

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 followed by a moment of silence to remember the victims of the September 11, 2001. Councilmembers David M. Viafore, Shannon Reynolds, Brett Wittner, Denny Waltier, Blake Surina, and Jamie Nixon were present.

PRESIDING OFFICER’S REPORT

A. Proclamation: Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

George introduced the item and read the proclamation into the record. **Reynolds MOVED to authorize the Mayor’s signature on a proclamation proclaiming the month of September as Childhood Cancer Awareness Month; seconded by Nixon.** George invited councilmember comments; Reynolds appreciated the City’s support for the cause. George invited public comment; there was none. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

Viafore inquired if there would be community center and pool project update; Pingel indicated there was nothing new to report. Viafore requested councilmembers be made aware of upcoming meetings and events related to the project, and recommended a special meeting for the discussion of the project in October. Pingel indicated the survey would close on September 15, 2018, and stated that staff would request additional feedback from Council and that the Council would be briefed on the survey results prior to the discussions regarding finalizing the project scope.

CITIZEN COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

George invited public comment; none were provided

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Administration

Waltier reported that he had met with City Manager Pingel recently to discuss the community center and pool project, budget preparation, Chik-fil-A demolition, speed signs, and a Fun Days booth for councilmembers. Waltier indicated he attended the recent meeting of the Pool, Community Center, and Parks Steering Committee, stating the Council would be briefed on the fine points of the project before the details were finalized. Waltier indicated that once the data from the speed sign was obtained and analyzed, the City would be in a position to apply for grants related to reducing speeding such as speeding signs.

B. Environment, Planning and Building

Reynolds indicated she had not met with Planning and Building Administrator Stahlnecker and as such, no report was provided.

C. Finance, IT, Facilities

Nixon stated that councilmembers would be receiving checks instead of direct deposit this month, and stated that the senior bus would be delivered on September 12, 2018, the Preliminary 2019 Budget would be distributed during the meeting, and that the financial audit would start at the end of September. Viafore inquired if elected officials would receive a notice from the State Auditor announcing the audit and requesting elected officials to participate in an entry interview. Viafore requested staff could inquire and report back; Pingel indicated staff would. Accountant II Michelle Thomas requested for clarification if Nixon had received his check, and provided a background on the issuance of checks.

D. Other Liaison Reports

Reynolds reported on the recent meeting of the Steering Committee, stating it was not well attended and that Steering Committee members requested renderings of the design of the community center from ARC Architects to help them envision the styles. Reynolds indicated that the new information would be brought before Council and that ARC Architects would need direction from Council on the design of the center.

CONSENT CALENDAR

George requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar as follows: approval of Voucher No. 211824 through Voucher Check No. 211897 in the amount of \$223,704.56; approval of Payroll Check No. 13378 through Payroll Check No. 13402 in the amount of \$110,645.54; approval of Payroll Check No. 13403 through Payroll Check No. 13411 in the amount of \$7,003.67; approval of Payroll Check No. 13412 through Payroll Check No. 13419 in the amount of \$109,510.69; approval of the August 13, 2018 special Council meeting minutes; approval of the August 14, 2018 regular Council meeting minutes; approval of the August 20, 2018 special meeting minutes; approval of the August 27, 2018 special meeting minutes; and approval of the August 28, 2018 regular meeting minutes. **Reynolds MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as read; seconded by Wittner. The Motion Carried (7-0).**

PUBLIC HEARING

No public hearing was scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Leavitt Group NW Contract Amendment

Pingel briefed the Council on amendment to the Leavitt Group NW contract for insurance broker services, indicating there were no rate change and that the amendment would extend the contract through December 31, 2019. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1543, authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment #7 to the agreement with Leavitt Group NW for insurance broker services; seconded by Reynolds.** George invited councilmember comment; Viafore inquired if City Attorney Comfort was the acting City Attorney or simply the City Attorney; Comfort indicated it had been listed as City Attorney in the past and Pingel indicated the City contracted with the Comfort, Davies & Smith firm and would review the contract. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

B. Preliminary 2019 Budget

Pingel briefed the Council on the Preliminary 2019 Budget and provided an overview of the highlights and upcoming scheduled budget meetings. Reynolds, George, and Waltier indicated that they would be unable to attend the September 24, 2018 budget study session. Viafore inquired about the 2018 assessed valuations regular levy; Pingel indicated the updated amount had not been released and that that item would be updated in the final report. Viafore inquired if the Police Guild contract had a 'me too' clause regarding the COLA increase; Pingel stated that the contract allowed for a guaranteed 1% to 3% COLA increase. Nixon inquired why the City did annual budgets instead of biennial budgets; Viafore provided a background on how biennial budgets impact small cities, especially those that were primary residential. There was

a brief discussion on how annual budgets were manageable for small cities, strategic planning, and supplemental budgets. **There was no motion; this item was for informational purposes only.**

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Pingel requested feedback from Council regarding the accessory dwelling units (ADU) and adult family homes, inquiring if councilmembers needed additional information. Surina inquired how many ADUs in the City were composed of family members; Pingel indicated in order for a unit to qualify as an ADU, it would have to include living, sleeping, cooking, and sanitation components. Pingel, George, and Viafore commented the City could not discriminate against who lived in an ADU due to federal housing regulations. There was a brief discussion on what would prevent a house from having two kitchens, addressing housing challenges and caring for an aging population, and unintended consequences. Stahlnecker stated that attached dwelling units would not be considered an ADU if it did not have a true kitchen, such as omitting an oven. Surina inquired if a homeowner could inactivate a portion of the kitchen; Stahlnecker stated they would need to demonstrate that component was removed.

Pingel indicated the general facilities charges would be brought before Council at an upcoming regular meeting. Viafore requested the item be included during the water and sewer portion of the budget meetings.

Pingel inquired if the Council would be interested in including contracts that had no fiscal impacts on the Consent Calendar; after a brief discussion, there was a general consensus to continue including them under New Business.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Parks and Recreation Director Grover reported that the installation of the playground equipment at Fircrest Park was completed and open to the public, and stated staff was working on a ribbon cutting date and creating a donor plate to recognize the contributors. Grover indicated 484 survey responses were received to date and that the tennis courts were in use. Wittner commented on his observations of children riding bicycles in the tennis courts and inquired about signage; Grover stated that there was signage that including what was prohibited, but that staff was in the process of having a larger sign made making that information more prominent. Viafore inquired if the City Manager could request the Police Chief to ask police officers to be on the lookout for prohibited activity and to act on behalf of the City and remind offenders of the rules. Surina inquired if the tennis court hours were posted and commented that the courts were closed on a Sunday afternoon; Grover indicated the signage did include the hours and would look into why the courts were closed that afternoon. Wittner commented on the new playground equipment and thanked Grover.
- Police Chief Cheesman commented on including possibly installing cameras in the City's parks, and reported on an update on the Café Elite robberies, stating the Department was coordinating with the Tacoma Police Department and the County to apprehend the suspects. Cheesman stated that the promotional board would be advertising for the second sergeant position on Friday and would take applications for two weeks, with the process for the applicants to begin in October. Cheesman invited councilmembers participating in the dunk tank during the National Night Out event.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Viafore commented on Wakefield’s work and analysis on the general facilities charge fees, and requested if staff could review out-of-Fircrest sewer fees and provided a brief background of this fee. Viafore requested not to postpone the Ruston Municipal Court services contract as staff would need to advertise and train staffing in time for a January 1 start date. George and Waltier clarified they would be in attendance of the September 25, 2018 regular Council meeting and Reynolds indicated she would not be in attendance of that meeting. Viafore commented on his concerns regarding three councilmembers being absent for the September 24, 2018 budget session. George inquired if Council had any objections in canceling the September 24th meeting; there was a general consensus to cancel that meeting. Pingel indicated that the regularly scheduled study session in October could be used for the budget as well. George agreed with Viafore to set a special meeting for the community center and pool project. Viafore requested more emergency management item scheduled for the September 17, 2018 study session; Cheesman indicated Pierce County Department of Emergency Management would provide training for elected officials and staff on roles and responsibilities during disasters and to assist them in the decision-making process. George commented on the importance of the training and indicated councilmembers should use their discretion on whether to attend. Reynolds commented on her experience when she underwent similar training. Viafore inquired about the recent Pierce County Cities and Towns Association meeting; Pingel indicated South Sound 911 Executive Director Neiditz presented on South Sound 911 and the sale tax. Pingel indicated Neiditz was open to presenting to Council at a future meeting. There was a brief discussion regarding the South Sound 911 tax revenues.
- Reynolds commented on the Tree City program, stating that the City may qualify for the program accolades as it allocated funds for tree maintenance. Reynolds requested if this item could be included in a study session for discussion. Reynolds indicated she would be absent for the September 25, 2018 meeting and would be leaving early for the September 17, 2018 meeting.
- Wittner thanked the audience for their attendance, and thanked Reynolds for chairing and Waltier for attending the Steering Committee meeting in his absence.
- Waltier and Nixon thanked the audience for their attendance.
- Surina recognized George Hansen’s retirement, commented on his character, and wished him well. Reynolds commented on Hansen’s character as well.
- George indicated that Fircrest resident and Metro Parks Tacoma Recreation Supervisor Roy Fletcher was retiring and spoke of his character. George expressed his appreciation of Pingel’s responsiveness regarding the potential usage of the community center as a temporary Metro Parks Tacoma day camp site during the Tacoma teacher strike. George indicated the demand was currently being met by the four day camp sites and stated he did not anticipate the community center being used as an overflow site.

Viafore MOVED to cancel the September 24, 2018 special Council meeting; seconded by Reynolds. George invited councilmember comment; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

Viafore requested the City Manager monitor the situation at the big traffic island as he had observed individuals from the teacher’s association camped out in the big island with a small tent and lounge chairs in that crosswalk as well as a small tent on the sidewalk at Wainwright Intermediate School. Viafore briefed the Council on the design intention of the island and stated

that the Council had been advised that if one group was permitted to utilize the island, then all groups would have to be permitted. Cheesman indicated he had spoken to the group about finding an amicable solution that was not blocking the sidewalk, and stated that he and Stahlnecker could talk to them about the tent. There was a brief discussion regarding applying policies consistently.

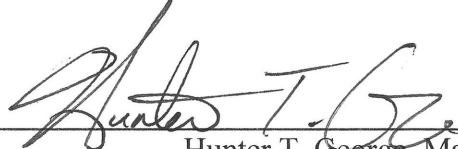
EXECUTIVE SESSION

George stated the Council would convene into Executive Session at 8:13 P.M. not to exceed the hour of 8:28 P.M. with Pingel and City Attorney Comfort to discuss potential litigation per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) with no action upon reconvening.

The Council reconvened into regular session at 8:23 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Wittner MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 P.M., seconded by Waltier. The Motion Carried (7-0).



Hunter T. George, Mayor



Jessica Nappi, City Clerk