

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL (Meeting was held primarily by remote attendance)

Mayor Hunter T. George called the regular meeting to order at 7:05 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers David M. Viafore, Shannon Reynolds, Brett Wittner, Joe Barrentine, Denny Waltier, and Jamie Nixon were present.

PRESIDING OFFICER’S REPORT

A. Pool and Community Center Project

Mayor George reported that the Edwards Family Aquatic Center sign has been installed and the family was able to see the sign, pool, and bathhouse. The unveiling was attended by four generations of the Edwards Family. George thanked the staff for facilitating the event. City Manager Pingel reported that Kassel is close to turning over the site, but we are not at substantial completion yet. Parks and Recreation Director Grover reported that Puget Sound Energy fired off the boilers and Kassel is completing various punch list items. The staff is working to get everything in storage by next week. Councilmember Viafore commented that he is alarmed that there are many dead or diseased trees planted that the north end of the building. Pingel reported that those will be punch list items and will be addressed before completion.

Lastly, George reported that Councilmember Barrentine and himself gathered a small group of residents to discuss social justice issues. Discussions included how can Police engage teens and Teen Night, improving the process of committee appointments, and the possibility of changing the order of the meeting to move Councilmember and City Manager comments to the beginning of the meeting. Police Chief John Cheesman reported that Teen Night at the Community Center was successful and there is a Yearly Youth camp that was canceled this year due to COVID-19.

Viafore left the meeting at 7:37 pm and returned at 7:39 pm.

The draft Use of Force policy is complete and will be in the weekly update from the City Manager.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

George invited Public comments; the following individuals provided comment:

Nikki Buford, 1405 Evergreen Drive, commented that she is happy to continue the conversation on social justice issues.

Vince Navarre, 1205 Del Monte Ave, asked when the small group of residents will meet and how will the public be notified. George reported that Mr. Navarre can send an e-mail to him for now.

Nancy Atwood, 1204 Farallone Avenue, commented that she is impressed with the City Council and the Fircrest Police Department.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Administration

Viafore reported that he does not enjoy Zoom meetings and looks forward to in-person meetings. Viafore reports that the proposed budget and CARES grant will be coming to the next meeting and the 3-5-year forecast is coming soon.

B. Environmental, Planning, and Building

Waltier reported that the Form-Based Code meeting went well, and we are moving in the right direction.

C. Finance, IT, Facilities

Barrentine reported that the finance department is starting the audit and is very busy with the upcoming budget. The hardware transition is complete, and the Council will be receiving an update from Right Systems soon about the progress to date.

D. Other Liaison Reports

Nixon reported that the Police department has hired a new Police Officer, Bill O’Meara. They are close to hiring another officer as well, Eduardo Garcia, who is bi-lingual and will hopefully be starting next week.

Reynold reported that PCRC canceled the September meeting and the wildfires have destroyed the small town of Maldon and encouraged the Council to find a way to show support for the town.

CONSENT CALENDAR

George requested to remove Consent Calendar 7B and 7C item two; approval of the August 25, 2020, Regular Meeting Minutes; registering no objections to the Viafore’s Deli liquor license renewal; there were no objections. George requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar as amended: approval of Voucher No. 215392 through Voucher Check No. 215448 in the amount of \$217,940.05; approval of Payroll Check No. 13947 through Payroll Check No. 13948 in the amount of \$102,925.43; approval of Payroll Check No. 13949 through Payroll Check No. 13952 in the amount of \$7,517.88; approval of Payroll Check No. 13953 through Payroll Check No. 13858 in the amount of \$79,483.50; Registering no objections to the OMG Food Mart and Pint Defiance liquor license renewals; Setting a Public Hearing on September 22, 2020, to receive comments on the Moratorium Extension. **Reynolds MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as amended; seconded by Barrentine. The Motion Carried as amended (7-0).**

PUBLIC HEARING

No public hearing was scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution No. 1671: Pierce Transit Board Nomination

City Manager Pingel briefed the Council on the nomination of Kent Keel to the Pierce Transit Board of Commissioners. **Wittner MOVED to nominate Councilmember Kent Keel from the City of University Place to serve as a member of the Board of Commissioners for Pierce Transit who will represent the City of University Place and the City of Fircrest; seconded by Barrentine.** George invited Councilmember Comments; discussion included cycle terms, changing Pierce Transit’s by-laws, and entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with University Place about the seat rotation. George invited public comment; Brian Rybolt, 1036 Daniels Drive, commented that he would prefer Councilmember Reynolds have the seat due to Mr. Keel’s affiliation with Sound Transit. **The motion carried (6-1) with Viafore dissenting and Reynolds abstaining.**

B. Resolution No. 1672: Rescinding Resolution No. 1653 putting the EMS Levy on the November Ballot.

City Manager Pingel briefed the Council on the resolution that would remove the ballot from the November election. **Nixon MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1672, which rescinds Resolution No. 1653; seconded by Wittner.** George invited Councilmember Comment; George thanked the residents of Fircrest for passing the levy at the primary election. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The motion carried (7-0).**

C. Resolution No. 1673: Approval of Amendment #1 to the KPG Contract for the Alameda Overlay Project

Public Works Director Wakefield introduced the contract amendment and briefed the Council on the project coming in under the budgeted amount. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1673, authorizing the City Manager to execute a First Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with KPG, P.S. for providing construction management services for the Alameda Overlay Project in an amount of \$31,622.00; seconded by Nixon.** George invited Councilmember comment; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The motion carried (7-0).**

D. Resolution No. 1674: Approval of Amendment #1 to the KPG Contract for the Emerson Sidewalk Project

Public Works Director Wakefield introduced the contract amendment that includes the construction phase of the project and briefed the Council on the project coming in under the budgeted amount. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1673, authorizing the City Manager to execute a First Amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with KPG, P.S. for providing construction management services for the Emerson Sidewalk Extension Project in an amount of \$40,563.46; seconded by Waltier.** George invited Councilmember comment; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The motion carried (7-0).**

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Pingel provided an update on the fundraising bricks and reported that the size will be an 8” square brick and the estimated cost will be around 100 dollars per brick. The current space allows for 300 bricks, but we may be able to accommodate more if the demand requires it. Pingel reported on the CARES Act Business & Rental Assistance program status and that the applications were reviewed last Thursday. There was a brief discussion on public engagement and the concern that businesses and residents did not know about the program despite efforts made by Council and staff. Lastly, Pingel reported that Staff is in receipt of Officer Bob Deals’ e-mail and have been researching a High-deductible Healthcare Plan option that could benefit retirees and reduce the cost of COBRA.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Police Chief Cheesman reported that he will be undergoing surgery and Sergeant Celis will be acting Chief in his absence.

Public Works Director Jerry Wakefield commented that he had a meeting with the Homeowner’s Association of the 11th Tee Condos. Wakefield briefed the Council on the history and timeline of the project and reported the system is private and met the Department of Ecology standards at the time of approval. Discussions included safety issues, the process of amending the Department of Ecology manual, and the possibility of the homeowner’s association changing the drainage system.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Viafore; asked for an update on the dead trees at the school and there is a dead tree on Alameda Ave. Viafore thinks it is great that Barrentine and George are engaging the public and hopes to improve communications with residents.
- Reynolds commented that consumer spending is down, and a slow recovery is anticipated. Interest rates are already low and only 37% of furloughed employees have returned to work and many residents may be suffering.
- Wittner; commented that Tacoma Schools start remote learning tomorrow.
- Barrentine; commented that he is always pleasantly surprised at the kindness of our residents despite the hard times we are facing.
- Waltier; no report.
- Nixon; commented that he would like to see the order change to allow for Councilmember comments to move to the beginning of the meeting.
- George; commented that University Place Schools started today, and he visited the advice booth set up by Sam Pedroni. He received great advice from him and enjoyed the interaction.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:20 P.M. George reported that the Council would take a five-minute recess and convene into Executive Session, to discuss labor negotiations per RCW 42.30.110. George noted that Pingel would be joining Council in the Executive Session.

At 10:29 P.M., the Council reconvened into regular session.

ADJOURNMENT

Viafore MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 10:29 P.M., seconded by Reynolds. The Motion Carried (7-0).



Hunter T. George, Mayor



Jayne Westman, City Clerk