

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Hunter T. George called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers David M. Viafore, Shannon Reynolds, Brett Wittner, Blake Surina, Denny Waltier, and Jamie Nixon were present.

PRESIDING OFFICER’S REPORT

A. AWC Center for Quality Communities Scholarship Nomination

George briefed the Council on the AWC Center for Quality Communities scholarship and the selection process of a local nominee to advance to the statewide competitive selection process. George indicated the selection committee, consisting of Mayor George, Councilmember Reynolds, City Manager Pingel, and City Clerk Nappi met to review applications and had selected Fircrest resident Kate Owens to recommend to Council. Reynolds indicated Owens best represented the qualities of what the AWC Center for Quality Communities Scholarship Fund stood for. **Wittner MOVED to nominate Kate Owens to advance to the statewide AWC Center for Quality Communities Scholarship selection process; seconded by Reynolds.** George invited councilmember comment; Waltier and Viafore commended Owens on her application and accomplishments. George invited public comment; Chief Cheesman commended Owens’ volunteer efforts and congratulated her. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

B. Presentation by NewCold Cold-Storage Warehouse

George briefed the Council on the recently constructed new automated, cold storage warehouse located to the east of Orchard Street in the City of Tacoma and introduced NewCold representatives Geert-Jan Laudy, VP of Procurement and Engineering/NewCold Tacoma Project Manager America, and Matt Richardson, Site Manager, to brief the Council on this project. Laudy and Richardson provided a brief history of the business and presented information on the facts and figures and operations as well as a video of the site operations and time lapse of the construction from start to finish. There was a question and answer session, which included:

- Future projects:
 - Coordinated efforts with the City of Tacoma to extend S Mullen Street through the landfill directly into the north entrance of the site to alleviate truck traffic on Orchard Street.
 - Potential future expansion on the east side towards the landfill behind the existing building.
- Traffic impact: 10 trucks per day (50 trucks per week) with peak time from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. inbound movements.
- Impervious surface impact: There was a concern about effects of impervious surfaces from the new construction and Laudy and Richardson indicated two retention basins/ponds were constructed to mitigate potential impacts.

Reynolds departed at 7:44 P.M. and returned at 7:45 P.M.

C. Investment Committee Appointment

George briefed the Council on the Investment Committee and requested the Council appoint Councilmember Viafore to fulfill the vacancy on the Committee. **Reynolds MOVED to confirm the appointment of Councilmember David M. Viafore to the City of Fircrest Investment Committee; seconded by Nixon.** George invited councilmember comment; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

D. Community Center and Pool Update

George indicated that this would be a standing item under the Presiding Officer’s Report as the project was the City’s number one priority. Parks and Recreation Director Grover briefed the Council on the successful repair of the leak in the pool with Trenchless and would coordinate with KPG to perform test leaks. George indicated the Senate supplemental capital budget included \$750,000 for the Fircrest pool and while the House budget did not include anything for the Fircrest pool, the two chambers were expected to negotiate a final budget, which meant that funding for the project was part of the end-game for the session. George indicated he met with a professional fundraiser and may have her speak to Council about the fundraising process, per the Names Foundation recommendation, after an appropriate timeline has been set with ARC Architects. Viafore stated he was visited by a citizen who had inquired if it would be appropriate for citizens to send a letter/email to Representatives Kilduff and Muri in support of the project and funding request; Nixon recommended constituents should reach out to their representatives and engage with their elected officials regarding projects they support.

CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

George invited public comment. None were provided.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Parks and Recreation

Wittner commented on the Community Center and Pool update and ARC Architects professional services agreement, and reported Daddy Daughter dance was a success. Viafore inquired if the event report would be provided by staff soon and Grover indicated it would be included in a quarterly report. After a brief discussion on the benefits and disadvantages of reporting on a quarterly basis, Pingel indicated staff would review and report back on the reporting mechanism.

B. Pierce County Regional Council

Reynolds indicated that the Pierce County Regional Council General Assembly met to approve the annual budget and reported the Fircrest Emerson Sidewalk project was awarded the Healthy Communities platinum award by the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department. George thanked Reynolds for attending and representing the City of Fircrest.

C. Public Safety, Court

Viafore reported that Court revenues have increased and that the Police Department is fully staffed. Viafore indicated that the preliminary aspects of taking over the Ruston court were being discussed and that the Fircrest Court Administrator would be observing Ruston court. Viafore reported that continued safety issues of City Hall were being discussed, including secured glass and counters. Viafore indicated the two new police vehicles were being equipped and would be in service in the next few weeks, and that the City received a couple grants for radars and a semi-portable solar speed sign. Viafore stated that Pierce County has lowered the booking rates for the jail, and that police vehicles would be parked in the bays for security reasons. Viafore indicated he met with Sheriff Pastor to discuss South Sound 911 and the specialized services contract. Viafore recommended staff look into Reynolds inquiry on the Court revenue increase; Finance Director Corcoran indicated there were numerous factors that could cause an increase in Court revenues and the difficulties in developing projections. Viafore added that the contract with the City’s collection agency should be reviewed, and the City should go out to bid to maximize recoveries.

D. Street, Water, Sewer, and Storm Drain

Surina reported on the status of capital projects, and stated that the energy efficiency of the new pump station contributed to lower power consumption. Surina reported that the City was able to secure the landscape contract at the budgeted amount, with added services throughout the year.

Reynolds departed at 8:08 P.M.; Reynolds returned 8:10 P.M.

CONSENT CALENDAR

George requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar as follows: approval of Voucher No. 210828 in the amount of \$400.00; approval of Voucher Check No. 210829 through Voucher Check No. 210885 in the amount of \$95,554.97; approval of Payroll Check No. 13072 through Payroll Check No. 13077 in the amount of \$98,609.80; and approval of the February 13, 2018 regular Council meeting minutes. **Wittner MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as read; seconded by Surina. The Motion Carried (6-0) – Reynolds not present.**

PUBLIC HEARING

No public hearing was scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Liquor License Renewal: Fircrest Golf Club

Pingel briefed the Council on the request by the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Control Board to register any objections to the liquor license renewal for the Fircrest Golf Club at 1500 Regents Boulevard. Pingel indicated there were no problems regarding liquor sales at this place of business and that the Finance, Planning and Building, and Police departments expressed no objections regarding the renewing of this license. **Wittner MOVED to register no objections to the liquor license renewal for the Fircrest Golf Club; seconded by Reynolds.** George invited councilmember comment; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

B. Liquor License Renewal: Pint Defiance

Pingel briefed the Council on the request by the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Control Board to register any objections to the liquor license renewal for Pint Defiance at 2049 Mildred Street. Pingel indicated there were no problems regarding liquor sales at this place of business and that the Finance, Planning and Building, and Police departments expressed no objections regarding the renewing of this license. **Viafore MOVED to register no objections to the liquor license renewal for Pint Defiance; seconded by Reynolds.** George invited councilmember comment; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

C. Budget Amendment: 1st Reading

Corcoran briefed the Council on the first reading of the request for additional appropriations for anticipated revenues and expenditures not foreseen at the time of filing the 2018 Preliminary Budget and not provided for in the Adopted 2018 Budget. Corcoran stated the proposal would provide the necessary budget to match the actual Beginning and Ending Fund

Balances as well as provide budget for several items outlined in the proposed amendment. George invited councilmember comment; Viafore inquired if the City was in deficit spending; Corcoran indicated that due to the rollover amounts and the use of the 44th/Alameda funds, the City would be in the black. Viafore inquired on the City Manager yearly cost for cell phone; Corcoran indicated the costs were associated to the cellular phone upgrade from a flip phone to a smart phone. Viafore informed Council that there was a chance he would not attend the March 13th meeting and noted that a super majority would be needed to approve the budget amendment. Surina inquired if the rollover amount for the utility shed (Parks) carried over; Corcoran indicated that it was not included in the 2018 Budget process nor was there a request to include it. Grover indicated that the structure was safe.

D. Resolution: Greenleaf Landscaping Maintenance Agreement

Corcoran briefed the Council on the ten-month maintenance agreement with Greenleaf Landscaping, Inc. for landscape maintenance services for the City of Fircrest. Corcoran stated the total contract price was \$36,847.80 plus tax and that there were sufficient funds for these services in the 2018 Budget. **Reynolds MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1523, authorizing the City Manager to execute a landscape maintenance agreement with Greenleaf Landscaping, Inc. to provide landscape maintenance services for the City of Fircrest; seconded by Waltier.** George invited councilmember comment; Reynolds commented on the inclusion of the exhibit maps into the contract, and Viafore commented on the quality of work Greenleaf Landscaping has provided in the past. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

E. Resolution: ARC Architects Professional Services Agreement

Pingel briefed the Council on the recommended agreement with ARC Architects to provide professional services to the City of Fircrest to continue the design of the Roy H. Murphy Community Center and Community Pool. Pingel stated the proposed fees total \$252,763 and consistent with the Washington state fee schedule. **Reynolds MOVED to approve Resolution No. 1524, authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with ARC Architects to provide professional services to the City of Fircrest to continue the design of the Roy H. Murphy Community Center and Community Pool; seconded by Waltier.** ARC Architects Principal Stan Lokting briefed the Council on the contract for schematic design, which would consider design options and design and engineering refinements. Lokting indicated this work would include public, Council, and design meetings with the Steering Committee and construction cost estimates and budget development, renderings for communicating design ideas, insights into City's history, project scheduling, and a site survey as well as cost recovery and obligations to run the operations. There was a brief discussion regarding phased project construction, construction and soft costs, site design options and opportunities, and the expertise and leadership ARC Architects would provide to bring this to fruition. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

F. Resolution: Mayors Against Illegal Guns Coalition

Reynolds briefed the Council on a proposed resolution that would authorize the Mayor to sign the Mayors Against Illegal Guns Statement of Principles. Reynolds indicated the coalition advocates for common-sense gun laws that reduce gun violence, and encourages other mayors to sign the Statement of Principles supporting their efforts. **Reynolds MOVED to approved Resolution No. 1525, authorizing the Mayor to sign the Mayors Against Illegal Guns Statement of Principles; seconded by Nixon.** George invited councilmember comment; Nixon indicated he was in support of the statements but questioned if the statements were a

statement of values versus a statement of action. There was a brief discussion regarding the pros and cons of supporting the Statement of Principles, which included what functional actions would change if the City supported these principles, standing in solidarity with other cities in the coalition, the divisive nature of the issues under consideration, how local governments have little to no control over gun laws and their responsibility to their citizens, and the function and role of City Council and representing its citizens. After a brief discussion to table this item, Reynolds read the following into the record:

“I want to start my comments by recognizing someone who is with us in the audience tonight. My dear friend Sandy Aponte has been a dedicated advocate on this topic, and a continual source of inspiration throughout my career with regard to both this issue and more. Thank you, Sandy, for being with us.

Washington State reported 718 deaths as a result of firearms in 2015. This is a rate of 9.8 per 1,000 deaths. These deaths comprise a large amount of the deaths attributed to both accidents and suicides, the 4th and 8th leading causes of mortality in Washington, respectively. In fact, Washington State is ranked 22nd highest in suicides nationwide above the median line. Although Washingtonians suffer from firearm attrition at a rate that is 12% less than the national mean, this does not excuse the 718 preventable deaths in 2015. More concerning, rates of firearm deaths continued to increase over the last statistical cycle, rising more than 1% over the 2014 figures.

Alarmingly, the rate of gun death nationally has also increased-- 7.5% over the interval 2014 to 2015. For comparison, the US population grew by seven-tenths of one percent over the same time period. This means that the rate of gun deaths was increasing more than ten times as fast as the population at-large during the last reporting cycle. These figures are all sourced from the US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention.

Since 2005, the CDC has upgraded Washington’s firearm death outlook to the optimal category in a five-category classification system, from the second-best category to the best. While this is encouraging on its face, what is distressing is that the metrics of the classification system were changed in the intervening time to reflect the proliferation of gun violence. To achieve an optimal classification in 2005, states had to have a firearm death rate under 7.0; the lowest rate in any state that year was 2.1 per one thousand. But in 2016, that figure was increased from 7.0 to 9.0, and the lowest rate reported increased dramatically to 3.4. The state achieving the lowest rate in 2005, Hawaii, more than doubled its firearm deaths in ten years from 28 to 66.

Optimistically, Washington State performs well relative to other states; and I believe that is at least in part because our citizens care deeply about the welfare and safety of others. One of the principles in the resolution before us is to support extending background check requirements to all gun sales. At the federal level, this is an initiative that is supported by 97% of polled US registered voters in nonpartisan polling conducted by Quinnipiac University. (The Hill)

The great news about this is that such a measure already exists in Washington State. The law, which started its life as Initiative 594 in 2014, garnered over 246,000 signatures to be added to the ballot and received widespread support. Public figures from both parties, including Republicans King County Prosecutor Dan Satterberg and

former Governor and US Representative Dan Evans and Democrats former US Representative Gabrielle Giffords and Snohomish County Prosecutor Mark Roe, released statements in support of the measure. The former executive of the Washington Council of Police & Sheriffs and president of the Washington State Patrol Troopers' Association additionally issued statements of support. And in November of 2014, the bill passed overwhelmingly into law, receiving 59% of the vote. The initiative went on to become RCW 9.41.113. Legal challenges brought against the law in 2015 were dismissed in October 2017 by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, upholding the new stricter background check requirements as the law of the land.

By adding our city to the list of mayors in support of these values, we are in alignment with currently existing state statute and lending vocal support to these efforts. We are also standing in solidarity with the predecessors that have come before us. This is important.

As city councilors, our hands are largely tied. There is not much within our legal jurisdiction that can be accomplished. I feel it is extremely powerful and necessary that we do what we can do, even if it is a simple resolution of support. In the face of difficult odds and need for change, it is often difficult to act; however it is imperative that we should discuss this issue. Just as this Council has passed resolutions in the recent past acknowledging the need for dedicated efforts to abate the incidence of heart disease, rare diseases, and prostate cancer, this is a public health concern that affects our constituents and communities.

With that said, I urge us to consider the final two principles: sharing information on best practices and inviting other cities to join. We have a moral and ethical duty to provide our citizens with high-quality services, and prime among them is a safe environment. We can equip ourselves with education on laws, best practices, safety and current events in a concerted effort to help reduce the impact of this devastating phenomenon on our community.

As a small city, we frequently discuss our unique place in regional policy and the frustration of having limited resources and audience. In this effort, we have a wonderful chance to outreach and have our values heard. On the list of supporting cities, our name is equal, and we have a perfect opportunity to work together with other cities to communicate a worthwhile message.”

George invited public comment; the following provided comment:

- David Hazel, 1318 Farallone Avenue, commented on his opposition to this measure.
- Sandra Aponte, Puyallup, commented on the passing of her son from an accidental shooting and gun safety and common sense gun laws.
- Sandra Robinson commented on the impact of gun violence and requested Council to table this item in order to gather more information about the gun control safety measures.
- Zelda Robinson commented on the impact of gun violence has had on her family and to treat this issue like a public health problem.
- Brian Rybolt, 1036 Daniel Drive, commented on his opposition to this measure.
- Nancy Atwood, 1204 Farallone Avenue, commented on the divisive nature of this emotional issue and in agreement with the consensus of the Council's sentiments.
- Evan Lee, 514 Ramsdell Street, commented on his support of issues regarding illegal guns.

Reynolds thanked Council for the constructive dialogue. Nixon requested to table this item to allow the public to weigh in on this issue. Viafore stated his opposition to table this item and to not vote in support of this measure as locally elected officials were not elected to make decisions of this nature. George thanked the public for their comments and agreed with Nixon to allow for public input, and commented on what the community could do like community policing and providing a safe environment for children like the community center and pool. Waltier commented on his concern over the broad nature of the measure and stated there were precautionary measures that could be taken. Viafore called the question and George requested a vote on the motion. **The Motion Failed.**

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Pingel recognized the Public Works and Police departments for their coordinated efforts in the snow/ice removal and road safety. Pingel commented on his observations of Pierce County connections that the City has in Olympia.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Public Works Director Wakefield provided an update on his research on a natural gas generator, stating that due to utility systems and code backup requirements for electrical control, he recommended the City continue with a diesel generator for utility purposes. Viafore commented that the City of Fife was evaluating a natural gas generator for a similar situation.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Viafore inquired if there was any damage to the Regents/Orchard traffic island and Police Chief Cheesman indicated that even though a vehicle slid and breeched the island due to ice, Public Works staff and he found little damage. Cheesman indicated he would report back to confirm.
- Reynolds thanked Council and the public for the productive dialogue and stated she was available to continue the conversation for those interested.
- Wittner, Waltier, and Surina thanked the public for their attendance and participation.
- Nixon commented on the Washington state legislators actions to exempt themselves from the Public Records Act and encouraged those concerned to contact the Governor's office.
- George commented on the Daddy Daughter dance event, recognition of the police officer on duty and how it related to positive community policing. George thanked Public Works staff for giving their time to show him and his son the work that they do. George thanked Public Works staff for their vigilance and reporting of the suspicious activity to the Police Department.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:45 P.M., George reported that Council would convene into Executive Session, not to exceed the hour of 10:00 P.M., to discuss labor agreements pursuant to RCW 42.30.140 and to discuss the performance of a public employee pursuant to RCW 42.30.110.

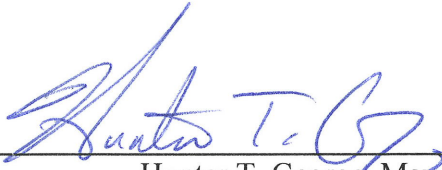
The Council reconvened into regular session at 9:56 P.M.

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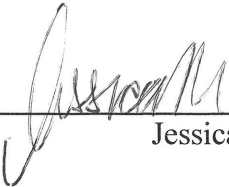
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ADJOURNMENT

Reynolds MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 P.M., seconded by Wittner. The Motion Carried (7-0).



Hunter T. George, Mayor



Jessica Nappi, City Clerk