

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

**OCTOBER 17, 2016
6:00 P.M.**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
FIRCREST CITY HALL, 115 RAMSDALL 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, Hunter T. George, Denny Waltier and Jason Medley were present. Councilmember Brett Wittner was excused.

Discussion, direction, consensus and motions on the 2017 Preliminary Budget

Corcoran called attention to a memo she provided to Council regarding the proposed imposition of a stormwater utility tax and reasons behind why the revenue is needed. She noted that with the inclusion of a stormwater utility tax, the General Fund Ending Fund Balance will decreased by \$126,601. Corcoran reported that 65% of General Fund revenue comes from taxes, and property taxes can only be increased 1% over what was collected the previous year. Corcoran stated that costs continue to increase and staff has kept expenditures down wherever possible. She concluded by stating that staff does not want to impose a storm utility tax, it is needed in order to sustain current services. Corcoran clarified that the General Fund would impose the Stormwater Utility Tax in the amount of 6% of the revenue within the Storm Fund and that amount equals \$26,000.

Public Works Director Wakefield responded to Council inquiries about the rate study that was recently completed and addressed Council concerns regarding the proposed rate increases in the water, sewer and stormwater utilities.

Following discussion, there was consensus to not modify the proposed water rate increase, to not modify the proposed stormwater rate increase, to reduce the proposed stormwater utility tax from 6% to 3% for 2017 and add an additional 3% in 2018, and for the Public Works Director to review reducing the 2017 proposed sewer rates as low as possible to still sustain the utility for 2017 and then spread the rest over 2018 and 2019.

There was discussion to reduce the amount budgeted for the Jail program from \$30,500 to \$25,500, to reduce the amount budgeted for library services from \$14,000 to \$11,000, and use that money towards purchasing computers for Council to receive electronic packets. Following discussion, there was consensus that staff research the costs of Council receiving packets in paper format compared to the cost of purchasing computers/laptops for Council and to include purchasing computers for Council in the 2017 budget for purchase at some time in 2017.

There was consensus that research is conducted regarding the facts and figures for a credit/debit card program to be able to electronically pay for programs and services.

There was consensus of Council to fund the Administrative Assistant position on a full-time basis for the purpose of being able to provide grant researching and grant writing instead of transferring \$21,000 from Administration to Parks for Parks Maintenance and keeping the Administrative Assistant part-time.

Following discussion, and because there isn't a plan for Whittier fields that is ready, including the amount of money needed at this time, and because the Community Center and Pool were identified as

higher priorities, there was not consensus of Council to execute a contract in the amount of \$25,000 for a lobbyist to solicit discretionary funds in the amount of \$800,000 to \$2,000,000 from the Washington State Legislature for the Whittier field renovation, improvement and irrigation project to move up and also include different play toys and tennis courts.

Discussion ensued regarding contracting an engineer to perform a study to find out what it might cost to drain Whittier field, costs for the installation of artificial turf, etc.

There was consensus to continue the meeting beyond 8:00 P.M., and not to exceed 8:30 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Waltier, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 P.M. Ayes: Surina, Reynolds, Jolibois, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Excused: Wittner. Motion carried.



Matthew Jolibois, Mayor



Lisa Keely, City Clerk