

**CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor Hunter T. George called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 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. Community Center and Pool Project**

Grover briefed the Council on the progress of the Pool & Community Center Project and indicated that Kassel is still completing punch list items on the pool & bathhouse portion. Kassel is pouring the footing drains and generator pad at the Community Center. There was a brief discussion on obtaining grant funds for the cost of the generator pad and on the interior finishes for the Community Center. City Manager Pingel updated the Council on the potential number of donor names for the donor walls and reported the staff will continue to seek grant funds from the Department of Emergency Management for the generator.

Mayor George reported that a constituent asked about graffiti and pool programming and the staff has answered his questions by email. George reminded the Council that the Joint Meeting will be on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and he will not be able to make it. Mayor Pro Tem Wittner will preside. The joint meeting will address the 2021 work plan for the Planning Commission and a tentative work plan priority is to examine the development code for racial bias.

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

George invited public comment; none were provided.

**COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS**

**A. Parks & Recreation**

Barrentine reported that the Recreation Software will soft-launch soon and asked for Council and Staff participation as beta testers. The ‘What Makes Your Heart Happy’ event is going on now and is spreading positivity. Reynolds commented that she would recommend the Council invest in a Pool Manager as the City has had one in the past.

**B. Pierce County Regional Council**

Reynolds: no report provided.

**C. Public Safety, Courts**

Reynolds reported that the Police Department provided support at the Tacoma riots. There has been a string of burglaries recently and the officers continue to investigate.

**D. Street, Water, Sewer, and Storm Drain**

Waltier reported that he is excited to meet the new Public Works Director.

**E. Other Liaison Reports**

None were provided.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

George requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar: approval of Voucher No. 216027 through Voucher Check No. 216075 in the amount of \$250,182.81; approval of Payroll Check No. 14008 through Payroll Check No. 14008 in the amount of \$120,817.38; approval of the January 12,

2021, Regular Meeting minutes. **Wittner MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as read; seconded by Barrentine. The Motion Carried (7-0).**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

George opened the public hearing at 7:20 P.M. City Manager Pingel briefed the Council on the proposed new solid waste rates and the methodology changes for future rate increases stating that the purpose of the public hearing was to receive comments on rate adjustment. George invited councilmember comments; discussion included thanking the staff and Westside Disposal for working together effectively. Westside Disposal and the Citizens of Fircrest both benefit. Lastly, there was a compliment to Councilmember Viafore for initiating the conversation about a contract extension. George invited public testimony; Neil Holden, Westside Disposal, commented that Westside has been committed members of our community and they have a long-tenured staff. George closed the public hearing at 7:30 P.M.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was none.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Resolution No 1708: Council Rules of Procedures Amendments**

Pingel briefed the Council on the proposed resolution amending Rule 20, which changes the regular meeting agenda order. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1708, rescinding Resolution No. 1649 relating to City Council Rules of Procedures and adopting new City Council Rules of Procedures; seconded by Barrentine.** 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 reported that he has been in touch with the legislative delegation to discuss the RCO Grant and the State capital budget. Pingel asked both Nobles and Leavitt to push for funding for Fircrest’s projects. The Council asked Pingel to extend an invitation to both legislators to meet the Council at a future meeting.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

- Police Chief Cheesman reported that he intends to start spotlighting an officer on Facebook in hopes of promoting community involvement. Cheesman reported that the Fircrest Police Department is a certified Law Enforcement Agency and meets all the minimum certifications recommended by President Biden. There was a brief discussion on the graffiti and Cheesman reported that the officers have contacted each of the homes and have canvassed the streets looking for leads and surveillance footage. Public Works is assisting with the clean-up.
- Parks & Recreation Director Grover reported that the Sons & Daughters of Italy will no longer maintain the bocce ball courts and the staff is working on ideas for repurposing the courts. Lastly, Grover reported that he continues to work on the readerboard option and will be bringing back options to a future meeting.

**COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

- Nixon; no comments provided.
- Waltier thanked Public Works Director Wakefield for his great work at the City.

- Barrentine thanked the audience for their attendance.
- Wittner thanked Public Works Director Wakefield for his contribution to the City.
- Reynolds provided a COVID-19 update and reported that the hospitalization rates are improving and there will be a pop-up vaccination clinic coming to University place Pediatrics, which is in the Town Center off Regents Boulevard. George commented that FEMA announced that they will deploy people to aid in the vaccine distribution.
- Viafore thanked Public Works Director Wakefield for his work at the City and he is looking forward to the new Director, Tyler Bemis. Bemis is local to the Fircrest area. Viafore commented that he is not fond of the color options available for the Community Center and is concerned about the finish choices becoming a maintenance issue. Lastly, Viafore thanked Chief Cheesman for being a great example of community policing and is excited the Fircrest Parks & Recreation Foundation getting off to a good start.
- Mayor George thanked Public Works Director Wakefield for his 7-plus years of great work and also thanked the Police Department for being so involved and being willing to be apart of the Facebook ‘spotlight an officer’. Lastly, George commented that the Fircrest Parks & Recreation Foundation has approximately 59 donors to date.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:10 P.M., Council convened into Executive Session after a five-minute recess, not to exceed 30 minutes, to discuss the performance of a public employee pursuant to RCW 42.30.110. George noted that no further action would take place other than adjournment.

At 8:40 P.M., George announced the Council would continue the Executive Session until 9:00 P.M.

The Council reconvened into regular session at 9:01 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Viafore MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 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