

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Hunter T. George called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers David M. Viafore, Shannon Reynolds, Brett Wittner, Denny Waltier, Blake Surina, and Jamie Nixon were present.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT**A. Community Center and Pool Project**

City Manager Pingel reported that \$1 million for the community center project was included in the House capital budget and that the Senate budget would be released soon. Pingel indicated that staff was working with BERK on developing a question and answer document for the project webpage redesign and that the document would be shared with Council for review. Pingel called attention to the updated Sorting Services Worksheet handout, stating the exercise would help Council at the April Study Session to develop a programs and services pricing philosophy for the Recreation Department. Pingel reported staff had an informal meeting with residents adjacent to Fircrest Park to discuss preliminary plans for angle-in parking on Electron Way and on Contra Costa Avenue. Pingel reported that the general feedback from residents included focusing on angle-in parking on Electron Way near the pool and community center and keeping angle-in parking next to the pool, and stated that residents felt that the angle-in north of the bathhouse was non-essential or unwanted. Pingel stated Public Works Director Wakefield would develop a scope of work for KPG, P.S. George and Wittner also reported that there was a strong desire from the residents to have a four-way stop at Electron Way and Contra Costa Avenue. Viafore requested staff research the potential restrictions the previously awarded Electron Way grant could have, to perform a thorough needs analysis of the City's options for the four-way stop improvements and pursue grants for those intersection improvements. Nixon reported that the University Place Aquatic Center would be closed for improvements during the same time in August as Fircrest pool if the City's pool went to construction.

George reported that he recently attended a mayor's forum on affordable housing and stated he would share with Council via email more information about a series of four meetings from May to September that address affordability and intended meeting outcomes.

George reported that there were citizen concerns regarding the lack of school crossing guards and it was addressed by Chief Cheesman and Principal Basil. Viafore commented on his appreciation for the Police Department's efforts and requested staff communicate with Principal Basil to fund safety improvements as it was the school district's responsibility to address safety.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

George invited public comment; none were provided.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS**A. Parks and Recreation**

Waltier reported the fields were being mowed, the ballfields were ahead of schedule, and a repair was underway on the pool liner. Parks and Recreation Director Grover reported that staff was working with a roofing company to heat weld a patch of the vinyl liner for the summer pool season.

B. Pierce County Regional Council

Reynolds reported on Sumner's efforts to create a transit authority, board appointments, and on Vision 2050, stating comments were being accepted on the Puget Sound Regional Council VISION 2050 Regional Growth Alternatives.

C. Public Safety, Courts

Surina commented on the Seattle is Dying documentary and on Fircrest's community policing efforts. Waltier commented on the impact of the documentary.

D. Street, Water, Sewer, and Storm Drain

Nixon commented on serving on jury duty and had no report to provide.

E. Other Liaison Reports

There were none.

CONSENT CALENDAR

George requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar as follows: approval of Voucher No. 212742 through Voucher Check No. 212794 in the amount of \$104,015.71; approval of Payroll Check No. 13596 through Payroll Check No. 13600 in the amount of \$107,466.55; and approval of the March 12, 2019 Council regular meeting minutes as corrected. **Viafore MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as corrected; seconded by Surina. The Motion Carried (7-0).**

PUBLIC HEARING

None scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Budget Amendment, 1st Reading

Finance Director Corcoran called attention to several handouts, including the corrected agenda summary, ending fund balance city comparison, and a breakdown of the 44th/Alameda Designated Fund expenditures from 2004 through 2019. Waltier departed at 7:35 P.M. and returned at 7:37 P.M. There was a brief discussion on the analysis and the factors and circumstances that made the analysis difficult to compare. There was a brief discussion on replenishing the 44th/Alameda Designated Fund and the benefits of transferring \$250,000 from the Ending Fund Balance to the Cumulative Reserve for the pool and community center. Surina commented on his preference to allocate the \$250,000 directly to the pool and community center in order to increase the City's contribution and buy down the bond. Corcoran briefed the Council on the first reading of the proposed ordinance that would provide the necessary budget for additional funds not provided for in the Adopted 2019 Budget. George invited councilmember comment; Viafore requested a Council consensus to include the transfer of \$250,000 from the Undesignated Ending Fund Balance to the Cumulative Reserve in the proposed budget amendment in order to secure and isolate the funds. Surina commented on his concerns regarding the transfer and not directly applying the \$250,000 to offset the bond and Viafore responded that Council would be in a strategic position to allocate

the funds towards the project once the bids came in this summer and address any contingencies. George conducted a roll call consensus vote: Viafore – Yes; Reynolds – Yes; Wittner – Yes; Waltier – Yes; Surina – No; Nixon – Yes; and George – Yes. There was a consensus (6-1) to add the transfer \$250,000 from the Ending Fund Balance to the Cumulative Reserve in the proposed budget amendment.

B. nCourt LLC Credit Card Services Agreement

Court Administrator Perry briefed the Council on the proposed nCourt LLC Credit Card Services Agreement, stating nCourt would streamline the Municipal Court's credit card payment services for the two courts it operates. **Reynolds MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1580, authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement for credit card services with nCourt LLC; seconded by Surina.** George invited councilmember comment; Viafore inquired when the new contract would be implemented. Perry indicated it would be as soon as possible as nCourt would need approximately six weeks to develop the webpage for online services, and Pingel indicated that the City would provide a 30-day notice to cancel the contract with the other credit service company. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

C. Personnel Policies and Procedures 2019 Update

Pingel briefed the Council on the proposed 2019 updates to the Personnel Policies and Procedures manual, providing answers from the City's legal counsel to the questions Council had from the November 2018 Study Session. **Nixon MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1581, adopting a Personnel Policies and Procedures manual for employees of the City of Fircrest and repealing Resolution No. 637; seconded by Reynolds.** George invited councilmember comment; Viafore inquired if the updated manual was subject to Union or Guild negotiations. Pingel indicated that they were provided a copy of the proposed changes and had no comments with the proposed changes, and stated that both agreements included clauses that the anything not included in the labor contract would defer to the personnel manual. Viafore commented on his concerns regarding not having a letter from the Union/Guild and the updates being pro-management, and stated he would probably vote against the updates. Pingel indicated a response was received from IBEW regarding the cell phone policy and the employee's liability, and indicated it was resolved. Pingel indicated that the Guild expressed no concerns. Viafore commented on his concerns regarding internal/external recruitment and the employee assistance program (EAP); Pingel indicated that the updates to the EAP simply provided information about the benefits that the City currently offered its employees. George stated that employees had an opportunity to share their concerns regarding the draft update, and commented that there were no radical changes to the updated manual and that nothing was taken away from the employee. George commented that there was a balance of employee-employer as the updates provided clarification of roles and responsibilities and were in line with current laws and standards; Viafore responded that he would be in favor of the updates and inquired if there was employee feedback. Pingel indicated feedback was received but no concerns regarding the changes. George invited public comment; Planning and Building Administrator Stahlnecker commented on employee concerns regarding the at-will language in the updated manual. Pingel indicated that although Washington state is an "at will" employment state, it would not be in the City's best interest from a liability point of view to terminate employees without cause. City Clerk Nappi indicated the language in question that was removed at the recommendation of legal counsel stated: *"All other employees not designated at-will are given a "for-cause" status after*

successful completion of their working test period.” After a brief discussion on state law and intent to show good will, **Reynolds MOVED to amend Section 1.3 to restore the sentence: “All other employees not designated at-will are given a “for-cause” status after successful completion of their working test period.”; seconded by Viafore.** George invited councilmember comment; there were none. George invited public comment; none were provided. George requested a roll call vote: Nixon – No; Reynolds – Yes; Surina – Yes; Wittner – No; Waltier – No; Viafore – Yes; and George – Yes. **The Amended Motion Carried (4-3).** George invited public comment on amended Resolution No. 1581; none were provided. Viafore inquired if there was any proposed language in the updated manual that was different than the union contracts; Pingel confirmed the updates were applicable to all employees. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Pingel reported that he had recently met with a representative from Coalition against Bigger Trucks (CABT) working against legislation allowing bigger truck trailers. Pingel requested Council feedback on CABT’s request to submit a letter of opposition to the legislative delegation. The general consensus from Council was to abstain.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Chief Cheesman reported that the Department responded to a shots fired call on the 100 block of Golden Gate Avenue early Friday morning. Cheesman indicated there were no injuries, and that they recovered shell casings and that it was under investigation. Cheesman reported that University Place Chief Blair was being reassigned as Chief of Staff for the Sheriff’s Department.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

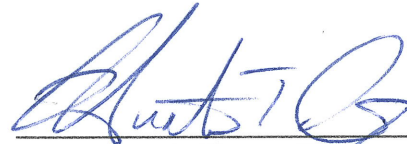
- Viafore and Reynolds thanked Council for their patience.
- Wittner, Waltier, Surina, and Nixon provided no comments.
- George commented on his appreciation of the policy discussion civility.

EXECUTIVE SESSION


There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

Reynolds MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 P.M., seconded by Nixon. The Motion Carried (7-0).



Hunter T. George, Mayor



Jessica Nappi, City Clerk