

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 7:00 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

Parks & Recreation Director Grover reported that Kassel is still working to complete punch list items including gates, paint, trim, etc. There was a pre-construction meeting last week for the Community Center portion of the project and asbestos abatement testing started last week. Mayor George commented that the staff should communicate with neighbors about the construction hours and what to expect as we move into the next phase. There was a discussion about the fence placement and signage for the sidewalk closures. Kassel needs to secure the construction site but there is concern that the fencing closes the sidewalk which forces people to cross the street. Grover will communicate with Kassel about finding a suitable solution.

Mayor George reported that he has been asked to participate in a meeting with the Kiwanis Club of Steilacoom to discuss the success of the Pool & Community Center and the project's timeline.

B. Suspend Council Rules No. 20 and Alter the Order of Business

Mayor George introduced the alternate agenda and explained why it may help engage the public. **The Chair MOVED to suspend Rule No. 20 of the Council Rules & Procedures to follow an alternate order of business through December 31, 2020; seconded by**

Barrentine. George invited Councilmember comments; Comments included altering the end date to November 31, 2020, starting the meetings earlier, and shortening the length of the meetings. George invited public comment; the following individuals provided public comment:

- Yolanda Brooks, 6464 19th Street West, commented that she prefers business items first but is okay with a new agenda trial period.
- Nikki Buford, 1504 Evergreen Drive, commented that she appreciates the agenda order change.
- Ashley Sprinker, appreciates the agenda order change.

George again invited Councilmember comment; there were discussions concerning Rule No. 20 also including the meeting end time. Councilmember Reynolds asked for an amended motion to suspend Rule No. 20. **Reynolds MOVED to suspend Rule No. 20 in part, preserving time**

limits for regular business meetings and reorganizing agenda items through December 31, 2020; seconded by Nixon. George invited Councilmember comments; none were provided.

George invited public comments; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).** George

again invited Councilmember comment; discussions included starting the meetings earlier to accommodate schedules. George invited public comments; Yolanda Brooks, 6464 19th Street

W, commented that she would support starting Council meetings earlier. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Pingel asked the Council to inform the discussion on opening the playgrounds or leave them closed. Councilmember comments included monitoring crowds, concerns it could

create a gathering place for people, and contribute to the spread of COVID-19. George invited public comments; the following individuals provided comments:

- Casey Brett, 702 Contra Costa Ave, commented that parks provide a place to play and the City should let the public monitor themselves.
- Nancy Atwood, 1204 Farallone Ave, commented that she supports keeping the playground closed as children spread germs.
- Yolanda Brooks, 6464 19th Street W, commented that children need to socialize.

City Manager Pingel briefed the Council that there is a South Sound 911 study session meeting on October 21st and will forward the invite to the Council. Pingel updated the Council on the Business and Rental Assistance Program and reports that the City has received 11 Business applications and two Rental applications. Lastly, Pingel asked for feedback on the swingset location in the Tot Lot as work is starting soon. No feedback was received.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Planning & Building Administrator Stahlnecker reported that Fircrest is in a “High-Traffic Transient Community” and confirmed that the City is not looking for extra growth for the future aside from what will come from the Form-Based Code.

Acting Police Chief Celis reported there will be a blood drive on October 22nd at the Public Safety Building and the Department received additional speed signs. The additional signs will be located on Claremont Ave and on Electron Way as you come off Alameda Ave. Council asked if they are movable and Celis confirmed, they can be moved.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Viafore; reported that the residents of the 11th Tee Community are unhappy about the drainage system that was installed and they want to know if they can gravel over the grass. Public Works Director Wakefield reported that the residents cannot cover the swells with gravel as that was not part of the approved drainage biofiltration plan and he is open to discussing other options for their private drainage system. Viafore reported that Leonard Loveland passed away and will be remembered as a dedicated volunteer.
- Reynolds commented that meeting start times are set by Ordinance and would require an amended Ordinance to change the time.
- Wittner; commented that he saw Parks Maintenance staff changing the readerboard in inclement weather and expressed support for an electronic readerboard.
- Barrentine; asked if the City could use CARES funds to pay water bills for residents in need and Pingel would be reporting back with more information.
- Waltier; no comment provided.
- Nixon: commented on his support of using CARES funds to support residents who are behind on their water bill.
- George: commented that he would like everyone to reach out to local businesses and inform them of the assistance program. He also thanked meeting attendees.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

George invited public comment; the following individuals provided written and/ or oral comment:

- Yolanda Brooks, 6448 19th Street Apt B, commented that she would like to followup on parking enforcement and is disappointed about the access to the Planning Commission Meeting. Ms. Brooks appreciates the Mayor and Chief Cheesman for their efforts on social justice issues. Brooks is concerned with not diversifying the Planning Commission and believes a comment made during a diversity meeting was not appropriate.
- Nancy Atwood, 1204 Farallone Ave, commented that she is concerned about the lack of policies regarding climate change and action to implement climate change initiatives.
- Nikki Buford, 1504 Evergreen Drive, commented that she appreciates the new sidewalks on Emerson.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Administration

Viafore reported that he and Pingel have been discussing the surplus and demolition of the Community Center. He also thanked Yolanda Brooks for handing out information on the Assistance grants available. Viafore is also disappointed in the number of applicants to date.

B. Environmental, Planning, and Building

Waltier reported that the Planning & Building Department is staying busy with passports and permits. He also reported that the Form-Based Code will help with PSRC’s Vision 2050.

C. Finance, IT, Facilities

Barrentine reported that the Finance Department is working on 3rd Quarter reports and will be presenting the report at a future meeting. He also reports that the State audit is wrapping up and there will be an exit conference soon.

D. Other Liaison Reports

Reynolds reported the PCRC will be meeting in two days and we need to report if we want to add any items to the legislative agenda for the State. Adding a Public Works Trust Fund was added to the list.

CONSENT CALENDAR

George requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar as follows: approval of Voucher No. 215526 through Voucher Check No. 215614 in the amount of \$125,179.24; approval of Payroll Check No. 13960 in the amount of \$102,370.95; approval of Payroll Check Nos. 13961 through Payroll Check No. 13964 in the amount of \$8,967.78; approval of Payroll Check Nos. 13965 through Payroll Check No. 13970 in the amount of \$81,142.61; approval of Payroll Check No. 13971 in the amount of \$104,783.04; registering no objections to the Sammy’s Pizza Liquor License Renewal; approval of the September 8, 2020, Regular Meeting Minutes; approval of September 21, 2020, Study Session Meeting; approval of the September 22, 2020, Regular Meeting Minutes; approval of the September 28, 2020, Special Meeting Minutes. **Reynolds MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as read; seconded by Wittner. The Motion Carried (7-0).**

PUBLIC HEARING

A. 2021 Budget Revenue Sources

At 8:33 P.M., George opened the public hearing. Finance Director Corcoran briefed the Council on the 2021 Budget Revenue Sources stating the public hearing was to receive comments on the Preliminary 2021 Budget Revenue Sources. George invited councilmember comments; Viafore commented about the soccer rental fees and asked if it is feasible to include them in the 2021

budget. Corcoran reported that due to COVID-19 it is unknown if there will be a 2021 season but we could have a soccer season. George invited public testimony; none were provided. At 8:37 P.M., George closed the public hearing.

B. 2021 Preliminary Budget

At 8:37 P.M., George opened the public hearing. Finance Director Corcoran briefed the Council on the 2021 Preliminary Budget stating the public hearing was to receive comments on the Preliminary 2021 Budget. George invited councilmember comments; none were provided. George invited public testimony; none were provided. At 8:39 P.M., George closed the public hearing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution No. 1679: Pierce County Department of Assigned Counsel Contract Amendment

Court Administrator Perry briefed the Council on the Resolution and reported the contract includes Ruston Court. **Viafore MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1679, authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement for Public Defense Services with Pierce County for indigent legal defense services; seconded by Reynolds.** George invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The motion carried (7-0)**

B. Ordinance No. 1659: 2021 Ad Valorem Tax Levy

Finance Director Corcoran briefed the Council on the Ad Valorem Tax Levy for 2021. **Viafore MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1659, fixing the amount of the annual ad valorem tax levy necessary for the fiscal year 2021 and repealing Section 1 and 2 of Ordinance No. 1648; seconded by Reynolds.** George invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The motion carried (7-0)**

C. Resolution No. 1680: 2021 Regular Property Tax Levy

Finance Director Corcoran briefed the Council on not increasing the property tax amount for 2021. **Viafore MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1680, establishing no increase in the amount and the percentage increase of the 2021 regular property tax levy over the 2020 regular property tax levy; seconded by Reynolds.** George invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The motion carried (7-0)**

D. Resolution No. 1681: 2021 EMS Property Tax Levy

Finance Director Corcoran briefed the Council on the EMS property tax levy that was approved by the voters on August 4th, 2020. **Viafore MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1681, establishing the amount of the 2021 EMS property tax levy over the 2020 EMS property tax levy; seconded by Reynolds.** George invited Councilmember comments; none

were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. The motion carried (7-0).

E. 2021 Levy Certifications

Finance Director Corcoran briefed the Council that this motion is to allow the City Manager to sign the 2021 regular tax levy and EMS tax levy forms. **Viafore MOVED to authorize the City Manager to sign the 2021 regular property and EMS levy certification forms; seconded by Reynolds.** George invited Councilmember comments; Viafore asked the staff to find out how much back taxes are owed to the City. George invited public comment; none were provided. The motion carried (7-0).

F. Ordinance No. 1660 Salaries of Non-Union Employees, Including Casual and Seasonal Employees

Finance Director Corcoran briefed the Council that this Ordinance allows for a cost of living increase of one percent for employees. **Reynolds MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1660, amending Section 1 of Ordinance No. 1645 and FMC 2.44.050 relating to salaries of non-union City employees and amending Section 2 of Ordinance No. 1645 and FMC 2.44.090 relating to the hourly rate of pay for casual and seasonal employees; seconded by Waltier.** George invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. The motion carried (7-0).

G. Ordinance No. 1661 Municipal Court Judge and Chief Examiner Rate of Pay

Finance Director Corcoran briefed the Council that this Ordinance allows for a cost of living increase of one percent for the Municipal Judge and the Chief Examiner. **Reynolds MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1661, amending Section 1 of Ordinance No. 1642 and FMC 2.44.070 reestablishing the Municipal Court Judge monthly rate of pay and the Civil Service Chief Examiner rate of pay; seconded by Reynolds.** George invited Councilmember comments; Viafore asked the Staff to look into providing a rate increase to the Judge Pro Tem. George invited public comment; none were provided. The motion carried (7-0).

H. Resolution No. 1682: Comfort, Davies and Smith, P.S. Contract Amendment

City Manager Pingel reported that the only change to the contract is the rate of pay increasing to \$180.00 per hour. **Viafore MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1682, authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to the Contract for Legal Services with Comfort, Davies and Smith, P.S. for City Attorney and City Prosecutor services in 2021; seconded by Waltier.** George invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. The motion carried (7-0).

H. Resolution No. 1683: Insurance Broker Services Contract Amendment

City Manager Pingel reported that the only change to the contract is the end date of 2021. **Viafore MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1683, authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment #9 to the agreement with Leavitt Group NW for insurance broker services; seconded by Reynolds.** George invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. The motion carried (7-0).

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

Viafore; commented that he would like to receive minutes from the Planning Commission and Civil Service Commission in future updates.

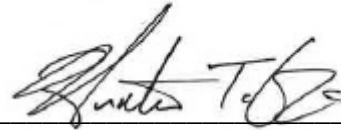
EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:02 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. George noted that City Manager Pingel would be joining Council in the Executive Session.

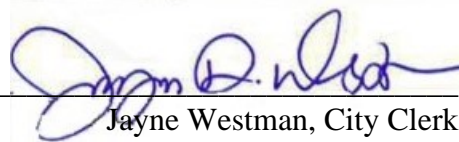
At 9:12 P.M., the Council reconvened into regular session.

ADJOURNMENT

Reynolds MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 P.M., seconded by Barrentine. The Motion Carried (7-0).



Hunter T. George, Mayor



Jayne Westman, City Clerk