

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Hunter T. George called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers David M Viafore, Shannon Reynolds, Brett Wittner, and Joe Barrentine were present. Councilmembers Denny Waltier and Jamie Nixon were absent and excused.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT

A. Proclamation: Arbor Day

George introduced the Arbor Day proclamation and Reynolds read the proclamation into the record. **Viafore moved to authorize the Mayor's signature on a proclamation proclaiming the last Friday of April as Arbor Day in the City of Fircrest; seconded by Barrentine.** George invited councilmember comment; George commented that Councilmember Reynolds has been working hard to make progress towards earning a Tree City designation. Reynolds commented that she hopes to earn the designation as a Tree City soon and broaden the scope of environmental policy at the City. George invited public comment; there were none. **The Motion Carried (5-0).**

B. Pool & Community Center Project

Parks & Recreation Director Grover briefed the Council on the progress on the punch list items at the Pool & Bathhouse. There is only one item left. He also updated the Council on the current state of construction at the Community Center, noting that framing will continue through next month and electrical will be starting next week.

C. Pool Grand Opening Celebration & Committee Appointments

George reported that he wishes to formalize a committee under the adopted Council Rules of Procedures Rule 23. George reported that he along with City staff and the Council liaisons to Parks & Recreation and Administration have met twice to discuss the grand opening celebration of the Edwards Family Aquatic Center. He asked that Council hold the dates of May 23rd and May 28th for future events. There will be more information coming at a future meeting.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

A. Tot Lot Discussion

City Manager Pingel briefed the Council on the current Phase 3 transition and wanted to gauge interest in reopening the Tot Lot. There was a discussion held on the mask and social distancing requirements and the desire to close the Tot Lot again if there is a spike in cases. There was a Council consensus to reopen the Tot Lot. **Viafore moved to authorize the staff to open the Tot Lot per the CDC guidance no later than April 1, 2021; seconded by Wittner.** George invited councilmember comment; Barrentine reported that the tire swing is on order and the temporary fencing will stay up as the grass grows. George invited public comment; the following individuals commented:

- Anna Hunthausen, 1210 West Mount Drive, commented on her support to reopen the Tot Lot and asked what the hours will be. Grover reported that hours have not been set for 2021.
- Sarah Sherman, 1205 Del Monte Ave, commented on her concern for over-policing, asked about the CDC guidance on parks, and asked what the substance staff is that staff will be spraying on the equipment.

Parks & Recreation Director Grover reported that signage will list MSDS data, and the disinfectant is hydrogen peroxide-based, and the CDC guidance is 6-foot social distancing for parks.

- Rick Little, 1037 Fir Park Lane, commented on his support to reopen the Tot Lot and asked if there will be signage at the Tot Lot. Grover reported that yes, there will be signage in place before opening.

Upon vote, the Motion Carried (5-0).

Pingel briefed the Council on the Donor wall layout and the anticipated cost of \$35,000 for both walls. There was a brief discussion held on the dollar limit for the bidding requirements to be waived. It was reported that the limit is \$40,000 for a single craft and \$65,000 for multicraft.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Police Chief Cheesman provided an update that staff will be conducting interviews for the CSO I position tomorrow and thanked City Clerk Westman for her assistance with the hiring process.
- Public Works Director Bemis reported that we have 2400 water meters and the department hopes to have the water meter project completed by the end of the year or in early 2022. The new water meter reading software is in place to read the data.
- Planning & Building Administrator Stahlnecker reported that a developer has inquired about the R-4C property along Orchard St. Currently, there is a two-story height limit. Stahlnecker inquired if the Council had an interest in increasing allowed heights in that zone. There was a discussion regarding moving the proposal to the Planning Commission for review and concern about 3-story buildings impacting the neighborhood. Councilmember Wittner reported that his law firm represented one of the parties and asked the City Attorney for a legal opinion on recusing himself. City Attorney Michael B. Smith reported that Wittner does not need to recuse himself at this point.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Viafore commented on staff returning to the city and ending telecommuting.
- Reynolds reported that Pierce County is still considered High-Risk for COVID-19 infections.
- Wittner thanked the attendees for joining the meeting.
- Barrentine commented on his concern regarding the actions of Pierce County Sheriff Troyer. There was a Council discussion regarding waiting until more information is provided, and the County will investigate the incident. Lastly, Barrentine commented on his excitement for the grand opening of the pool.
- Mayor George thanked the Parks & Recreation staff for the Medallion Madness event and also thanked the sponsor Optimum Physical Therapy.

Councilmember Viafore left the meeting at 7:54 pm and returned at 7:56 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

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

- Anthony Chelf, 813 Electron Way, commented that he is concerned about the Seattle Times story about Sheriff Troyer and his 911 call.

- Yolonda Brooks, 6464 19th Street W #C, asked if our Fircrest Police Officers responded to the call that Sherriff Troyer made.
Chief Cheesman reported that Fircrest Police Department did not respond to the call.
- Rick Little, 1037 Fir Park Lane, asked if the endowment donors would be invited to the Pool Celebration.
It was reported that yes, the endowment donors would be invited.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Parks & Recreation

Barrentine reported that there are currently 230 accounts registered with the new RecDesk program. Baseball season registration has opened and there are 14 registrants. Barrentine gave kudos to the Staff. Lastly, Barrentine reported that the City is hiring lifeguards and to spread the word to those who may be interested. Reynolds asked if the City will be accepting suspended lifeguard licensing due to the limited classes available and offered her services to help certify lifeguards for the swim season. Viafore asked if the bathrooms will be open. Grover reported that the bathrooms will be open for baseball season. There was a brief discussion held on unsanctioned soccer practices at Whittier Park.

B. Pierce County Regional Council

Reynolds reported that Mayor Lucas passed away during the last PCRC meeting and that resident Nancy Atwood will be attending the next meeting to discuss climate change issues and the 2050 Plan.

C. Public Safety, Courts

Reynolds reported that Officer O’Meara has resigned, and Officer Garcia passed his probation. Lastly, the Police Department will be helping the local school conduct drills.

D. Street, Water, Sewer, and Storm Drain

Waltier was absent.

E. Other Liaison Reports

George reported that Representative Leavitt reached out regarding HB 1362, the 1% limit on property taxes. The Bill would tie the limits to the Cost-of-Living Index. If Council has comments regarding HB 1362, please inform the City Manager.

CONSENT CALENDAR

George requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar: approval of Voucher No. 216227 through Voucher Check No. 216282 in the amount of \$656,520.70; approval of Payroll Check No. 14032 through Payroll Check No. 14032 in the amount of \$119,727.63; approval of the March 9, 2021, Regular Meeting minutes; approval of the March 15, 2021, Study Session minutes; registering no objections to the Stina’s Cellars liquor license renewal. **Wittner MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as read; seconded by Viafore. The Motion Carried (5-0).**

PUBLIC HEARING

No Public Hearing was scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Ordinance No. 1672: Budget Amendment, 2nd Reading for Adoption

Finance Director Corcoran briefed the Council on the second reading of the budget adjustment to the Adopted 2021 Budget and reported on the request for additional appropriations for anticipated revenues and expenditures not provided for in the Adopted 2021 Budget. Corcoran reported that it would take all present Councilmember to support the amendment to pass by a supermajority. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1672, authorizing revenues and expenditures of funds for matters not provided for in the Adopted 2021 Budget; seconded by Barrentine.** George invited councilmember comment; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (5-0).**

B. Ordinance No. 1673: Amendments to FMC 22.26.023 wall signs

Planning & Building Administrator Stahlnecker briefed the Council on the Ordinance and corrected the agenda summary that comments were received during the public hearing held on March 13, 2021. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1673, amending Fircrest Municipal Code 22.26.023 and Section 23 of Ordinance No. 1598, Wall Signs; seconded by Barrentine.** George invited councilmember comment; there was a brief discussion on exempting the City or obtaining a variance from the FMC requirements instead of making a code change. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (4-1 with Viafore dissenting).**

C. 2020 Police Report

Police Chief Cheesman presented the 2020 Police Report detailing yearly statistics and provided details about the community involvement the Police Department engages in throughout the year.

Councilmember Viafore left the meeting at 8:35 pm and returned at 8:37 pm.

Council comments were thanking the Police Department and all that they do for our community. George invited public comment; Yolonda Brooks, 6464 19th St W # C, commented on her support of the Police Department and asked that Chief Cheesman host a 'Meet the Chief' event at the apartment complex she lives in. Lastly, she thanked Cheesman for meeting with Pastor Christopher.

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

Wittner; commented that next year, he will have to get up earlier to find a medallion during the Medallion Madness event.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was scheduled.

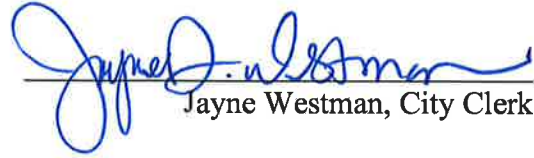
ADJOURNMENT

Reynolds MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 P.M., seconded by Barrentine. The Motion Carried (5-0).

MARCH 23, 2021

FIRCREST CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR 5


Hunter T. George, Mayor


Jayne Westman, City Clerk