

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 L. Wittner, Joe Barrentine, and Marc Rieke were present. Councilmember Denny Waltier was absent and unexcused.

PRESIDING OFFICER’S REPORT

Councilmember Waltier entered the meeting at 7:04 P.M.

A. Pool & Community Center Project

Parks & Recreation Director Grover reported there was a meeting with Kassel and ARC today. Community Center restrooms are fully tiled. Site work surrounding the community continues, weather permitting. The gym is currently being painted and the scoreboard has been mounted. The siding is almost completed, and the donor wall is being laid out. Right Systems and Sare will be meeting to configure the fiber going into the Community Center and tour the communications room. Discussions included hosting a youth basketball league. Grover stated that youth basketball will happen however the dates are contingent on the front door installation.

George commented that he met with Jeff Chamberlin, Superintendent of University Place School District, and requested that he may attend a Council meeting to give information on the renewal of an operations levy. George asked at the will of the City Manager that an introduction may be inserted in the Town Topics to inform residents about the upcoming election for the operation levy.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Pingel updated the Council on the tentative completion date for the Community Center of December 23, 2021. George asked about occupancy guidelines following the scheduled completion date. Pingel stated that LEED testing needs to occur after the substantial date. There was a brief discussion regarding the City’s plans for the tree lighting ceremony. Pingel stated that the Community Center’s party room may be used contingent upon construction work.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

Parks & Recreation Director Grover commented that the RFP for the readerboard will be posted on the website on Wednesday and in the Tacoma Daily Index on Thursday. Grover stated that he will email sign firms that have provided previous quotes.

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on his meeting with PSE and an engineering consultant. The gas line replacement is scheduled to occur in March 2022. PSE stated that their action plan is to do a half restoration of the street. PSE will have a final draft by the end of November. Discussions included who will engineer the project and PSE’s intent for a half street restoration. Bemis stated that the gas line replacement is not on the center of the roadway. PSE will be responsible for replacing what is removed.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Rieke commented on the community involvement with the Scarecrow event and social media posts about the Haunted Trails event. He is excited about the completion of the Rec Center and encouraged residents to vote.

- Waltier commented on Councilmember Barrentine’s Rec Center progress pictures and installing the donor bricks. Administrative Services Director Westman stated that the damaged bricks have been reordered and will ship at the end of the week.
- Barrentine thanked the volunteers and City staff for the Haunted Trails event and thanked FPD for making the City a safe and family-friendly place during the holidays. Barrentine encouraged residents to vote and reminded everyone to wear masks.
- Wittner stated that the 40th St. sign has been replaced. Wittner thanked the attendees and stated a member of Boy Scout Troop 294 was in attendance to fulfill a merit badge.
- Reynolds commented on the timeline for the COVID-19 children vaccination.
- Viafore asked about the location of the bronze statues. Pingel stated that the City has tentative ideas for locations. Viafore asked about the timeline for the tree lighting ceremony and the Tacoma School tree replacements. Westman stated that Tacoma School has contracted Tacoma Tree Foundation for the tree installations and is scheduled to start between the last week of October and the first week of November. Lastly, Viafore asked about replacing the Cherry Blossom on Regents Blvd and the winter planting on the City’s Street islands. Bemis stated that he will research a replacement tree and look into the schedule for the winter planting.
- George thanked the City staff, FPD, and the volunteers for doing a great job at the Haunted Trails event and stated the Scarecrows event was fun. George encouraged residents to vote and reminded them that there is a ballot drop box at City Hall. Lastly, he reminded residents to not place ballots in the utility payment drop box and thanked meeting attendees.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

George invited Public comments; the following individuals provided comments:

Jason Stonefield, 1211 Buena Vista, thanked the FPD and Sergeant Celis for their professionalism and compassion.

Brian Rybolt, 1036 Daniels Drive, thanked Fircrest Police Chief Cheesman for his explanation regarding statewide safety protocol and asked the Council to open the meetings to the public. Rybolt commented that the tree lighting ceremony is taking place indoors and that other municipalities are conducting council meetings indoors and in person.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Parks & Recreation

Barrentine commented on the tree lighting ceremony and wanted to provide direction to staff for the ceremony. George asked if the staff had any recommendations. Grover stated that staff has discussed several options to include doing a virtual lighting ceremony, using Santa in the pool party room, or utilizing the picnic shelter at the Fircrest Park. Grover stated that he would like to involve Chief Cheesman to gather ideas and would also like Council feedback. There was a brief discussion on having Santa outdoors and using a snow machine. There was a consensus for staff to explore using either the party room or the picnic shelter.

B. Pierce County Regional Council

Reynolds commented that PCRC met to discuss countywide policy updates and explained committee and board leadership and delegates’ roles. Upcoming elections for chair, vice-chair, and delegates will be happening soon.

C. Public Safety, Courts

Reynolds commented that she met with Chief Cheesman to discuss AEDs similar to the City of Tacoma's to be interchangeable during police calls. Reynolds asked the Council to look into future vaccination requirements for Police during the hiring process.

D. Street, Water, Sewer, and Storm Drain

Waltier commented that the Public Works crew have been diligent during this rainy weather to clear out catch basins and wanted to remind everyone of the importance of street maintenance. George commented that he is excited to see the street sweeper cleaning the debris off the roads.

E. Other Liaison Reports

George commented on SSHAP's hiring timeline for a manager position and SSHAP will be electing a chair, and vice-chair soon.

CONSENT CALENDAR

George requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar as follows: approval of Voucher No. 217130 through Voucher Check No. 217206 in the amount of \$419,503.00; approval of Payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of the \$117,125.11; approval of the October 4, 2021, Special Meeting Minutes; approval of the October 11, 2021, Special Meeting Minutes; approval of the October 12, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes; approval of the October 18, 2021, Special Meeting Minutes; **Wittner MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as read; seconded by Barrentine The Motion Carried (7-0).**

PUBLIC HEARING

A. To receive comments on the 2022 Preliminary Budget

At 7:44 P.M., George opened the public hearing. Finance Director Corcoran briefed the Council on the Preliminary 2022 Budget, stating the public hearing was to receive comments on the Preliminary expenditures. Corcoran highlighted that the preliminary budget accounted for an increase in COLA of 6.3% increase for non-represented employees. George invited public testimony; none were provided. George invited councilmember comment; none were provided. At 7:47 P.M., George closed the public hearing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Ordinance No. 1675: 2022 Ad Valorem Tax Levy

George presented to the Council the 2022 Ad Valorem Tax Levy to be considered for removal from table. **Viafore MOVED to untable Ordinance No. 1675, fixing the amount of the annual ad valorem tax levy necessary for the fiscal year 2022 and repealing section 1 and section 2 of Ordinance No. 1659; seconded by Wittner. ***

Finance Director Corcoran briefed the Council on the 2022 Ad Valorem Tax Levy. Corcoran stated that the 2022 Ad Valorem Tax Levy reflects the removal of the one percent property tax increase. **Viafore MOVED to amend proposed Ordinance No. 1675, to indicate the numbers as presented by the Finance Director that removed the one percent increase to the property taxes for 2022; seconded by Barrentine.** George invited councilmember comments; none were provided. George invited public comment; Brian Rybolt, 1036 Daniels Drive, asked if the one percent property tax was being banked. George stated that it has been banked for the third year. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

**Although no vote was taken, the Council intended to untable the Ordinance.*

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution No. 1727: 2022 Regular Tax

Finance Director Corcoran briefed the Council on Resolution No. 1727, not increasing the property tax amount for 2022. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1727, establishing no increase in the amount and percentage increase of the 2022 regular property tax levy over the 2021 regular property tax levy; seconded by Viafore.** George invited councilmember comment; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

B. Resolution No. 1728: 2022 EMS Levy

Finance Director Corcoran briefed the Council on Resolution No. 1728, to establish the amount of the 2022 EMS property tax levy that was approved by the voters on August 4th, 2020. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1728, establishing the amount of the 2022 EMS property tax levy over the 2021 EMS property tax levy; seconded by Waltier.** George invited councilmember comment; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

C. Motion: 2022 Regular Property Tax and Regular EMS Levy Certification Forms

Finance Director Corcoran briefed the Council that this motion is to allow the City Manager to sign the 2022 regular tax levy and EMS tax levy forms. **Wittner MOVED to authorize the City Manager to sign the 2022 regular property and EMS levy certification forms; seconded by Viafore.** George invited councilmember comment; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

D. Resolution No. 1729: Amending the Financial Software Agreement with Springbrook

Finance Director Corcoran briefed the Council on Resolution No. 1729, to provide cloud-based maintenance support software for the year 2022. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1729, authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with Springbrook Software to provide cloud-based maintenance support for Springbrook software applications; seconded by Barrentine.** George invited councilmember comment. There was a Council comment received regarding if the cloud-based maintenance support software was budgeted in the preliminary budget? Corcoran stated that it is budgeted under the professional services line item in each department that utilizes the software. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

E. Resolution No. 1730: Amending the Principal Planner Agreement with Jeff Boers

Administrative Services Director Westman briefed the Council on Resolution No. 1730, stating that the changes include extending the term through December 31, 2022, and an increase in the hourly rate, which is passed on to the applicant. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1730, authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to the contract for planning services with Jeff Boers and Associates in 2022; seconded by Barrentine.** George invited councilmember comment; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

F. Resolution No. 1731: Amending the Land Use Counsel Agreement with Susan Drummond, PLLC

Administrative Services Director Westman briefed the Council on Resolution No. 1731, extending the term through December 31, 2022. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1731, authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to the contract for special legal counsel for land use matters with the Law Offices of Susan Elizabeth Drummond, PLLC in 2022; seconded by Barrentine.** George invited councilmember comment; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

G. Resolution No. 1732: Amending the Hearings Examiner Agreement with Olbrechts, PLLC

Administrative Services Director Westman briefed the Council on Resolution No. 1732, to extend the term through December 31, 2022. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1732, authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to the contract for hearing examiner services with Olbrechts & Associates, PLLC in 2022; seconded by Viafore.** George invited councilmember comment; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

H. Information Only: 3rd Quarter Financial Report

Finance Director Corcoran presented the 3rd quarter report which includes APRA grant funds received and highlighted revenue comparisons year to year. General property tax revenue is at 56 percent of the budget. Impacts include banking property taxes for the past two years and are not reflective of revenue to be received from Pierce County Assessor in November. Corcoran stated that retail sales increased due to COVID-19 impacts while telephone tax revenue continues to decrease. There was a brief discussion on property taxes that are in the REERs. Corcoran stated it is reported on the monthly report.

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS


- Viafore asked what is the status of the proposed Recreation fees for next year. Pingel stated that information can be addressed at the next study session.
- Chief Cheesman stated that the Public Safety Building will be open and handing out candy on Halloween. There will be extra patrols on Halloween to ensure a safe event. Lastly, Cheesman thanked the City’s Attorney for a quick response.
- Barrentine commented on ensuring the father-daughter dance is planned.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

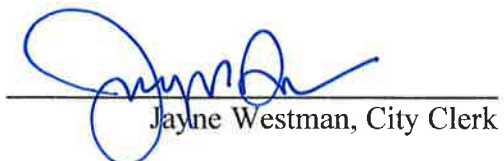
No executive session was scheduled. George asked the Council to come prepared to evaluate the City Manager at the November 9, 2021 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Viafore MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 P.M., seconded by Waltier. The Motion Carried (7-0).



Hunter T. George, Mayor



Jayne Westman, City Clerk