

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

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**

Mayor George introduced the incoming Public Works Director, Tyler Bemis. Tyler will be starting his new position with the City on Friday, February 26, 2021. Councilmembers Waltier and Viafore welcomed Tyler.

**A. Community Center and Pool Project**

Grover briefed the Council on the progress of the Pool & Community Center Project and indicated that Kassel is pouring concrete at the Community Center and the vertical posts are going up. There was a brief discussion on the timeliness of completing the punch list items at the Pool & Bathhouse. There is growing frustration with the building still not being completed.

Parks & Recreation Director Grover presented the baseball season guidelines and draft procedures. There was discussion regarding the language change from, “should” to “shall” to ensure compliance and Director Grover indicated that he would make the necessary changes for the final version. Grover reported that the bathroom will remain open for public use and will be cleaned daily. Council requested a list of the sports risk assessment provided by the State and City Manager Pingel will provide guidance in a future update.

Lastly, Grover provided an update to hiring seasonal pool staff and reported that they are reviewing capacity, PPE, and State requirements to allow for a swim season. There was a brief discussion on utilizing the Red Cross resources to ensure COVID-19 protocols are being followed to protect swimmers and staff.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

City Manager Pingel briefed the Council on the requested legal opinion brought forth at the February 16, 2021, Study Session. City Attorney Michael B. Smith reported that it would not be recommended to require proof of vaccination to participate in youth activities.

Pingel briefed the Council on a proposed presentation from Sound Transit at a future meeting and there was consensus to have Sound Transit provide an update that can be included in a future City Manager update rather than have a presentation.

Lastly, Pingel reported that Senate Bill 5226 may have revenue impacts to the Court if signed into law. Pingel reported that there is limited information available and he will report back to the Council with more robust information to inform the discussion. AWC has opposed the Bill. There was a discussion about inviting the delegation to come to speak to the Council and passing a Resolution to oppose the Bill.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

- Police Chief Cheesman provided an update of the recent police activities and reported that he and his staff continue to participate in audits.

**COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

- Nixon; no comments provided.

- Waltier welcomed Public Works Director Bemis and thanked Acting Public Works Director Davis and the Public Works crew for all the extra work maintaining the streets during the recent snow event.
- Barrentine welcomed Public Works Director Bemis and gave thanks to Community Events Specialist Schmidtke and the staff for the Heart Happy Event. It spread positivity within the community. Lastly, Barrentine thanks the Public Works Crew for their efforts with snow removal.
- Wittner thanked the staff for recognizing Ken Still Day on the Facebook and readerboard.
- Reynolds provided a COVID-19 update and reported that the cases are trending down. She updated the Council that 6% of the population is vaccinated and that joblessness figures are still high. Lastly, Reynolds asked that the Council and the Staff be ready to act if more Federal funds come to the City.
- Viafore welcomed Public Works Director Bemis and asked about the streetlight at the 700 block of Regents. Viafore reported that he will ask the Council to move \$250,000 to Cumulative Reserves when the next budget adjustment is presented.
- Mayor George welcomed Public Works Director Bemis and reported that more Federal funds may be coming and looks forward to additional grant assistance programs. Lastly, George thanked the attendees for joining.

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

George invited public comment. The following individual provided public comment:

- Brian Rybolt, 1036 Daniels Drive, expressed he did not agree with three Council members’ decision to endorse Senator T’wina Nobles during the November election and Nobles is a sponsor of Senate Bill 5226.

**COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS**

**A. Parks & Recreation**

Barrentine reported that the Tot Lot work is in progress and the tire swing has been ordered. The RecDesk trial will start next week and they attended a walk-thru yesterday. The ‘What Makes Your Heart Happy’ event is going until the end of the month and the St. Patrick’s Day event; Medallion Madness will be coming in March.

George briefly commented that Fircrest Park Playground is open, signs are up, and it is being cleaned daily.

Reynolds briefly commented that the staff could utilize the feedback from RecDesk users who frequent the site and when new features are added, we could use them as beta testers.

**B. Pierce County Regional Council**

Reynolds reported that she attended the general assembly last week and the budget has not been adopted yet. PCRC may recycle the dues paid by cities due to saving from not having in-person meetings. Lastly, Reynolds reported that the City received the platinum level Tacoma Pierce County Health Department Award for the new Pool & Bathhouse, and we have received an award three out of the last four years.

George recommended that we apply for the Community Center as well.

**C. Public Safety, Courts**

Reynolds reported that the Police Chief Cheesman has been busy received awards for his volunteerism in various committees. Cheesman updated the Council that he awarded a letter of

commendation to Officer John Roberts for his hard work helping a resident through an identity theft case. Lastly, Cheesman reported that the pharmacy case is still pending.

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

Waltier; no report provided

**E. Other Liaison Reports**

None were provided.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

George requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar: approval of Voucher No. 216138 through Voucher Check No. 216178 in the amount of \$1,064,007.60; approval of Payroll Check No. 14020 through Payroll Check No. 14020 in the amount of \$121,601.85; approval of the February 2, 2021, Special Meeting minutes; approval of the February 9, 2021, Regular Meeting minutes; registering no objections to the Fircrest Golf Club liquor license renewal. **Waltier MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as read; seconded by Reynolds. The Motion Carried (7-0).**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

No Public Hearing was scheduled.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was none.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Resolution No 1710: Point & Pay, LLC, Credit Card Services Agreement**

Court Administrator Perry provided an overview of the proposed agreement and noted that the customer service and fees charged to the court participants will improve with Point & Pay, LLC as nCourt did not meet our level of service. **Viafore MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1710, authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement for credit card services with Point & Pay, LLC; seconded by Barrentine.** George invited councilmember comment; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

**B. Resolution No. 1711: GeoEngineers Contract Amendment**

City Manager Pingel briefed the Council on the proposed contract amendment and highlighted that the amendment includes additional work not accounted for with the removal of the old kiddie pool. **Viafore MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1711, authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment #2 to the Geotechnical Services Contract with GeoEngineers, Inc. for the Community Center project; seconded by Reynolds.** George invited councilmember comment; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

**C. End of Year 2020 Financial Report**

Finance Director Corcoran provided an overview of the year-end report and highlighted that all funds, but sewer increased in 2020 with a \$186,000 positive net revenue to expenditures and the Ending Fund Balance increased by a net of \$379,634. The City fared well through COVID-19 to date and sales tax increased. Corcoran reported that the City distributed almost \$17,000 in rental assistance and \$ 203,000 in business assistance through grants during 2020. There was a discussion held on the financial well-being of the City and the desire to move \$250,000 to

cumulative reserves during the upcoming budget adjustment. It was suggested that the City engage with the community to understand how sales tax impacts the City, especially with online sales.

**CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS**


Barrentine; suggested that the City engage with the community to help residents understand how sales tax impacts the City, especially with online sales.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

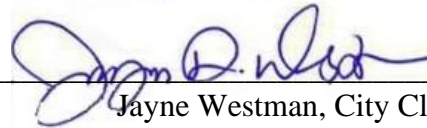
No executive session was scheduled.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Reynolds MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 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