

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 7:02 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers David M. Viafore, Shannon Reynolds, Brett Wittner, Joe Barrentine, and Jaime Nixon were present. Councilmember Denny Waltier was absent and excused.

PRESIDING OFFICER’S REPORT

A. Tacoma Public Utilities Rate Proposal Presentation

Latasha Wortham presented the rate proposals for 2021 and highlighted the principals of how rates are set.

Councilmember Reynolds joined the meeting at 7:15 pm.

Wortham briefed the Council on budget impacts of COVID-19 and how Tacoma Public Utilities has responded as well as working with citizens who are struggling to pay for utilities. Discussions included water supply issues due to climate change, transitioning to monthly billings, and upcoming meter changeovers.

B. Use of Force Policy Changes Presentation – Acting Chief Celis

Acting Police Chief Celis presented the Use of Force policy changes that were guided by Campaign Zero “8 Can’t Wait.” Celis provided an overview of the eight policies and the impact that each had on our Use of Force policy. Discussions included passing a resolution to urge Pierce County to ban chokeholds, impacts of implementing body cameras on staff, and community discussions on social justice issues. George invited public comment; Nikki Buford, 1504 Evergreen Drive, asked why the policy states, “should” and not, “must.” Celis explained that the policy is not set in stone and depending on the circumstances, an officer may not be able to comply with a policy that is not flexible.

C. Pool & Community Center Project

Parks & Recreation Director Grover briefed the Council on the status of the Pool House construction and reported that the contractor is continuing to complete punch list items as well as installing the gate and fencing. Lastly, Grover reported that the Community Center surplus sale will be this Friday.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

George invited Public comments; the following individuals provided comment:

Terry Carnes, 1008 Corona Drive, asked about the process to install a speed bump. Public Works Director Wakefield reported that the City does not install them due to noise, and maintenance issues.

Yolanda Brooks, 6464 19th Street W #C, requested law enforcement to be aware of violations of parking in emergency turnarounds and near fire hydrants.

Brian Rybolt, 1036 Daniels Drive, commented that speed bumps add to emergency response times.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Parks & Recreation

Reynolds; no report at this time.

B. Pierce County Regional Council

Reynolds; PCRC is canceled for September.

C. Public Safety, Courts

Nixon; no report at this time.

D. Street, Water, Sewer, and Storm Drain

Wittner; no report at this time.

E. Other Liaison Reports

No other reports were provided.

CONSENT CALENDAR

George requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar as follows: approval of Voucher No. 215449 through Voucher Check No. 215484 in the amount of \$127,000.00; approval of Voucher No. 215485 through Voucher Check No. 215525 in the amount of \$389,406.52; approval of Payroll Check No. 13959 through Payroll Check No. 13959 in the amount of \$97,462.54; approval of the August 25, 2020, Regular Meeting Minutes; approval of the September 1, 2020, Joint Planning Commission Meeting Minutes; **Wittner MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as read; seconded by Barrentine. The Motion Carried (6-0).**

PUBLIC HEARING

A. To receive comments on renewing the 6-month Moratorium

At 8:28 P.M. George opened the public hearing. Planning & Building Administrator Stahlnecker briefed the Council on the updated draft work plan and the timeline for adopting the Form-Based Code. George invited Councilmember comment; Stahlnecker was asked about receiving any public comments opposing the moratorium or Form-Based Code and Stahlnecker reported that she has spoken to a few developers and real estate agents and there is no strong opposition. George invited public testimony; Rick Little, 154 Harvard Ave, commented that he would like to move forward with Form-Based Code soon as developers may want to acquire the property. Stahlnecker reported that due to COVID-19, the timeline was delayed but we are getting on track. Yolanda Brooks, 6464 64th Street W #C, asked if the Form-Based Code will extend to Alameda Ave. Stahlnecker reported that the Form-Based Code will only impact Commercial Mixed-Use Zone and information is available on the website. At 8:39 P.M., George closed the public hearing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Ordinance No. 1658: Extension of the six-month moratorium adopted by Ordinance No. 1654

Planning & Building Administrator Stahlnecker briefed the Council on moratorium extension and reported that at this time, the staff does not believe it will take the full six months to pass the Form-Based Code. **Nixon MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1658, renewing the six-month moratorium adopted on October 8, 2019, and extended on March 24, 2020, for an additional six-months, prohibiting the submission or acceptance of any development applications for new development, additions, and alterations in the property comprised of 44 acres, located at the northwest corner of the city, bounded by 19th Street West and Mildred Street West, zoned Commercial Mixed Use and Residential-30, and proposed to be designated as a countywide center in the countywide planning policies, said moratorium to be in effect while the city performs the activities described in this**

ordinance; seconded by Wittner. George invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. The motion carried (6-0)

B. Resolution No. 1675: AWC Employer Master Participation Agreement – High Deductible Health Plan

City Manager Pingel introduced the history and the potential benefit for retirees. Wittner **MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1675, authorizing the City Manager to amend the agreement with the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) Employee Benefit Trust for the AWC Employer Master Participation Agreement to include a High Deductible Health Plan for employees; seconded by Barrentine.** George invited Councilmember comments; Wittner thanked Staff for moving so quickly. George invited public comment; none were provided. The motion carried (6-0)

C. Resolution No. 1676: CARES Act Grant Contract Amendment

City Manager Pingel introduced the amendment and reports that the Community Center phase is much less complex than the pool phase. Wittner **MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1676, authorizing the City Manager to execute grant contract Amendment #1 with the Washington Department of Commerce for an additional \$101,500 for reimbursement of COVID-19 related expenses. This amount to be added to the \$203,100 previously approved for a total grant amount of \$304,650; seconded by Nixon.** George invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. The motion carried (6-0)

D. Resolution No. 1677: Approval of Additional Business and Rental Assistance Grants for the Fircrest Business and Tenant Assistance Program

City Manager Pingel reported that the State has awarded additional funds from the CARES Act and the staff intends to award the additional funds to renters and businesses impacted by COVID-19. Nixon **MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1677, authorizing additional Business and Rental Assistance grants totaling up to \$101,500 per the Fircrest Business and Tenant Assistance Program established by City of Fircrest Resolution No. 1663; seconded by Wittner.** George invited Councilmember comment; Wittner commented that if you know of someone struggling, to let them know about our assistance program. George invited public comment; Yolanda Brooks, 6464 19th Street W #C, asked if payments are paid directly to the landlord. Pingel reported that yes, all payments for rental assistance are paid to the landlord. The motion carried (6-0).

E. Resolution No. 1678: Memorandum of Understanding with University Place about the Pierce Transit Board Representation

City Manager Pingel briefed the Council on the Memorandum and that University Place passed their Memorandum at last night's meeting. Wittner **MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1678, authorizing the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of University Place about representation on the Pierce Transit Board of Commissioners; seconded by Viafore.** George invited Councilmember comments; Viafore requested a legal opinion on letting the Chair sign the Memorandum and not City Manager Pingel. City Attorney Smith reported that we can cross out Mayor George's name and put the City Manager's name. George invited public comment; none were provided. The motion carried (6-0).

F. 2021 Budget Introduction – City Manager Scott Pingel

City Manager Pingel reported that the Council should have received the 2021 preliminary budget by e-mail and hard copies are available to be picked up at City Hall. Pingel highlighted some of the changes to the budget. Discussions included park bond levy rate, addressing the fiscal story of the Community Center and Pool in the next Town Topics, and Finance Director Corcoran reporting the preliminary budget is on the website.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Pingel updated the Council that the business and rental assistance checks will be going out tomorrow and Pingel intends to hand-deliver the business assistance checks.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Finance Director Corcoran reported that the audit entrance conference is scheduled for October 4th via Zoom and Viafore, George, and Barrentine will be attending.

Planning & Building Administrator Stahlnecker reported that the trees at Whittier will be installed soon.

Acting Police Chief Celis reported that we have hired two officers and they have both started training. George asked if they would be able to join a Zoom to meet the Council. Celis will try to coordinate the introductions.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Nixon shared the health impacts of a disaster and behavioral health symptoms. He asks that we look out for our friends, family, and co-workers as this disaster looks different but can still impact mental health

Viafore left the meeting at 9:23 pm and returned at 9:25 pm.

Nixon also commented that all votes deserve to be counted and respected and is disappointed that some media are expressing that mail-in ballots are illegitimate. Lastly, Nixon is sorry to hear about the passing of Harold Moss.

- Barrentine thanked the attendees and to complete the Census and register to vote.
- Wittner thanked the attendees and congratulated Councilmember Reynold on her anniversary.
- Reynolds; thanked Councilmember Wittner.
- Viafore commented that he is happy to hear of progress on the Wainwright trees and the trees on Regents may still be under warranty. Viafore thanked Barrentine and George for engaging the community on social justice issues and lastly, sends condolences to the Moss family. Harold Moss was a kind man and a great influence.
- George commented that he would like to dedicate a Study Session to social justice issues and sends condolences to the family of Harold Moss. He was an inspiring man. Lastly, thanked Police and staff for their input so far and he may suspend the rules for the next meeting to move the agenda items around.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:43 P.M. George reported that the Council would take a five-minute recess and convene into Executive Session, not to exceed 10:13 P.M., to discuss labor negotiations per RCW 42.30.110 and to Review the Performance of a Public Employee per RCW 42.30.110. George noted that City Manager Pingel would be joining Council in the Executive Session.

September 22, 2020

Fircrest City Council Meeting Minutes – Regular 5

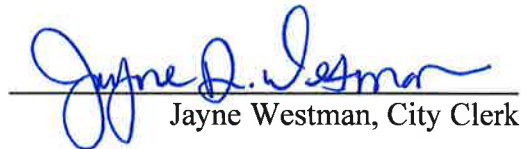
At 10:17 P.M., the Council reconvened into regular session.

ADJOURNMENT

Viafore MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 10:18 P.M., seconded by Barrentine. The Motion Carried (6-0).



Hunter T. George, Mayor



Jayne Westman, City Clerk