

CITY OF FIRCREST
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2016 **COUNCIL CHAMBERS**
7:00 P.M. **FIRCREST CITY HALL, 115 RAMSDALL 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 and Jason Medley were present. Councilmember Denny Waltier was excused.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT

Jolibois announced appointments to the Recreation Center and Pool Advisory Committee: Citizens Rick Little, Patti Betzendorfer, Chad Johnson and Sally York; and Councilmembers Surina, Jolibois and Reynolds. Jolibois stated he had appointed Surina as chair, recommended that City Manager Rosenblatt appoint Parks and Recreation Director Grover as staff appointee and asked for Council consent. Jolibois reported the members have an understanding of the heritage and history of Fircrest that will assist in formulating, from an advisory standpoint, discussions about the pool and community center. George expressed surprise that user groups weren't represented, i.e., the swim team, sports leagues, basketball coach, youth members, etc., and Reynolds suggested opening it up for applications to the general public to increase the membership. Following discussion, it was announced that the initial meeting would be held on November 3rd at the Community Center, at approximately 5:30/6:00 p.m., for the committee to come up with a mission statement, an initial survey, and potentially a timeline schedule. In response to Reynolds, City Attorney Smith stated that barring any legislative or judicial issues, any member of the public, including a member of the Planning Commission, can attend the meeting. Jolibois asked that public notification requirements for this kind of committee are included in the Friday packet.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION & LIAISON REPORTS

Water, Sewer and Storm

Wittner reported that he wasn't able to meet with Public Works Director Wakefield but stated he met and had lunch today with the Public Works crew, noting that the morale is good, and concluded by saying that he was assured that the recommended purchase of the mini-excavator is a need and not a want.

Pierce County Regional Council

Reynolds gave an update on items discussed at the meeting she attended last week.

PUBLIC HEARING

To receive comments on the Preliminary 2017 Budget

At 7:15 P.M. Jolibois opened the public hearing and outlined the format.

Finance Director Corcoran stated that tonight's hearing is the second public hearing on expenditures of the 2017 Preliminary Budget and highlighted the following:

- The 2017 Preliminary Budget contains ten funds
- The total for all funds, including transfers and ending fund balance, is \$24,785,668

- Includes a cost of living for employees and contracts
- Maintains staffing levels in all funds except for the General Fund, which increases the part-time Administrative Assistant position to full-time to allow additional hours for grant writing duties
- Includes capital expenditures in the General Fund; Street, Sewer, Water, Storm and ERR Fund

Corcoran concluded by stating that staff presented the budget to Council and Council has discussed it in study sessions and this is the time to receive comments from the public regarding the expenditures in the 2017 Preliminary Budget.

Jolibois invited public comment. None was provided.

Jolibois closed the public hearing at 7:16 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING

To receive comments on amendments to Fircrest Municipal Code Title 20 regarding sanitary sewer charges

At 7:16 P.M. Jolibois opened the public hearing and outlined the format.

Public Works Director Wakefield stated that changes to the ordinance reflect a number of items but most importantly address the aging infrastructure and capital improvements that were identified throughout the year when the Capital Improvement Facilities were adopted and the need to fund and provide provisions to be able to support the capital improvements. Wakefield stated the revised sewer rates were based on the rate study conducted by the City and its consultant, Katy Isaksen. Wakefield noted the proposed rate structure came out of the August 9, 2016 Isaksen study. Wakefield stated that charges for the City of Tacoma sewage treatment are separated out from the sewer rate in the ordinance. He further noted the ordinance was formatted to match the bi-monthly billing cycle

Jolibois invited public comment.

The following individual provided comment: Bonnie Blair, 521 Monterey Lane, Fircrest WA.

Jolibois closed the public hearing at 7:24 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING

To receive comments on amendments to Fircrest Municipal Code Title 21 regarding water charges

At 7:25 P.M. Jolibois opened the public hearing.

Wakefield stated that one of the items identified through the process was the water rate structure where a base rate would be established and users would pay for water usage. He indicated that one of the reasons was to make things more affordable so that the bills for people that don't use much water would probably go down slightly. Wakefield stated a three-tier process was created rather than the two-tier with a certain amount of water provided. Wakefield further noted the ordinance was formatted to match the bi-monthly billing cycle so it would be easier to understand the rate when viewing the water bill.

Jolibois invited public comment. None was provided.

Jolibois closed the public hearing at 7:26 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING

To receive comments on amendments to Fircrest Municipal Code Title 20 regarding storm water charges

At 7:27 P.M. Jolibois opened the public hearing.

Wakefield stated that stormwater capital funding is solely a grant match amount in capital and the rate structure identified does not fully fund the capital improvements. He further noted that this fund didn't previously include a senior/disabled 25% discount and that is being included in the ordinance.

Jolibois invited public comment. None was provided.

Jolibois closed the public hearing at 7:28 P.M.

PUBLIC HEARING

To receive comments on amendments to Fircrest Municipal Code Title 5 regarding the addition of a storm water utility tax

At 7:29 P.M. Jolibois opened the public hearing.

Finance Director Corcoran stated that a 6% utility tax was being proposed and the General Fund would charge the stormwater fund the 6% tax on revenue collected. She noted when the Fund was created it didn't include the 6% tax. Corcoran noted when the 6% utility tax was discussed by Council, a request was made to reduce the tax to 3% for the first year only and to charge the 6% tax effective January 1, 2018 and thereafter.

Jolibois invited public comment. None was provided.

Jolibois closed the public hearing at 7:31 P.M.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Jolibois inquired if there were any objections to removing Item 7C. None were noted.

Jolibois requested the City Clerk read the consent calendar as follows: approval of Voucher No. 208387 through Voucher No. 208453 in the amount of \$353,712.04; approval of Payroll Check No. 12440 through Payroll Check No. 12447 in the amount of \$88,991.17; approval of the October 10, 2016 Special meeting; approval of the October 11, 2016 Regular meeting; and approval of the October 17, 2016 Special meeting.

MOTION

Moved by George, seconded by Wittner, to approve the consent calendar as amended. Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution cancelling the November 8, 2016 regular Council meeting

Rosenbladt reported a resolution is required to cancel a regular meeting, noting that Council has already set a special meeting for November 7th at 7:00 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 1447

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by George, to adopt Resolution No. 1447 authorizing the cancellation of the first regular meeting in November 2016.

VOTE

Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to the agreement with Morris Law, P.C. for special legal counsel in land use and environmental law in 2017

Rosenbladt stated that Attorney Morris's rate has been \$250/hour since the agreement was approved in 2008 and is proposed to increase to \$275.00. Rosenbladt stated that in the course of land use decisions, Special Legal Counsel has been utilized to represent the City and recommended approval.

RESOLUTION NO. 1448

Moved by Medley, seconded by George, to adopt Resolution No. 1448 authorizing the City Manager to amend the professional services agreement with the law firm of Morris Law, P.C. for special legal counsel services in land use matters and environmental law through December 31, 2017.

Staff responded to Council inquiries.

Jolibois invited public comment. None was provided.

VOTE

Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to the Contract for Legal Services with Comfort, Davies and Smith, P.S. for City Attorney and City Prosecutor services in 2017

Medley stated he had a conflict of interest and recused himself from Council Chambers.

Rosenblatt stated that Council is being asked to adopt a resolution to increase the rate with Comfort, Davies and Smith by 2%, noting that the new rate will be \$164.00 per hour. Rosenblatt stated that the 2017 Preliminary Budget includes this new rate and recommended approval.

RESOLUTION NO. 1449

Moved by Surina, seconded by Wittner, to adopt Resolution No. 1449 authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to the Contract for Legal Services with Comfort, Davies and Smith, P.S. for City Attorney and City Prosecutor services in 2017.

Jolibois invited public comment. None was provided.

VOTE

Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

Medley returned to Council Chambers.

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with Jeff Boers and Associates for 2017

Planning and Building Administrator Stahlnecker stated the amendment would extend the term of the agreement through 2017. Stahlnecker stated that some of Boers' fees are reimbursed and further indicated that he reviews land use issues, prepares the Growth Management Act updates and serves as the SEPA responsible official.

RESOLUTION NO. 1450

Moved by Medley, seconded by George, to adopt Resolution No. 1450 authorizing the City Manager to amend the professional service agreement with Jeff Boers (Jeff Boers and Associates) extending the term of said Agreement through December 31, 2017.

Jolibois invited public comment. None was provided.

VOTE

Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

Resolution expressing the intent to annex the Fircrest potential Annexation area by Interlocal Agreement

Stahlnecker reported that the City was approached by Pierce County planning staff in April of this year with the possibility of moving forward with annexation of the proposed area known as the chair. She stated that on July 18, 2016, the City Council held a study session expressing interest in annexing the area. Stahlnecker stated that on October 5, 2016, an informational outreach meeting was offered and ten residents or owners attended. Stahlnecker stated if authorized tonight by Council, the resolution would allow staff to begin working on an interlocal agreement with Pierce County and that agreement will try to address any issues raised due to the annexation. Stahlnecker concluded by stating that prior to adoption of the interlocal agreement, both jurisdictions would hold public hearings and reported that area residents are being kept informed of the process and proposal.

RESOLUTION NO. 1451

Moved by Reynolds, seconded by Medley, to adopt Resolution No. 1451 expressing the intent to annex the Fircrest potential annexation area by interlocal agreement.

Jolibois invited public comment. None was provided.

VOTE

Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to the Professional Service Agreement with Sound Inspection LLC for 2017

Stahlnecker stated that Council is being asked to authorize an amendment to the professional services agreement with Sound Inspection LLC to extend the date of the agreement to December 31, 2017. She reported that Sound Inspection LLC provides plan review and inspection services as required.

RESOLUTION NO. 1452

Moved by Medley, seconded by Wittner, to adopt Resolution No. 1452 authorizing the City Manager to amend the professional services agreement with Sound Inspection LLC extending the term of said Agreement through December 31, 2017.

Jolibois invited public comment. None was provided.

VOTE

Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to the Professional Service Agreement with NW GIS Consulting Inc., for on call GIS services for 2017

Stahlnecker stated that Council is being asked to authorize an amendment to the professional service agreement with NW GIS Consulting, LLC extending the term of said agreement through December 31, 2017. She noted that NW GIS Consulting, LLC provides on call GIS support services. Stahlnecker highlighted progress to date with the GIS system and services provided by NW GIS Consulting, LLC.

RESOLUTION NO. 1453

Moved by Medley, seconded by George, to adopt Resolution No. 1453 authorizing the City Manager to amend the professional service agreement with NW GIS Consulting, LLC to provide on call GIS support services through December 31, 2017.

Jolibois invited public comment. None was provided.

VOTE

Upon vote, motion carried unanimously.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Rosenbladt stated he received confirmation from South Sound 911 (SS911) that a contract would be sent shortly regarding IT backup assistance. He noted that SS911 indicated that even prior to signing of a contract, they would be available to assist. Rosenbladt welcomed two individuals in the audience noting they resided in ‘the Chair’ area that is proposed to be annexed to Fircrest. Rosenbladt stated there was no need for an Executive Session, as the labor relations issue with the Guild is going through to the mediator and there is no additional information brought forward from IBEW.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Grover stated that three Letters of Intent were sent in to the Recreation and conservation Office (RCO) for grant applications for the Youth Athletic Facilities program – (1) Whittier field, (2) Fircrest Park and Pool. Grover called attention to Haunted Trails this Thursday at Thelma Gilmur Park and concluded by highlighting the Halloween Event at the Community Center on Monday, October 31st.

Cheesman stated that Chief for a Day Amy Blair will be at the Haunted Trails and will be her last event for the year. Cheesman stated that they performed an inventory of street lights that weren’t working and were surprised about the low number of lights that needed fixing. Cheesman concluded by noting they have been utilizing Facebook to keep the public informed and to provide crime tips and useful information.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmembers thanked everyone for coming.

Wittner stated that Council has spent the better part of the last ten months talking about the utility rates, the Katy Isaksen rate study, and has held study sessions and public hearings. Wittner indicated he met with George, Waltier and the Administration to discuss the fact that people didn’t know what was going on indicated that Council and the Administration would try to do a better job of keeping the public informed of these types of issues.

Reynolds asked that a study is done to compare the costs of replacing the 1997 Cavalier with the costs of employees being reimbursed for mileage and using their personal vehicles.

Surina reported on the Washington State Labor and Industries Boiler Inspection Program.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by George, seconded by Reynolds, to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 P.M. Ayes: Surina, Reynolds, Wittner, Jolibois, George, Waltier and Medley. Noes: None. Motion carried.



Matthew Jolibois, Mayor



Lisa Keely, City Clerk