

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

Mayor Pro Tempore Brett L. Wittner called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers David M. Viafore, Shannon Reynolds, B, Joe Barrentine, Mayor Hunter T. George, Denny Waltier, and Jaime Nixon were present.

PRESIDING OFFICER’S REPORT

A. Proclamation: Dysautonomia Awareness Month

Reynolds read the proclamation into the record. **Viafore MOVED to authorize the Mayor’s signature on a proclamation proclaiming the month of October as Dysautonomia Awareness Month; seconded by George.** Wittner invited councilmember comment; none were provided. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

B. Pool & Community Center Project

Parks and Recreation Director Grover briefed the Council on the progress of the Pool and Community Center project and reported that the staff will be receiving Operation and Maintenance manuals for The Pool Company soon and the demolition of the Community Center starts Thursday. Councilmember comments included communicating with neighbors about the upcoming construction and the shipping container covering the roots of a tree at the Community Center.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Pingel updated the Council on upcoming holiday events and asked for feedback on the annual holiday sleigh ride through the city. The consensus was to have the sleigh travel to more streets earlier in the evening and not stop at checkpoints to limit crowding. Pingel also reported that the Paula Larkin Family made a \$125,000 pledge to the Fircrest Parks & Recreation Foundation.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Acting Police Chief Celis introduced the two new police officers, Bill O’Meara and Ed Garcia, and reported that the blood drive was successful. The chief’s new car arrived and is being outfitted and the Community Service Officer Byrd is returning to work tomorrow after an extended leave of absence. Lastly, Celis reported that there will be extra officers on patrol on Halloween and the speed signs were installed.

Planning & building Administrator Stahlnecker briefed the council on the options for the code amendments to allow a digital sign in the right-of-way. There was Council consensus to amend the municipal code to exempt the City from the digital sign requirements. There was a discussion held on the process to make the code amendments and the Council would like to have renderings in place before engaging the public.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Reynolds commented on her concern on the increase in COVID-19 cases and that we need to be prepared to go back into a state of emergency.
- Viafore commented that he would like Parks & Recreation Director Grover to consider leaving the field lights on for visibility and is excited about the new police officers.
- George commented that there is an exit meeting with the Auditor’s office Wednesday, an Investment Committee meeting Friday and he will be meeting with the new Executive Director

at the Names Foundation. George also reported that will be reaching out to the new General Manager at the Fircrest Golf Club and asked the Council to check their emails as he has forwarded emails from citizens about social justice issues. Lastly, he thanked the attendees and reminded the staff to put notices over the utility payment box, so ballots do not end up in there.

- Wittner thanked the attendees and reminded everyone to vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Wittner invited Public comments; the following individuals provided comment:

Nancy Atwood, 1204 Farallone Ave, commented that Pierce County is having a meeting on November 16th to discuss the sustainability plan and hopes to have Council support and represent Fircrest at the meeting

Vincent Navarre, 1205 Del Monte Ave, commented that he does not support the Town Topics article from the Mayor and believes the article is one-sided.

Brian Rybolt, 1036 Daniels Drive, commented appreciated Councilmember Wittner' s commitment to Fircrest and for doing good work as an elected official. Rybolt also commented that he did not agree with the Mayor's column in Town Topics.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Parks & Recreation

Reynolds; no report at this time.

B. Pierce County Regional Council

Reynolds; PCRC met and conducted four months of business and will meet again next month. The Port of Tacoma topic was tabled, and legislative agendas were passed on that mentioned transportation and the Public Works trust fund.

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. 215617 through Voucher Check No. 215679 in the amount of \$750,688.12; approval of Payroll Check No. 13972 through Payroll Check No. 13972 in the amount of \$104,652.71; approval of the October 5, 2020, Study Session Minutes; approval of the October 13, 2020, Regular Meeting Minutes; **Viafore MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as read; seconded by Reynolds**
The Motion Carried (7-0).

PUBLIC HEARING

A. To receive comments on the 2021 Preliminary Expenditures

At 7:58 P.M., Wittner opened the public hearing. Finance Director Corcoran briefed the Council on the Preliminary 2020 Budget, stating the public hearing was to receive comments on the Preliminary expenditures. Corcoran highlighted that the preliminary budget accounted for a 7% increase in medical however, the actual increase will be 4% and the savings on utility costs will be

roughly \$14,000 with the community center being demolished but would like to leave the figure in place as a cushion. City Manager Pingel updated the Council on the proposed on-call pay for the Public Works crew which assigns a rotating worker to be on-call for one week. The cost will be roughly \$15,768 that will be divided among four funds. Wittner invited councilmember comments; Viafore commented that he would like to see emphasis patrol added to the budget and use the patrol hours for community engagement. There was Council consensus to add \$20,000 for community emphasis patrol. Waltier commented on his support of an on-call worker and to not use the after-hours call service. George invited public testimony; none were provided. At 8:13 P.M., Wittner closed the public hearing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Information Only: 3rd Quarter Financial Review

Finance Director Corcoran presented the 3rd quarter report and highlighted the revenue year to year. There have been some revenue impacts from COVID-19 including Court revenue, passport revenue, Recreation fees, rentals, and interest revenue. Sales Tax has been higher than anticipated and expenditures are 10% lower than budgeted and there is ^4,000 in delinquent property taxes. Viafore commented that we may be able to eliminate the Cumulative Reserve – Street fund as we no longer need it.

B. Resolution No. 1684: Springbrook Software Agreement

Corcoran briefed the Council on the proposed professional services agreement with Springbrook Software, formally BIAS Software, to provide software support for Springbrook Software applications for the year 2021. **Viafore MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1684, authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with Springbrook Software to provide software support for Springbrook software applications for the year 2021; seconded by Reynolds.** Wittner invited councilmember comment; none were provided. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

- Viafore commented that he has been walking in the business district and the assistance grants are making a difference and positive impact.
- Waltier thanked Mr. Navarre for his comments.
- George asked the Council why they are thanking Mr. Navarre for his comments. Viafore expressed his desire to learn more and appreciated a different perspective. Reynolds commented that she understands that it is difficult for the public to come forward on controversial topics and wants to encourage engaging the residents.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:38 P.M. George reported that the Council would take a five-minute recess and convene into Executive Session, not to exceed 9:15 P.M., to discuss labor negotiations per RCW 42.30.110. Wittner noted that City Manager Pingel would be joining Council in the Executive Session.

At 9:07 P.M., the Council reconvened into regular session.

October 27, 2020

Fircrest City Council Meeting Minutes – Regular 4

ADJOURNMENT

Reynolds MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 P.M., seconded by Barrentine. The Motion Carried (7-0).



Brett L. Wittner, Mayor Pro Tempore



Jayne Westman, City Clerk