

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

Mayor 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 Marc Rieke were present.

PRESIDING OFFICER’S REPORT

A. Introduction of Councilmember Rieke

Mayor George introduced and welcomed Councilmember Rieke to his first regular meeting as a Councilmember.

B. Report from Legislative Delegation

Rep. Bronoske, Rep. Leavitt, and Sen. Nobles provided updates on the 2021 Legislative Session and noted that the session was more accessible with much of the session being held remotely. The session prioritized assistance programs, mental health initiatives, and law enforcement reform. Rep. Leavitt reported that Washington State is now a Purple Heart State which honors and recognizes our armed forces. Council discussions included the state-wide standardization of policing policies and continuing to find ways to support our elderly community members. The Council thanked the delegation for helping fund the water meter replacement project, and for attending the pool grand opening.

C. Community Center and Pool Project

Grover reported that sprinklers are being installed and the chlorine supply is back to normal. There were discussions held on the suspicious people around the new community center area and the delay in repairing the pool vortex. Grover reported that the pool representative will be on-site next week. There was concern that the vortex may not be fixed before the pool closes for the season and the staff may want to seek legal counsel to explore the options to expedite the repairs.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

A. Tacoma Fire Changes Discussion

Pingel provided a brief overview of the Emergency Medical Services levy renewal. Pingel will be reporting more information soon and that he will ask for Council involvement as the staff moves forward. There was a brief discussion regarding concern for our senior residents and the contract language which delineates the building space allocation.

Pingel reported that the Council must allow remote participation at Council meetings under the current Governor proclamation and in-person meetings are optional. Pingel recommended that remote Council meetings continue as the City does not currently have the technology in place to allow for a hybrid meeting option. There was support for the recommendation as there have been more attendees with the remote option being available.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Police Chief Cheesman reported that the officers continue an emphasis patrol at the pool and reported that the pool and buildings around the pool may be targets of vandalism or theft.
- Public Works Director Bemis reported that the water meter replacements continue, and the department is planning to ramp up installation in early 2022. There was a discussion held on the

Electron Way hole in the street and Bemis reported that the crew is tapping into the line for the Community Center meter.

- Finance Director Corcoran reported that Office Assistant Barbara Gollinger will be retiring on July 16, 2021, and the City wishes her luck in her future endeavors.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Viafore thanked Mr. Comfort for his attendance and reported that the Comfort family has represented the City for over 40 years. Viafore commented on the Covid assistance programs and the desire to help the community members. Lastly, Viafore congratulated Barbara Gollinger on her retirement and commented that she provided great customer service to our residents.
- Reynolds commented that she would like to see the City begin to budget for climate change initiatives and that she would like to see the Police vehicles be outfitted with AEDs. Reynolds reported that PCRC will meet next week, and housing affordability remains a top priority. Lastly, Reynolds reported that the Delta variant is very contagious and nationwide, there is a 50% vaccination rate.
- Wittner welcomed Councilmember Rieke, thanked Mr. Comfort for his attendance, and thanked Mayor George for bringing up the vortex issue.
- Barrentine; no comments provided.
- Waltier welcomed Councilmember Rieke and is also concerned about the vortex.
- Rieke thanked the staff for the assistance to date and that there were great candidates for the vacancy. Rieke commented that he is honored to be appointed to the Council.
- George reported that the SSHAP agreement has been finalized and that more information will be coming to a future meeting. George commented that he would like to discuss the enforcement options for the Fourth of July fireworks next year. Lastly, George congratulated Office Assistant Barbara Gollinger on her retirement and commented that she was an asset in the City's fundraising efforts.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

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

- Yolonda Brooks, 6464 19th Street W #C, welcomed Councilmember Rieke and thanked the staff for opening City Hall during the heatwave.
- Brian Rybolt, 1036 Daniels Drive, commented that he is concerned about the tax burden on our senior community members and thanked Representatives Bronoske and Leavitt. Lastly, Rybolt commented that he would like to see the Council meetings return to in-person meetings.
- Deanna Nuttbrock-Allen, 1222 Contra Costa Ave, commented that she is representing the Whittier PTA and commented that there were signs posted about unity and celebration around the school, and the signs were stolen or vandalized.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Administration

Viafore reported that he and the City Manager will interview the City Attorney candidates.

B. Environmental, Planning, and Building

Rieke reported that the Planning & Building counter continues to serve our community members and the department is happy to have the buildings open.

C. Finance, IT, Facilities

Wittner; no report provided.

D. Other Liaison Reports

There were none.

CONSENT CALENDAR

George requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar: approval of Voucher No. 6208 through Voucher Check No. 6208 in the amount of \$8,144.18; approval of Voucher No. 216669 through Voucher Check No. 216743 in the amount of \$155,103.44; approval of Payroll Check No. 14064 through Payroll Check No. 14066 in the amount of \$8,086.62; approval of Payroll Check No. 14067 through Payroll Check No. 14072 in the amount of \$57,318.88; approval of Payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$141,129.14; approval of June 21, 2021, Study Session Meeting minutes; and approval of June 22, 2021, Regular Meeting minutes as corrected; **Reynolds MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as read; seconded by Wittner. The Motion Carried (7-0).**

PUBLIC HEARING

A. To receive comments on the 6-Year Transportation Improvement Plan

At 8:21 P.M., George opened the public hearing. Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the 6-Year Transportation Improvement Plan, stating that it is a planning document that is used to identify projects and funding. George invited councilmember comments; Viafore commented that he would like to see the city work with Tacoma to improve the intersection of Center Street and Orchard Street. Lastly, Viafore is concerned with the cost of the retaining wall being too low. Bemis reported that the cost was for design only and the project cost will be \$453,000 in total. George invited public testimony; no testimony was provided. At 8:28 P.M., George closed the public hearing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution No. 1716: Department of Assigned Counsel Agreement

City Manager Pingel briefed the Council on the proposed Resolution and reported that the contract term is 2023. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1716, authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement for Public Defense Services with Pierce County for indigent legal defense services; seconded by Viafore.** George invited councilmember comments; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

B. Motion: Approval of Water Meter Upgrade Purchase

Bemis provided an overview of the proposed purchase of the remaining water meters and noted that by purchasing now before the cost increase, the City will save roughly \$50,000. **Wittner MOVED to authorize the City Manager to purchase of additional Kamstrup AMI Water Meters to complete the City's Water Meter Upgrade Project in the amount of \$420,850.00 plus sales tax.; seconded by Waltier.** George invited councilmember comments; Viafore asked what the shipping costs will be and if the City can use ARPA funds.

Bemis reported that he will have to confirm with the vendor but believes that there was no cost to ship the meters. Bemis also confirmed that the City can use ARPA funds for the purchase. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

Viafore commented that he is impressed with Director Bemis.

Councilmember Waltier left the meeting at 8:36 P.M. and did not return.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. At 8:38 P.M. George reported that the Council would take a five-minute recess and convene into Executive Session, not to exceed 60 minutes, to consider the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price per RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) and to review the performance of a public employee per RCW 42.30.110(g). George invited City Manager Pingel and Nicholas Carr to join the Executive Session.

At 9:24 P.M., the Council reconvened into regular session.

ADJOURNMENT

Reynolds **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 P.M., seconded by Wittner. **The Motion Carried (6-0).**



Hunter T. George, Mayor



Jayne Westman, City Clerk