

**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. Legislative Delegation Recap**

Senator Steve O'Ban and Representatives Dick Muri and Christine Kilduff individually briefed the Council on a 2018 legislative end of session recap. Highlights of the briefing included: the State's basic education obligations under the McCleary decision, funding for behavioral health services, property tax relief for homeowners, strategies to fight the opioid epidemic, school safety task force, approval of a capital budget, addressing sexual harassment in the workplace, Voting Rights Act, Initiative 940, road usage study, carbon tax, and consumer protection. There was a brief discussion regarding the Voting Rights Act impact to local voting procedures and communicating to residents the impacts of the property tax relief. Council thanked the legislative delegation for their efforts and for supporting the capital budget, which allocated the City \$750,000 for the construction of the Fircrest pool.

**B. Community Center and Pool Update**

Parks and Recreation Director Grover briefed the Council on the status of the pool repair, stating that even though KPG found breakage in the line and made the appropriate repairs, staff was continuing to work on the pool leak. Grover indicated results from the ground penetrating radar performed this past fall to check for major voids were inconclusive and nothing was found. Grover stated he met with KPG to determine the next steps to hone in on the issue, and stated the leak could be due to the age of the structure. Grover indicated the next steps include ruling out areas where water could be seeping (jets, water inlet valves, and light fixtures) and repairing one-way valves. There was a brief discussion regarding safety issues and liability concerns, and whether the pool should be closed if the leak could not be repaired.

**C. Pool, Community Center, and Parks Steering Committee**

Wittner reported that the first meeting of the Pool, Community Center, and Parks Steering Committee met on April 18, 2018 and had a good turnout of participants. Wittner provided a summary of the meeting, which included discussing the different design options. Wittner stated the Committee was committed to replacing the pool and deciding what to do with the community center. Wittner indicated the next meeting of the Steering Committee was scheduled to meet on May 9, 2018, and that a public meeting would follow later in the month.

George indicated that he was invited to speak on behalf of the City on community priorities, quality of life issues, and local economic development opportunities at the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber West Side Wake Up April 27, 2018 meeting.

**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 indicated the top focus of the department this past week was repairing the pool, new Community Event Specialist employee onboarding, and online registration software.

**B. Pierce County Regional Council**

Reynolds reported that the Pierce County Regional Council met on April 19, 2018. Reynolds indicated the meeting included a lengthy discussion on the transit set-aside. Reynolds stated that PCRC was having a difficult time attracting qualified candidates to the Puget Sound Regional Council boards and as such, membership would be open to any PSRC members, which would include anyone on the Council, regardless if they were a PCRC delegate.

**C. Public Safety, Court**

Viafore stated that the Court continued to be busy and that passport services continued to be on the upswing. Viafore reported that the police statistics (e.g., citations, traffic enforcement, assisting outside agencies) continued to increase. Viafore indicated the City Manager, Court Administrator, and Municipal Judge met with the City of Ruston the previous week to discuss the possibility of contracting with Ruston for the City of Fircrest to provide municipal court services to the City of Ruston. Viafore indicated the City Manager would bring forth the proposal at a future study session. There was a brief discussion on the background of Ruston's need for services and the potential impacts to the City.

**D. Street, Water, Sewer, and Storm Drain**

Surina reported that a pre-construction meeting was recently held for the Drake Street Lift Station and that a Notice to Proceed was issued with a start date of May 14, 2018. Surina indicated staff was working on the six-year transportation improvement program and would be brought before a public hearing on May 22, 2018 and to Council for adoption in June. Surina stated staff was working with KPG on a grant application for the Alameda Avenue from Regents Boulevard to Spring Street curb and gutter project; ADA pedestrian facilities (curbing and ramps); and updating the City's stormwater management plan. Surina indicated staff was working on the Ramsdell Water Main project closeout and indicated the project came in under budget and that the City was in its 8<sup>th</sup> year in the LED Street light replacement project.

George reported that the Investment Committee met on April 23, 2018 to review the City's current investments and approve the October 7, 2016 minutes. George indicated that since the maturity dates of the investments were not until 2019, he did not anticipate the Committee reconvening in the near future.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

George requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar as follows: approval of Voucher No. 211121 through Check No. 211173 in the amount of \$724,844.53; approval of Payroll Check No. 13129 through Check No. 13135 in the amount of \$97,125.68; approval of the March 27, 2018 regular Council meeting minutes; approval of the April 10, 2018 regular Council meeting minutes; and setting a public hearing on May 22, 2018 to receive comments on the Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program. **Surina MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as read; seconded by Wittner.** Viafore removed the March 27, 2018 regular Council meeting minutes for discussion and to be voted on separately. George indicated Item 7B was removed and considered the question called to approve the Consent Calendar as modified; **The Motion Carried As Modified (7-0).** **Viafore MOVED to adopt the minutes of the March 27, 2018 regular Council meeting**

**with the addition of the Pool, Community Center, and Parks Steering Committee Charter as presented; seconded by Reynolds.** Reynolds requested to have a Scribner's error under the March 27, 2018 regular Council meeting minutes Item 6B line 8 ("participate") be corrected; the City Clerk recommended correcting the error to "participation." Due to the omission of the April 10, 2018 regular Council meeting minutes from the modified motion, Viafore withdrew his motion to adopt the minutes of the March 27, 2018 regular Council meeting with the addition of the Pool, Community Center, and Parks Steering Committee Charter as presented. **Viafore MOVED to adopt the minutes of the March 27, 2018 regular Council meeting with the addition of the Pool, Community Center, and Parks Steering Committee Charter as corrected and the April 10, 2018 regular Council meeting minutes as written; seconded by Reynolds. The Motion Carried (7-0).**

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

No public hearing was scheduled.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Liquor License Renewal: Royal Thai Bistro**

Pingel briefed the Council on a request by the Washington State Liquor and Cannabis Control Board to register no objections to the liquor license renewal for Royal Thai Bistro at 2045 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. **Wittner MOVED to register no objections to the liquor license renewal for the Royal Thai Bistro; seconded by Reynolds.** George invited councilmember comment; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

##### **B. RCO Grant – Fircrest Pool**

Grover briefed the Council on the proposed resolution to authorize the City Manager to act as the authorized representative/agent on behalf of the City of Fircrest and to legally bind the City of Fircrest with respect to the Fircrest Community Pool for which the City is seeking grant funding assistance for two grants managed through the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) agreements. Grover stated both grant applications are requesting the grant maximum of \$500,000 each, and indicated that by applying for both grants, the funds could be leveraged against each other for matching funds if both are awarded so long as the City provides 10% in local funds. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1529, authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with the State of Washington Recreation and Conservation Office for two grant project agreements for the Fircrest Community Pool; seconded by Nixon.** George invited councilmember comment; Wittner inquired about the grant application submission deadline; Grover stated the deadline was April 30, 2018. Viafore inquired if the text in the resolution was boilerplate language; Grover stated that the State required the authorizing resolution to include standardized language as provided by the RCO. George asked for clarification regarding the 10% local match of the total project cost; Grover indicated that the local match could come from different sources of funds at the local level so long as it was not from the State. George commented on the competitiveness of the grant

program and grant proposal process. George invited public comment; none were provided.  
**The Motion Carried (7-0).**

**C. Summer Water Rates Discussion**

Public Works Director Wakefield briefed the Council on the City staff analysis of the 3rd tier City water rate structure based on feedback and concerns. Wakefield indicated the numbers included only single-family water customers and an updated cost comparison of current rates to the City's surrounding cities. Wakefield provided a brief background on the water rate design structure and goals the City intended to accomplish, which included water conservation, generating revenue for needed capital improvements and increased operations and maintenance, and a block rate structure designed to allow customers to control and be efficient in the water use, which would, in turn, help them lower their rate and conserve water. Wakefield indicated that out of the 2,780 connections, 567 exceeded the 4,000 cf (500 gallons/day) in the August (two-month) billing cycle and noted that the average day demand in the City of Fircrest was 1,435 cf (179 gallons/day). Wakefield indicated the cost comparison showed the City's rates to be among the lowest, and recommended the City maintain the water rate structure as it was accomplishing the City's goals and competitive for consumers. There was a brief discussion on community outreach efforts and water conservation as well as affordability concerns. Viafore commented on providing constituents relief for four months of the year and recommended the City include an allocated built-in water quota for consumers to offset the rate increases and to take a slower approach to increasing the water rates. Reynolds recommended the Council consider reopening the discussion and re-examining the rate structure and reviewing REET as a source of funding, and commented on the advantages and disadvantages of block rates and maintaining lawns for fire prevention. Waltier commented on the breakdown of the utility bill, and recommended the Council should address water consumption in the summer months. Surina commented on the base rates of utility bill components, stating that the sewer treatment and storm fees of \$222 were a large portion of the utility bill while water base rate of \$37 was a small component. Surina commented that water rates were competitive, affordable, and funding the City's capital improvements. Nixon commented that water revenues were funding the City's aging infrastructure and that water rates were among the lowest in the area and that the water portion of the utility bill was not the highest percentage of the bill; and expressed hesitation to modify the water rate structure until data was provided to demonstrate necessity and impacts. Wittner commented on prior Council action, public hearings, and staff work regarding the water rate study, and concluded that the water rate increase were necessary due the City's aging infrastructure and recommended the Council not consider changing the water rate structure. George commented on prior City work regarding the water rate structure and the necessity to provide basic services such as water, and recommended the City focus on better communicating to residents about the needs of the City and the breakdown of their utility bills and pass-through charges.

George invited public comment; Evan Lee, 514 Ramsdell Street, commented on the residents' efforts to maintain lawns and need for relief as it related to water consumption rates. George invited councilmember comment; Viafore commented on the City's past actions to upgrade the water mains and upgrading the fire ratings, and recommended the City reinstitute the base water rate allocation. Waltier stated he was in favor of summer water rates and requested more information to determine the feasibility of adjusting the water rates. Wakefield indicated that the rates were adopted by ordinance through 2019 and that some localities have summer rates and that those rates are increased during the summer months to encourage consumers to use water wisely. Wakefield indicated that the water rate structure was designed to assist

individuals on fixed incomes. George commented on better public education and expanding the eligibility for the City's relief program; Wakefield indicated the City had a low income senior/disabled persons utility fee credit program and the Council could adopt its own eligibility percentage threshold. There was further discussion on re-examining the water rate structure and the impacts to changing the water rate structure, and Viafore requested the impact of including 700 cf per month on the base rate. Pingel indicated staff would provide the Council the analysis of Viafore's request and the impact to the consumer and the cost to the City.

At the request of Reynolds, the meeting recessed at 9:41 P.M. for a five minute recess. The Council reconvened at 9:46 P.M.

### **CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

#### **A. City Council Retreat**

Pingel briefed the Council on the information provided in the Council agenda packet regarding the proposed City Council retreat. Pingel recommended the City hold a retreat to establish the foundation of goals and objectives and review the City's mission and values. Pingel indicated the price point of a third party facilitator would be in the range of \$2,000-\$5,000. Pingel stated that the goals and objectives would feed into the City's work plans and the objectives the City wants to set annually in meeting those goals. There was a brief discussion on the purpose and goal of the retreat, the purpose of a third party facilitator, pre-retreat work, and return on investment of a retreat. Reynolds indicated she could not attend the retreat if it was scheduled during day business hours. Pingel stated the Council could choose to schedule the retreat around a study session. Nixon commented on the value of a retreat and a third party facilitator. Waltier commented on the value of a retreat and recommended planning and budgeting for a retreat for 2019. Pingel indicated a June 2018 retreat would assist in the development of the 2019 Budget. Viafore expressed interest including the budget as a topic for the retreat and concern that the retreat was not budgeted for. George indicated the costs for the budget could be accommodated via a budget amendment. Wittner clarified that the retreat was similar to a workshop held locally. Reynolds requested further price point information on the third party facilitator; Pingel indicated he would provide the Council third party facilitator names and costs.

### **DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

- Police Chief Cheesman reported that the Police Department is cohosting a Cinco de Mayo emphasis patrol with Lakewood and University Place on May 5, 2018.

### **COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

Councilmembers thanked the audience for their attendance. Additional comments included:

- Viafore inquired if the staff had heard from the Pierce County Cities and Towns Association and if staff had received a response from Sound Transit. Pingel indicated he had not received a response from Sound Transit. Viafore requested that Sound Transit come before Council in a study session.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

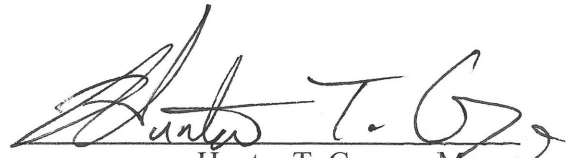
There was none.

April 24, 2018

Firecrest City Council Meeting Minutes – Regular 6

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Reynolds MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 P.M., seconded by Waltier. The Motion Carried (7-0).**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Hunter T. George, Mayor  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jessica Nappi, City Clerk