population but a vote representing 60% of the total population was not received. Rosenblatt noted that the ballot has been re-submitted for another vote by Council.

RESOLUTION NO. 1426

Moved by Medley, seconded by Surina, to adopt Resolution No. 1426 and insert the name of Denise McCluskey of the City of University Place to Position Two on the Zoo/Trek Authority Board.

Jolibois invited public comment. None was provided.

VOTE

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

Chapter 16.40.200 Amendment – Proposed Changes to Restricted Parking Signage along Elm Tree Lane

Planning and Building Administrator Stahlnecker stated that the Fircrest Municipal Code (FMC) currently prohibits parking on the south side of Elm Tree Lane, as marked by signage. Stahlnecker stated that the Planning Commission held a public hearing and approved an amendment to a previously approved Conditional Use Permit which revised the parking, staging, and bus zone areas around the school. Stahlnecker concluded by noting that the Conditional Use Permit approval is contingent on Council approving revisions to the FMC and removal of the restricted parking signs along Elm Tree Lane.

In response to George's inquiry about public feedback, Stahlnecker stated that one comment was received after the City sent out two notices and that comment was related to fumes from buses. She stated that Tacoma Public Schools has a 'no idle' rule and the buses are turned off while waiting for students. Waltier commented about all the extra traffic that will be exiting on Contra Costa and suggested attention is paid to that.

ORDINANCE 1572

Moved by Medley, seconded by Wittner, to adopt Ordinance No. 1572 amending ordinance 842 Section 9 and FMC 16.40.200, eliminating the restricted parking signs along Elm Tree Lane.

Jolibois invited public comment. None was provided.

VOTE

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

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement between the Department of Health and the City of Fircrest for the disinfection design for the water system

Public Works Director Wakefield stated that Council is being asked to authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement between the Department of Health and the City of Fircrest to accept grant funding for the disinfection design for the water system. Wakefield noted that the grant application was filed in January 2016 and the same time, a request to modify the Bilateral Compliance Agreement (BCA) was

made to coincide with this funding opportunity. Wakefield stated that as soon as the agreement is executed they can continue finishing the engineering and implementation of the disinfection system.

RESOLUTION NO. 1427

Moved by Medley, seconded by George, to adopt Resolution No. 1427 authorizing the City Manager to execute Agreement N21955 between the Department of Health and the City of Fircrest to accept grant funding for the disinfection design for the water system.

Responding to Surina's inquiry if the chlorination could ever be discontinued, Wakefield stated that disinfection would be continued once it is implemented, as it provides a layer of protection to assure that the water stays clean. Wakefield further responded with an update regarding concerns about biofilm in the pipes and a possible reaction to chlorine. Wakefield clarified for George that the design is to be submitted by June 24, 2016 with implementation of the disinfection system by August 31, 2016. Jolibois recognized George for his efforts in discovering the grant opportunity. Waltier commented that there should be a process in place to discover grants and that perhaps it was time to hire someone to do that. Jolibois suggested that Rosenblatt contact the City of University Place to see if the two cities could share in some of the costs of their grant writer.

Jolibois invited public comment. None was provided.

VOTE

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

Ordinance prohibiting the use of tobacco in recreational areas, parks and playgrounds

Reynolds read language from an ordinance she was walking on regarding the prohibition of tobacco in recreational areas, parks and playgrounds and providing penalties for the violation.

Discussion ensued regarding enforcement of the ordinance and comments that staff and the City Attorney hadn't reviewed the document. Following further discussion, Rosenblatt recommended that the item be brought forward in the future as an agenda item so that everyone has an opportunity to review the documentation.

ORDINANCE NO. 1573

Jolibois invited public comment.

The following individuals provided comment:

John Zwosta, 914 Forrest Park Drive, commented about the lack of transparency from walking on an ordinance; Phaedra Miller, 1225 Del Monte Avenue, commented about not following procedures, not involving staff and the City Attorney, and not providing public notification; and Teresa Sodon, 101 Eldorado, stated that the officers shouldn't be tied up enforcing petty crimes and writing tickets for such small amounts.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Rosenblatt recalled the Business License application for the Bank of Washington, Inc. from Brazil and reported that he followed up with the Attorney General's office for follow-up and would bring information forward. Rosenblatt commented about hearing from a Fircrest Civil Service Commissioner that while she was attending a Chamber of Commerce meeting in Lakewood she heard that there was a crime wave in Fircrest. Rosenblatt stated he was going to work with Chief Cheesman to get information out to the public. Rosenblatt concluded by reporting that Tacoma Public Schools is interested in using the Whittier Fields for recess during the period that students from Wainwright will be attending Whittier and stated he will be bringing forward an agreement for Council's approval.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Stahlnecker stated she met with Tacoma Public Schools officials regarding the transition. Stahlnecker stated that she was provided with a floor plan and calculations that she gave to the building official who has made a preliminary determination that code requirements will be met. She noted that the plan does not include the use of portables. In response to George, Cheesman stated that the Champions of Fircrest after-school program would continue in the same area in the lower level.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmembers thanked audience members for attending tonight's meeting.

Reynolds referenced a recent discussion she had with Councilmember Grassi from the City of University Place who noted that he and their Council are eager for another joint City of University Place/City of Fircrest Council meeting. Reynolds concluded by reading aloud a letter received regarding the positive experience a business owner had with the Public Works Department.

Jolibois requested that Rosenblatt contact the City of University Place to begin the process to schedule a joint meeting and to compile agenda items. He asked that contact be made before the end of the week so that information could be provided in this week's packet.

Waltier gave kudos to Stahlnecker, Finance Director Corcoran, Utility Billing Clerk Walston, and Office Assistant Gollinger for their efforts in attaining the Well City for 2016 that saves 2% on the medical premiums. Waltier stated that out of 539 electronic pieces received in his Council packet, he has only needed to print out 32 pages.

George stated he made a recent presentation to the Eatonville Town Council and observed that all Councilmembers had Dell laptops. George suggested that someone might want to reach out to them to determine the cost benefit. In response to George, Cheesman stated he is planning on making a presentation to Council about police statistics and is also planning to go before the citizens for a public meeting, followed by smaller block watch meetings. George reported that the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) will soon be providing grants and noted that the two-year grant cycle has a deadline of May 1, 2016. George suggested that the City applies for a grant, because if you don't apply, you don't stand a chance of getting any funding. George stated there is a 50% cost match if RCO awards the grant. George noted that under requirements of the grant, the project must be listed in the Capital Facilities Element of the City's Comprehensive Plan and suggested that the City apply for a relatively small grant, such as the backstops or irrigation, or playground equipment. Rosenblatt stated it would be helpful to have a Council discussion to take a look at all the projects outlined in the Plan and decide what is most important to the majority of Council. Rosenblatt reminded Council that the City

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would need to pay for a project up front, and then submit for 50% reimbursement for up to \$500,000. Discussion continued regarding either applying for a grant to renovate Whittier Field or applying for a grant for playground equipment. There was Council consensus to ask Robert W. Droll Landscape Architect, P.S for the cost of his assistance in applying for an RCO grant for Fircrest Park playground equipment, and perhaps also backstops, and not apply for a grant to renovate Whittier Field at this time. It was suggested that the Whittier Field renovation is reviewed during the next two years.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Medley, seconded by Reynolds, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 P.M. Ayes: Surina, Reynolds, Wittner, Jolibois, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Motion Carried.


Matthew Jolibois, Mayor


Lisa Keely, City Clerk