

**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. County Executive Bruce Dammeier presentation on the South Sound Housing Affordability**

Executive Dammeier provided a brief history of how SSHAP came to be formed to address housing affordability issues in our area. Wages are not proportionate to housing costs and in order to address the issues, the County will have to implement economic development initiatives to bring in jobs and make changes to bring down housing costs. Dammeier reported that the goal is to provide support to local jurisdictions to make code changes to allow more housing options and support the private development of affordable housing without subsidy. Support would come from a capital fund and interlocal funding. Director of Human Services, Heather Moss briefed the Council on the CARES Act rental and mortgage assistance programs and believes more funding will be coming from the State and Federal government.

**B. Pool & Community Center Update**

Parks & Recreation Director Grover reported that the pool cover has been delayed and will be arriving in a few weeks. Kassel is continuing to complete punch list items on the pool and will begin forming footings at the Community Center. City Manager Pingel reported that the bricks small-donor option is available and on the website. There has been a total of 70 bricks sold.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

City Manager Pingel reported that City Clerk Westman has been busy with the brick campaign and anticipates a surge in sales once Town Topic arrives.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

Acting Chief Celis reported that the Sleigh Ride route has been finalized and almost all the streets will be on the route. The map has been posted to the City Website and Facebook and the sleigh ride will be COVID-19 compliant.

**COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

- Nixon; no comment provided.
- Barrentine thanked everyone for their generosity and kindness this holiday season and thanked the staff for making the tree lighting happen this year. Lastly, thanked Public Works Director Wakefield for his contribution to the City.
- Wittner thanked the attendees.
- Reynolds provided an update on the spread of COVID-19 and the effects on hospital capacity. The situation is worsening, and she worries about the economic impact for 2021
- Viafore thanked the employees for doing such a great job getting ready for the holidays and reiterated that our residents are very generous. Viafore reported that the citizens of Fircrest came together to gather funds to replace Mr. Ted's windows, who is a veteran.
- George: thanked the staff and Councilmember Barrentine for the tree lighting event and thanks to the Hawes family.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

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

- Nancy Atwood, 1204 Farallone Ave, asked how long the citizens will be paying for the new Community Center and Pool.  
Pingel reported that originally it was going to be paid over 23 years, but the project will now take 20 years to pay off the bond.

**COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS**

**A. Administration**

Viafore; No report provided.

**B. Environmental, Planning, and Building**

Waltier reported that the Planning & Building Department has been busy, and the staff has completed their passport certifications.

**C. Finance, IT, Facilities**

Barrentine reported that the Finance staff has been busy with year-end.

**D. Other Liaison Reports**

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

George requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar as follows: approval of Voucher No. 215822 through Voucher Check No. 215870 in the amount of \$264,095.53; approval of Payroll Check Nos. 13985 through Payroll Check No. 13988 in the amount of \$8,108.60; approval of Payroll Check Nos. 13989 through Payroll Check No. 13994 in the amount of \$85,388.92; approval of Payroll Check Nos. 13995 through Payroll Check No. 13995 in the amount of \$102,769.62; registering no objections to the Spring Lake Café liquor license renewal; approval of November 16, 2020, Study Session Meeting Minutes; approval of November 24, 2020, Regular Meeting Minutes. **Wittner MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as amended; seconded by Barrentine. The Motion Carried (7-0).**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

There was no Public Hearing scheduled.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Ordinance No. 1665: 2020 Budget Amendment**

Corcoran briefed the Council on the proposed ordinance and highlighted that the amendment includes CARES grant revenue and COVID-19 related expenses. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1665, authorizing revenues and expenditures of funds for matters not provided for in the Adopted 2020 budget; seconded by Barrentine.** George invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The motion carried (7-0)**

**B. Resolution No. 1698: Use of CCN Radio System Access Contract Amendment**

City Manager Pingel provided an overview of the contract amendment and highlighted that there was an increase over 2020 rates. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1698,**

authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment No. 2 to the System Access and Use Contract between Pierce Transit-Pierce County Combined Communications Network and the City of Fircrest; seconded by Nixon. George invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. The motion carried (7-0)

**C. Resolution No. 1699: 2021 Pierce County Regional Council Appointments**

City Manager Pingel reported that Reynolds will continue her appointment to the PCRC, and Nixon will remain the alternate. Wittner **MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1699, appointing Councilmember Reynolds as representative to the Pierce County Regional Council, and further appointing Councilmember Nixon as an alternate representative to the Pierce County Regional Council for 2021; seconded by Waltier.** George invited Councilmember comments; George thanked both Councilmembers for their commitment. George invited public comment; none were provided. The motion carried (7-0).

**D. Resolution No. 1700: December 22, 2020, m Regular Meeting Time Change**

City Manager Pingel reported that the December 22, 2020, meeting will be a short meeting with a limited agenda. Wittner **MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1700, changing the time of the December 22, 2020, meeting from 7:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.; seconded by Reynolds.** George invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. The motion carried (7-0).

**E. Resolution No. 1701: Landscaping Maintenance Services contract Amendment**

City Manager Pingel reported that the rates for 2021 did not increase. The amendment changes the contract to an automatic renewal with a CPI increase. Wittner **MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1701, authorizing the City Manager to amend the landscape maintenance contract with Greenleaf Landscaping, Inc. to provide landscape maintenance services for the City of Fircrest; seconded by Barrentine.** George invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. The motion carried (7-0).

**F. Resolution No. 1702: Washington State Department of Ecology Agreement**

Public Works Director Wakefield reported that the grant agreement is for the pretreatment of five Leach Creek outfalls. The staff plans to utilize the Pierce County Flood District matching funds. Wittner **MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1702, authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with WSDOE to accept the grant in the amount of \$313,050.67 for funding the Pretreatment Stormwater Outfalls to Leach Creek; seconded by Barrentine.** George invited Councilmember comments; there was a brief discussion on the staff managing the maintenance and disposal. The staff will develop an in-house program based on the O & M manuals for both short-term and long-term maintenance. George invited public comment; none were provided. The motion carried (7-0).

**G. Resolution No. 1703; Washington Traffic Safety Commission Interagency Agreement**

Acting Police Chief Celis briefed the Council on the emphasis patrol agreement. Wittner **MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1703, authorizing the City Manager to execute an interagency agreement with the Washington Traffic Safety Commission allowing the**

**Fircrest Police Department to assist in multi-jurisdictional DUI, Motorcycle, and Distracted Driving patrols; 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. 1704: Humane Society Contract**

City Manager Pingel reported that the staff knew that a cost increase was coming but there are no other alternative agencies in the area that we could utilize.

Viafore left the meeting at 8:19 P.M. and returned at 8:20 P.M.

**Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1704, authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement between The Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County and the City of Fircrest for animal sheltering and related services through 2023; seconded by Barrentine.** George invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The motion carried (7-0).**

**I. Ordinance No. 1666: Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan**

Planning & Building Administrator Stahlnecker provided a brief history and reported that the duplexes on corner lots would only take effect if approved by zoning, which requires Council approval. Stahlnecker explained that the Planning Commission met and is unsure if they would be able to address the issue anytime soon. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1666, amending the City of Fircrest Comprehensive Plan and amending Ordinance No. 1651, section 1 and FMC 23.04.020; seconded by Waltier.** George invited Councilmember comments; George commented that staff would need to engage the community if we pursue duplexes on corner lots and affordable housing. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The motion carried (7-0).**

**J. Ordinance No. 1667: Amendments to the Fircrest Municipal Code, Title 22 Land Development Code, including the adoption of a form-based code by reference**

Planning & Building Administrator Stahlnecker briefed the Council on the history of Form-based Code and reported that Form-based Code will now mesh with the Fircrest Municipal code. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1667, amending the Fircrest Municipal Code, Title 22 Land Development Code, including the adoption of a form-based code; seconded by Barrentine.** George invited Councilmember comments; comments included thanking the staff, Planning Commission, and community for their effort as this is a big milestone. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The motion carried (7-0).**

**K. Ordinance No. 1668: Repeal of Moratorium**

Stahlnecker reported that after two extensions, we can repeal the moratorium that was passed by Ordinance in 2019. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1668, repealing Ordinance No. 1658 which adopted a six-month extension of the development moratorium; seconded by Barrentine.** George invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The motion carried (7-0).**

**L. Resolution No. 1705: Tacoma Pierce County Health Department Governance**

Mayor George introduced the proposed Resolution and read the proposed Resolution into the record. **Reynolds MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1705, urging the Pierce County Council to postpone the vote to dissolve the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department; seconded by Nixon.** George invited Councilmember comments; discussions were held on the

disappointment of the County Councilmembers for rushing the proposal along without a public process during a worsening pandemic. The dissolution of the Health Department would affect every constituent and there has not been public outreach. George invited public comment; Rick Little, 154 Harvard Street, thanked the Council for speaking out and believes the process was wrong. **The motion carried (7-0).**

**CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS**

Viafore; commented that he would like the City Manager to send correspondence to residents in future updates and asked about the upcoming study session. Pingel reported that there are no agenda items for the upcoming Study Session.

**Viafore MOVED to cancel the study session on December 21, 2020, due to lack of agenda items; seconded by Wittner.** George invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The motion carried (7-0).**

Barrentine; commented about the process to notify the Pierce County Council of the Resolution. Mayor George commented that he and City Clerk Westman will coordinate on ensuring that the Resolution gets submitted as part of the official record.

Reynolds; commented that Pierce County is deemed a medically underserved area and that may be something that needs to be brought to the attention of the County Council.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

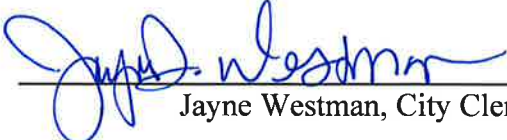
At 8:51 P.M. George reported that the Council would take a five-minute recess and convene into Executive Session, not to exceed thirty (30) minutes to discuss labor negotiations per RCW 42.30.140 and to review the performance of a public employee per RCW 42.30.110

George noted that City Manager Pingel would be joining Council in the Executive Session. At 9:26 P.M., the Council reconvened into regular session

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Viafore MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 P.M., seconded by Barrentine. The Motion Carried (7-0).**

  
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Hunter T. George, Mayor

  
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Jayne Westman, City Clerk