

CITY OF FIRCREST
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2017 **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 7:03 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers Blake Surina, Shannon Reynolds, Brett Wittner, Hunter T. George, and Denny Waltier were present. Councilmember Jason Medley was absent and excused.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT

A. 2nd Quarter 2017 Financial Report

Financial Director Corcoran presented the 2nd Quarter 2017 Financial report (January 1, 2017 through June 30, 2017), which showed that actual revenues and expenditures are close to budgeted estimates. The presentation included year-to-date information on the General Fund Revenues, General Fund Expenditures by Department, Actual Revenue Over/(Under) Expenditures, and Available Cash Balance per Fund. After a brief discussion, per Council request, staff indicated they would provide further information on cash and investment funds and cumulative reserves. Corcoran stated that the 2017 2nd Quarter Review report would be uploaded on the City of Fircrest website the following day.

B. Community Center and Pool: Next Steps

Parks and Recreation Director Grover briefed the Council on the staff recommended next steps of addressing the short-term issues related to the pool leak and achieving a long-term solution with the community center and pool. Grover recommended the Council authorize the Interim City Manager to direct staff to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) from consultants interested in providing professional services including, but not limited to, preliminary consultation, preliminary cost estimates (including operational and capital costs), and schematic drawings to be used in public meetings and citizen outreach materials for the several development scenarios. Grover stated that the 2016 ARC Architects Feasibility Study recommended that repairing the pool in its current condition would be cost prohibitive and would cost just as much as a new pool. McDonald added that the pool leak presents a potential risk and staff will coordinate with the City's insurance provider to determine the risk and liability as well as reaching out to engineers to mitigate the risk. There was a brief discussion on whether extending the 2016 ARC Architects contract would be an option and City Attorney Smith recommended not to extend the contract with ARC Architects due to the contract extension terms and that this proposed scope of work would be beyond the original contractual scope of work. The Council gave approval to move ahead with a RFQ to seek the services of a qualified architectural/engineering firm to provide professional services for the rebuild or renewal of the Community Center and Pool.

CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

The City of Fircrest received a submitted written public comment on August 8, 2017 by Lori Bisping of 506 Electron Way and Jolibois directed the City Clerk to enter the comments into the meeting minutes:

Dear Fircrest City Council Members,

I attended tonight's City Council Meeting to convey my concerns about allowing city property to be used for a community garden. However, I was not allowed the opportunity to speak. Please accept this email in lieu of my public comment.

According to past city council meeting minutes, two sites have been proposed for use as a community garden. Both have been rejected by council. However, a recommendation was made to consider the former Fox property on Electron Way. I am opposed to using tax funded property and city staff time to support this type of project. When the Fox property was purchased, I believe your citizen's were told it was be used for an expansion of the Tot Lot and / or additional parking. As a tax payer, I expect the property to be used for the stated purpose or at least an identified need.

I am sure council is aware that they are thirty five (35) community gardens in the City of Tacoma, eleven (11) on Metro Parks Property. These gardens struggle to be consistently maintained and have become an eyesore in their neighborhoods. Additional a September 7, 2016 article in the Tacoma News Tribune reported escalating problems with theft and vandalism. The article goes on to explain that numerous police hours had been expended in an attempt to address the issues. Fences would need to be built and the gardens locked. It doesn't take much research to reveal that these are common problems with these gardens nationally. How much of our city staff time has already been expended on this topic? How many in the future? Clearly, this is not a project that has no impact to city funds.

Why is council continuing to entertain discussion on this topic when none of the city's strategic plans have identified community gardens as a need or desire of the citizens? In fact the Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Plan, calls for projects that have been planned to fit the parks and community. In addition, the impact to the city staff workload is to be analyzed. The recent parks and recreation survey may be a good indicator of what the citizens want. There were 433 citizen responses, numerous suggestions were offered, only 1 asked for a community garden.

Tonight, I was disappointed that proper protocol wasn't followed so that I could personally deliver this message. I will give council the benefit of the doubt that an oversight was made. However, I respectfully request that this agenda be read and entered into the minutes at the next council meeting.

I urge council to be more diligent in ensuring that citizen requests to speak are honored. I also suggest that the mayor slow down when he requests input from citizens and council. Rushing through the agenda denies public dialogue and gives the appearance that council is not interested in hearing opposing views. Especially when a particular topic has the majority of the councils support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jolibois invited public comment. The following individuals provided comments:

- Neil Holden, Westside Disposal, invited the public to their 75th anniversary celebration scheduled for August 26, 2017.

- Yolonda Brooks, 6448 19th Street W. commented on sewer availability to an annexed section of the city that is presently on a septic system.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Water, Sewer, Storm

Waltier reported no new updates.

B. Street, Facilities, Equipment

Jolibois reported that the inspections on the Emerson Street project is wrapping up and the transportation signal safety improvement grant award is moving forward.

C. Public Safety, Court

George reported that the Court Safety Committee met per State mandate to review security procedures. George stated that the Committee made minor adjustments to its security plan to permit the Police Officer on duty the ability to search if there is reasonable suspicion, approved locks on doors, and plans to pursue grants for capital improvements

D. Pierce County Regional Council

Reynolds reported that the August 17, 2017 meeting was canceled.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Jolibois requested the City Clerk read the consent calendar as follows: approval of Voucher No. 209871 through Voucher No. 209943 in the amount of \$484,140.81; approval of Payroll Check No. 12839 through Payroll Check No. 12871 in the amount of \$108,422.13; and approval of the June 27, 2017 regular meeting minutes. **George Moved to approve the Consent Calendar as read; seconded by Reynolds. The Motion Carried Unanimously.**

PUBLIC HEARING

No public hearing was scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution No. 1490 authorizing the City Manager to execute of an agreement with eCivis, Inc., for a subscription to their grant search software and other services

McDonald briefed the Council on the resolution that would authorize entering into an agreement with eCivis, Inc., that will allow Fircrest staff to access to their grant research and management software system. Jolibois invited public comment; none was provided. **Wittner Moved to approve Resolution 1490 as written; seconded by Waltier. The Motion Carried Unanimously.**

B. Budget Amendment, 1st Reading

Corcoran stated that tonight is the first reading of a Budget Amendment for anticipated revenues and expenditures not foreseen at the time of filing the 2017 Preliminary Budget and not provided for in the Adopted 2017 Budget. Corcoran stated that the fiscal impact would be increased in expenditures with corresponding increases in revenue or corresponding decreases in undesignated fund balances. Corcoran briefed the Council the appropriations and stated that

this proposal would provide the necessary budget to match the actual Beginning and Ending Fund Balances. Corcoran indicated that that the second reading will occur at the September 12, 2017 Council meeting. Jolibois invited public comment; none was provided.

C. City Manager Recruitment Efforts: Salary Adjustment

Jolibois added an item to adjust the city manager’s compensation related to the city manager recruitment efforts and potential salary adjustments discussed at the August 21, 2017 Council work session for consideration of the Council. After a brief discussion, there was a consensus to raise the salary range by \$10,000. Corcoran indicated she would coordinate with McDonald to determine the impact to the 2018 Budget.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

McDonald stated that there was an incident at the Public Safety building earlier that afternoon involving an individual backing into a Fircrest patrol car. Sergeant Villamoor indicated that the officer involved was brought to a nearby hospital to be evaluated for injuries. McDonald added that he is seeking guidance from the insurance risk pool regarding a request made by an official at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of parking their General Services Administration (GSA) vehicle and personal vehicle while GSA is in use. McDonald stated he had an inquiry from a councilmember regarding summer water consumption rates and will bring back more information at a later date.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

None were provided.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

The Council thanked the public for their attendance. Additional comments included:

- George commended everyone’s involvement in the community meeting regarding the pool.
- Waltier requested that the minutes reflect his concerns regarding the homeless camps near 19th Street Fred Meyer store and homeless individuals stealing unattended items on lawns and from open garages in residential areas at night. He called on residents to remain vigilant.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

George Moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 P.M, seconded by Wittner. The Motion Carried Unanimously.



Matthew Jolibois, Mayor



Jessica Nappi, City Clerk