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

Mayor Hunter George called the study session to order at 7:01 P.M. and led the pledge of allegiance. Councilmembers David M. Viafore, Shannon Reynolds, Brett Wittner, Joe Barrentine, and Marc Rieke were present.

**PRESIDING OFFICER’S REPORT**

1. **Community Center Project Update**

Grover reported that there are supply chain issues on the glass exterior doors. Grover reported that installations are on schedule to include; exterior siding, gym basketball, and exterior windows. The stairs leading from the plaza to fields at Fircrest Park have been framed and a concrete pour is scheduled. Lastly, the bathroom tile is on the schedule to be installed.

Councilmember Denny Waltier joined the meeting at 7:05 PM.

Viafore reported that former University Place Mayor Ken Grassi passed away and gave a brief background on his public service, and contributions to the City. Viafore reported that longtime resident Mario Santelli passed away. The City gave its condolences to their families.

1. **Tacoma Fire BLS Transport Services**

City Manager Pingel provided a brief overview of basic life support (BLS). Tacoma Fire Liaison Mary Hallman briefed the Council on BLS, and proposed a new start date due to staffing and awaiting upcoming graduation class. Council comments included being impressed with Tacoma Fire Department’s dedication and professionalism.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

There were no comments provided.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

* Parks and Recreation Director Grover reported that an arborist is going to start pruning dead limbs on the tree at Alice Peers Park within the next few weeks.
* Public Works Director Bemis reported that Leach Creek Pre-Treatment Outfall Project is moving along. Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is scheduled to upgrade a gas main on Summit Ave. Bemis asked Council to allocate funds to the water main upgrade on Summit Ave to coincide with PSE’s upgrade. Lastly, Bemis reported that Vicky Walston is now an Administrative Specialist, and the Utility Billing Assistant job is posted.
* Police Chief Cheesman reported that an officer was assaulted with bear spray and has recovered. There is a warrant for the suspect who has a criminal history. Officers have partnered with the American Cancer Society and will participate in October’s Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
* Administrative Services Director Westman reported that the Wainwright School trees will be installed by the third week of October. Passport Specialist Laura Thompson has been very busy taking appointments and has been successful with the new online appointment portal.

**COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

* Viafore reported that the City’s 96th anniversary passed and the centennial is coming up. Viafore commented on recent employee reclassifications and the need to verify comparables for job classifications.
* Reynolds commented on current hospitalizations and deaths regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.
* Wittner thanked the 24 members of the public for attending.
* Barrentine; no comments provided.
* Waltier commented on the importance of the COVID-19 vaccine.
* Rieke; no comments provided.
* George; no comment provided.

**PUBLIC Comments for Items Not on the Agenda**

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

* Yolonda Brooks, 6464 19th St W # C, asked how many applications were received for the City Attorney and City Prosecutor and what kind of outreach was conducted to receive applicants.

* Jason Stonefield, 1211 Buena Vista Ave, inquired about Officer body cameras.

Pingel reported that requests for qualifications for City Attorney and City Prosecutor were put out through various list services to include Municipal Court, City Manager and City Clerk List Server, City’s website, and Tacoma Daily Index. Three applications were received for each position. There were two applicants interviewed for each position.

**COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS**

1. **Parks & Recreation**

Barrentine reported that the community pool is being winterized. The upcoming community events include Scarecrows of Fircrest, Haunted Trails, and Tree giveaway. Park staff is looking into options for new holiday lights for buildings.

1. **Pierce County Regional Council**

Reynolds reported that Pierce County Regional Council met to discuss countywide planning policies and currently studying the should versus shall language.

1. **Public Safety, Courts**

Reynolds report that she met with Chief Cheesman and discussed several items to include Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the suspect who assaulted the Fircrest Officer, and Washington State Patrolman Eric Gunderson, who passed from COVID-19. Fircrest Police Department continues to move forward with body-worn cameras. Chief Cheesman reported that body-worn cameras are currently in the preliminary budget and pending council approval.

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

Waltier; no report provided

1. **Other Liaison Reports**

There were none.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

George requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar: approval of Voucher No. 217014 through Voucher Check No. 217075 in the amount of $1,069,220.86; approval of Payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of $115,299.74; approval of Voucher No. 217013 through Voucher Check No. 217013 in the amount of $500.00; and approval of September 14, 2021, Regular Meeting minutes. **Wittner MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as read; seconded by Reynolds**. **The Motion Carried (7-0)**.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

At 7:47 P.M., George opened the public hearing. Administrative Services Director Westman briefed the Council on amending the accessory building setbacks for through-lots, stating that it would allow for greater use of the rear yard by property owners in the reduction of setbacks. George invited councilmember comments; Reynolds asked what is considered an accessory building. Westman reported that Accessory Dwelling Units are considered accessory buildings. Viafore commented on his concern for notification range and parking impacts. Wittner commented on his concern about parking. Reynolds asked to move the amendment to January/February joint meeting.

George invited public testimony; The following individuals provided public comment:

* Jason Stonefield, 1211 Buena Vista Ave, commented that he is in favor and only concern is the impacts of accessory dwelling units.
* Yolonda Brooks, 6464 19th St W #C, commented on concerns for requirements for accessory dwelling units and asked if neighbors can appeal administrative use permits.
* Rick Little, 1037 Fir Park Lane, commented on concerns for parking impacts due to accessory dwelling units and is generally in favor.
* Patrick Linggi, 1017 Princeton St., asked about safety and parking enforcement.

Viafore requested to move the amendment to the October study session agenda. At 8:09 P.M., George closed the public hearing.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Resolution No. 1725: South Sound Housing Affordability Partners Agreement**

City Manager Pingel briefed the Council on the proposed Resolution and reported that 12 cities have joined. The cost for membership is $3,000 - $4,000 and membership is required through 2023. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1725, authorizing the City Manager to execute an Interlocal Agreement for the establishment of a regional coalition known as the South Sound Housing Affordability Partners; seconded by Barrentine.**

George invited council member comments; none were provided. George invited public comment; The following individuals provided public comment:

* Jennifer Arnold, 333 Farallone Ave, commented that she is in favor of the agreement.
* Jason Stonefield, 1211 Buena Vista Ave, commented on his opposition to the agreement.
* Yolanda Brooks, 6464 19th St W #C, commented that she is concerned about the use of public lands, SSHAP staffing, and recommendations for the City.
* Lisa Kremer, 1047 Buena Vista Ave, commented that she is in favor of the agreement to have a voice.
* Tami Driscoll, 1003 Linwood Lane, commented that she is concerned about obligations in joining the coalition, the homeless population living in motorhomes, and the necessity to join.
* Rick Little, 1037 Fir Park Lane, commented that he is concerned about being bound to decisions, and supported the decision to be actively participating.
* T’wina Nobles, 1419 Estate Place, commented on her support of the agreement and spoke to the benefits of the Interlocal Agreement.

George provided an overview of the agreement and noted for the record 11 emails were received. Reynolds commented on her concern with the contract language, duplicate efforts with Puget Sound Regional Council, and best fit for the City. Rieke commented on the opportunity that this agreement presents, and the benefits outweigh the drawbacks. Barrentine commented on his support. Wittner commented that he is in favor to wait until the new council is seated and supports the agreement. Viafore commented that he did not know the City Attorney reviewed the agreement and is tired of bureaucracy. Upon a roll call vote, **The Motion Carried (4-3) with Reynolds, Viafore, and Waltier dissenting.**

The Council will appoint a member and an alternate.

Councilmember Waltier left the meeting at 9:08 P.M. and did not return.

1. **Resolution No. 1726: Amendment to the IT Services Agreement with Right Systems**

Pingel brief the Council on the proposed Resolution. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1726, authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment #1 to the Information Technology Services Agreement with Right Systems, Inc.; seconded by Barrentine.** George invited council member comments; Reynolds commented on her concerns about previously outsourcing the last in-house technician. Pingel reported that the quality of the system and employees are more robust. George commented on the quality of service. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (5-1) with Reynolds dissenting and Waltier excused.**

1. **Information Only: 5 – Year Forecast**

Pingel provided an overview and added budget amendments. Pingel reported that sales tax is increasing due to the construction of the community center and retail sales tax revenue has increased due to online sales tax. George invited council member comments; Barrentine commented on household garbage cost correlation with online shopping. George thanked staff on financial forecast planning and demonstrating trends. Reynolds commented on inflating expenditures due to uncertainty.

1. **2020 Budget Introduction**

Pingel reported that the Council should have received the 2022 preliminary budget by email and hard copies are available to be picked up at City Hall. Pingel highlighted impacts on the budget to include American Rescue Plan Act elevates the ending fund balance, Consumer Price Index at 6.3%, increase in medical and dental cost for staff, 2% water rate increase, and staff changes. Pingel reported that the last water rate increase occurred in 2019 due to support from the legislative delegation. Pingel reported that the preliminary budget is on the website.

**CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS**

Viafore commented on body camera costs and the street tree on the corner of Del Monte Ave and Regents Blvd needs to be replanted.

**Executive Session**

1. City Attorney Evans commented on processes for the review of a city employee is in open session and the content of the review is in executive session. There was a discussion regarding the process to review the performance of a public employee per RCW 42.30.110(g). Discussions included adding an addendum for a reflective review of the public employee and forming a Council committee to update the form. Rieke requested to see the form used to evaluate the performance of a public employee. Lastly, there was a consensus to review the City Manager early while the current Council is still seated.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Wittner MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 P.M., seconded by Barrentine. The Motion Carried (6-0)**.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Hunter T. George, Mayor

**![A picture containing clipart

Description automatically generated]()**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Jayne Westman, City Clerk