

CITY OF FIRCREST
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, AUGUST 9, 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 reported on receiving an email from Neil Holden from Westside Disposal who proposed the idea of having two Saturdays for Clean-Up Days instead of a Friday and a Saturday for the spring and fall Clean-Ups. Rosenblatt reported that a resolution and ordinance would be required to amend the agreement and the Fircrest Municipal Code. He stated he is planning on bringing this issue forward at the August 23, 2016 regular meeting. George suggested when the ordinance is brought forward for adoption that the requirement that Council needs to approve certain dates for the spring clean-up is removed and that decision is left up to the administration and representatives from Westside Disposal.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION & LIAISON REPORTS

Parks and Recreation

Surina stated that Fircrest Fund Days is scheduled for this weekend. Surina reported that two of the three backstops have been replaced with the materials that were donated by Gray Lumber. Surina recognized the help provided by Neil Holden from Westside Disposal at different Fircrest events. Surina stated that the Rotary Club has adopted Masko Park and indicated that the Audubon Society is interested in helping out at Thelma Gilmur Park but reported they are too small to maintain a park of that size. Surina indicated that Parks and Recreation Grover has been in contact with other organizations to assist with the Thelma Gilmur Park adoption program.

Environment, Planning, Building

Waltier reported that Planning and Building has been in ongoing discussions with the Fircrest Golf Club for a future development and it appears to be moving forward.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Jolibois requested the City Manager read the consent calendar as follows: approval of Voucher No. 208029 through Voucher No. 208100 in the amount of \$69,707.03; approval of Payroll Check No. 12285 through Payroll Check No. 12289 in the amount of \$6,345.54; approval of Payroll Check No. 12290 through Payroll Check No. 12294 in the amount of \$83,913.83; approval of Payroll Check No. 12295 through Payroll Check No. 12325 in the amount of \$114,534.01; approval of the July 25, 2016 Special City Council meeting; and approval of the July 26, 2016 Regular City Council meeting.

MOTION

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

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation of Utility Financial Plan and Rate Outlook

Public Works Director Wakefield provided an update of the Utility Financial Plan and Rate Outlook. Wakefield indicated that based on the information provided in the report, it is recommended that the City proceeds with developing a rate ordinance to provide for an increase in utility rates as outlined in the report. Wakefield stated that the recent water main break and costs to repair it illustrates the need to develop a financial plan to fund repairs and replacements, and to also develop capital facilities plans that address the concerns and problems. Wakefield noted the plan involves establishing a capital account and utilizing a portion of the ending fund balance to be able to fund needed capital improvements while also continuing to fund the account to provide for needed infrastructure improvements. Wakefield stated that the major goal of the financial plan is to provide sustainability to each utility and reported that he and Katy Isaksen, Katy Isaksen & Associates, discussed the inclusion of a Consumer Price Index (CPI) element to the rates. Wakefield concluded by stating that in order to be able to provide the additional revenue that is required, adjusting the rates to provide this revenue is recommended and noted that the financial model being presented could be used going forward to keep from having this conversation again in the future.

Staff and Isaksen addressed Council questions.

Council requested that the following information is included in the Friday packet: total interest payment for the life of the DOE loan for the sewer projects and a comparison of the current and proposed rates with other similarly sized cities.

Motion to allocate funds for expenditures from the General Fund, Water Fund, Sewer Fund and Back Yard Sewer Main Fund

Finance Director Corcoran described the reasoning why each line needs to be adjusted.

Moved by Medley, seconded by Wittner, to authorize the Finance Director to reallocate the funds as listed in the City Council Agenda summary dated August 9, 2016.

Staff addressed Council questions.

VOTE

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

Motion to have the Planning Commission schedule a public hearing to consider reductions to the marijuana buffer zone, zoning districts that could allow the sale of marijuana and setbacks for retail marijuana locations from residential areas

Rosenblatt reported the matter is housekeeping in nature as at the June 20, 2016 study session, Council took consensus to send this matter to the Planning Commission for a public hearing but Fircrest Municipal Code Section 22.78.003 requires a motion. Rosenblatt reported that the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Board responded verbally that when adjoining jurisdictions' buffers differ, the more stringent one would apply. He concluded by noting this is before Council for consideration and action.

MOTION

Moved by Waltier, seconded by Wittner, that the Planning Commission schedules a public hearing to consider reductions to the marijuana buffer zone, zoning districts that could allow the sale of marijuana, and setbacks for retail marijuana locations from residential areas.

Staff responded to Council questions.

MOTION AMENDMENT

Moved by George, seconded by Reynolds, that the Planning Commission schedules a public hearing to consider reductions to the marijuana buffer zone, zoning districts that could allow the sale of marijuana, and setbacks for retail marijuana locations from residential areas, and present the recommendation to the City Council.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT

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

Jolibois invited public comment.

Karen Reynolds, 1576 Woodside Court, commented that her understanding from a previous meeting was that Council wasn't requesting that the buffers be reduced.

City Clerk Keely, responding to a request by Council, clarified that one of the items that Council desired to be addressed by the Planning Commission was a discussion about reductions to the buffer zone.

VOTE

Ayes: Surina, Wittner, Jolibois, George and Waltier. Noes: Reynolds and Medley. Motion carried.

City Council 2017 Budget priorities

The following budget priorities were identified:

Surina

1. Appropriate \$200,000 over a five year period to remodel the Community Center
2. Appropriate \$5,000 to \$10,000 annually in ERR to fund the replacement of aging park equipment

Reynolds

1. Include funds for police officers to participate in a fitness/wellness program per the Guild contract
2. Implement paying for programs with credit and debit cards

Wittner

1. Allocate money to fix the playground equipment in Fircrest Park
2. Install a gate at the Claremont Street Well 6/7 to give citizens access to the green open space and place a picnic table for their use and enjoyment
3. Hire a part-time grant writer to assist with available grants

George

1. Hire an additional police officer
2. Appropriate an annual amount to replace aging park equipment

Waltier

1. Replace the current reader board with an electronic one
2. Purchase tablets or laptops for Council so that all Councilmembers can go paperless

Medley

1. Set money aside to invest in the infrastructure
2. Provide maintenance and improvements to the Public Works building, i.e., secure the bays with doors, construct a shelter over the bins to keep the materials dry

Jolibois

1. Hire a grant writer and lobbyist to get both grants and contact at the Legislature
2. Municipal Development in areas of the city, i.e., turning Regents Boulevard into a boulevard, creating a heritage understanding, i.e., looking way back and going forward, developing a long-term plan, figuring out how to pay for beautification ideas

Discussion continued on a strategy to discuss the budget priorities that were identified and associated costs. Jolibois suggested that he, George and Rosenblatt meet to discuss the priorities that were outlined and make a recommendation.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Rosenblatt thanked the Public Works crew and summer workers for their efforts to fix and clean up from the recent water main break on Ramsdell Street. Rosenblatt noted there are no agenda items for the upcoming study session and inquired if Council wanted to cancel the meeting. George inquired if it might be useful to discuss the chlorination system at the study session. Responding to George's inquiry, Wakefield stated he would attach a summary of the status of the disinfection system with regard to type and budget being used, and a summary of the status of the project and a plan set of the work being done.

MOTION

Moved by Waltier, seconded by George, to cancel the August 15, 2016 study session. Ayes: Surina, Reynolds, Wittner, Jolibois, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Motion carried.

Rosenbladt recognized Reynolds for her completion of the Association of Washington Cities Certificate of Municipal Leadership training program. He further presented Reynolds with a Certificate of Achievement in recognition of successful completion of the FEMA ICS Overview for Executives and Senior Officials that was done in conjunction with AWC's annual conference. Rosenbladt noted that attendance at classes and participating in any training in emergency management is well worth it and will come in handy in true emergencies. Rosenbladt concluded by handing out an article that was published in the Tacoma Daily Index regarding insurance fraud.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Finance Director Corcoran stated that after she questioned the Washington State Auditor if the single audit of the Washington State Department of Ecology loan was necessary this year, it was determined that it was not needed, saving the City \$15,000 this year.

Chief Cheesman stated he met with members of FEMA today who indicated they would be happy to make a presentation at a Council study session and discuss Council's involvement when there is an emergency. Cheesman stated he also discussed with members of FEMA the City's Hazard Mitigation Plan that was approved last year and would be exploring grant opportunities with them and discussing mitigations that are listed in the plan.

Grover thanked Surina for his efforts in getting the donation from Gray Lumber's Mac Gray for the materials to replace the backstops. Grover reported it was great having the Fun Days Committee and thanked George and Medley for their ideas and assistance. Grover outlined the events scheduled for the upcoming Fun Days event.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Medley stated that everything he heard about National Night Out was that it was a great event and great night. Medley thanked the Public Works crew, and particularly Utility Foreman Davis and Utility Serviceman Schlostein, for all of their efforts during the Ramsdell water main break and for going the extra mile.

Waltier congratulated Cheesman for National Night Out and complimented Wakefield and Isaksen for the thorough Utility Rate Study and Financial Plan.

George thanked Surina and Gray Lumber for their donation and was hopeful they would be formally thanked and be recognized in the Town Topics. He indicated that National Night Out was fantastic. George thanked the Public Works crew for the work they did fixing the water main break on Ramsdell. George reported on receiving a request from State Representative Dick Muri's office regarding a request that Council adopt a resolution voicing support for the Boulevard of Remembrance that Muri is spearheading. George stated that a Pierce County Resolution adopted in 1989 was part of a significant historical preservation effort undertaken by county leaders to preserve surviving trees on I-5 that were planted in 1928 to honor and commemorate fallen World War I Veterans, organizations, and women who contributed to the war effort. He stated that part of the resolution was never completed. George noted that Muri's office has been working with WSDOT to complete their portion of the resolution requirements. George concluded by stating that Muri's office is asking jurisdictions in his district to pass a resolution in support of this activity and indicated this would be coming forward.

Wittner reported being out of town during the past week and had missed the events, but would attend National Night Out next year and Fun Days this weekend.

Reynolds stated she had the pleasure of attending National Night Out but unfortunately had to miss the fireworks. Reynolds commented about the great article in the Tacoma Daily Index about e-cigarettes and read today that the City of Andover, Michigan became one of the first cities to raise their tobacco age to 21.

Surina thanked Cheesman for National Night Out and the Public Works Crew for their efforts on the Ramsdell project.

Jolibois requested a copy of the Quarterly Financial Report that is numerically dominate with detailed numbers. Cheesman confirmed for Jolibois the timing and scheduling to prepare for National Night Out. Jolibois asked that the volunteers be given a heartfelt thanks when they get back together to start planning for next year's event. Jolibois concluded by stating he visited gray Lumber and personally thanked Mac Gray.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Medley, to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 P.M. Ayes: Surina, Reynolds, Wittner, Jolibois, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Motion carried.



Matthew Jolibois, Mayor



Lisa Keely, City Clerk