

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

Mayor George called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers David M. Viafore, Shannon Reynolds, Joe Barrentine, and Jamie Nixon were present. Councilmembers Brett Wittner and Denny Waltier were absent and excused.

**PRESIDING OFFICER’S REPORT**

**A. Community Center and Pool Project**

City Manager Pingel briefed the Council on the progress of the Community Center construction project and reported that the beams and framing are going up. Kassel is still completing punch list items at the Pool & Bathhouse. The staff hopes to have the closeout paperwork soon. There was a discussion regarding the occupancy permits. Viafore asked why the City does not issue occupancy permits like other jurisdictions. Pingel reported that he will report back to the Council with more information in a future update.

Mayor George reported that Ryan Mello who represents the 4<sup>th</sup> District of the County Council reached out to ask about the Pool and Community Center Project and the project funding. Lastly, Rep. Mari Leavitt reached out and it appears that the items in the Capital Budget will be funded. Mayor George asked that the Council read the SSHAP information that was provided in their packets.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

**A. American Rescue Plan Funds Proposal & Discussion**

City Manager Pingel reported that with the passing of the Federal American Rescue Plan the City may be eligible to receive substantial funds that can be used until 2024. Pingel would like the Council to inform the discussion so that the City is prepared to act as soon as the funds are available. Pingel highlighted the direction that staff believes the City should apply the funding, which includes assistance to utility customers, renters, and businesses. It was also discussed that the City should invest in Council Chambers upgrades, City buildings HVAC systems, and prioritizing constituents first. Lastly, Pingel reported that the City can also use funds for water and sewer infrastructure projects.

**B. City Council Retreat/ Workshop**

Pingel provided a brief overview of the prior workshops and informed the Council that due to COVID-19 in-person retreat or workshop may not be feasible. He asked for Council feedback to help inform the decision. Council consensus was to move forward with goal setting but to hold off on a retreat until after restrictions are lifted.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

- Public Works Director Bemis reported that the Draft Comprehensive Stormwater Plan is on the website and that the Public Works staff is prioritizing summer programs and projects.

**COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

- Nixon; no comments provided.
- Barrentine thanked the Parks & Recreation staff for the great events.
- Reynolds commented that she is concerned with the new variants of COVID-19 and the case counts for Pierce County. Pierce County failed two metrics of the reopening plan which moved

the county back to Phase II. Reynolds asked that the City look at any scheduled events and reopening's and relying on vaccines is not enough to stop the spread of COVID-19.

- Viafore commented that he is concerned about the COVID-19 trends in the County, and we are moving in the wrong direction. He is concerned about the Pool grand opening celebration and thanked Reynolds for the COVID-19 update. Viafore is excited about the potential assistance programs the City can administer with Federal funding. Lastly, Viafore is concerned about the conditions of the streets around Regents Blvd and asked that the staff look for grants to resurface the streets. Viafore asked that the Staff remind the Community Center contractor of the approved truck route.

Reynolds commented that she is concerned about the Tot Lot reopening and observed mask noncompliance. She asked that the Tot Lot be closed for the next two weeks. A discussion was held on increasing signage, monitoring the compliance, and shutting it down until June when vaccines are available to those 16 and over. There was Council consensus to leave the Tot Lot open for now and to bring the discussion back to the Study Session on April 19, 2021.

Viafore left the meeting at 8;14 p.m. and returned at 8:16 p.m.

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

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

- Nancy Atwood, 1204 Farallone Ave, commented that the Council should consider closing the Tot Lot.

#### **COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS**

##### **A. Administration**

Viafore; no report provided.

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

Nixon; no report provided.

##### **C. Finance, IT, Facilities**

Wittner; absent.

##### **D. Other Liaison Reports**

Barrentine reported that the Rec Desk registration program has been working well and we have 612 registered accounts and 192 baseball registrants.

Reynolds reported that Fircrest resident Nancy Atwood will attend the PCRC climate meeting.

#### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

George requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar: approval of Voucher No. 216283 through Voucher Check No. 216368 in the amount of \$839,660.26; approval of Payroll Check No. 14034 through Payroll Check No. 14037 in the amount of \$8,298.14; approval of Payroll Check No. 14033 through Payroll Check No. 14033 in the amount of \$123,389.34; approval of Payroll Check No. 14038 through Payroll Check No. 14043 in the amount of \$55,367.62; approval of Payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$124,098.91; and approval of March 23, 2021, Regular

Meeting minutes as corrected; **Viafore MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as read; seconded by Nixon. The Motion Carried (5-0).**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

No public hearing was scheduled.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Resolution No. 1712: Approval of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Amendment to MOA CC-91901 Between Pierce County and the City of Fircrest**

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the third amendment to the Pierce County Memorandum of Agreement stating that the purpose of the amendment is to expand the use of Pierce County's services as they have the specialized equipment that will aid the City in complying with the requirements of the NPDES permit. **Barrentine MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1712, authorizing the City Manager to execute a third amendment to the Memorandum of Agreement CC-91901 between Pierce County Maintenance & Operation and the City of Fircrest; seconded by Viafore.** George invited councilmember comment; there was a brief discussion on the total approved amount covering the additional service and the sidewalk condition along Emerson. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (5-0).**

**CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS**

George congratulated Councilmember Nixon on his new position as Communications Director of the Washington State Redistricting Commission and commented that the pool celebration committee will be having serious conversations about the reopening at tomorrow's meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:43 P.M. George reported that the Council would take a three-minute recess and convene into Executive Session, not to exceed twenty (20) minutes to review the performance of a public employee per RCW 42.30.110 (g).

Viafore was excused from the meeting at 8:43 p.m. and did not return.

At 8:43 P.M., the Council reconvened into regular session

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Reynolds MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 P.M., seconded by Nixon. The Motion Carried (4-0).**

  
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Hunter T. George, Mayor

APRIL 13, 2021

FIRCREST CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR 4

  
Jayne Westman, City Clerk