

**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, Jim Andrews, and Denny Waltier were present. Councilmember Brett Wittner and Joe Barrentine were absent and excused.

**PRESIDING OFFICER’S REPORT**

**A. Pool and Community Center Project**

Parks and Recreation Director Grover reported that the Tacoma Power transformer was installed. The remaining doors and storefronts are scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Flooring is scheduled to start next week, and the landscaping plants arrived today.

There was a brief discussion on returning to in-person meetings, which included the use of the Owl video conferencing camera, a stronger WiFi connection in the Chambers Room, and visuals for hybrid meetings. George asked if there were any objections to returning to an in-person hybrid meeting for the next council meeting. There were no objections.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

**A. City Building Closures**

Pingel requested to close City buildings from 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. on December 17, 2021, to re-establish staff holiday luncheon. **Viafore MOVED to authorize the City Manager to close City buildings on December 17, 2021, from 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. for City Wellness Luncheon; seconded by Waltier.** George invited councilmember comment; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (5-0).**

Pingel reported that he and Parks & Recreation Director Grover met with Jeff and Nancy Edwards. The Edwards indicated that they want to provide financial support for senior programming in 2022 and provide newspapers, coffee, and donuts to seniors at the community center.

Pingel welcomed new Councilmember-elect Jim Andrews. Lastly, Pingel reported that state capital grant has been a topic of conversation recently. Representative Dan Bronoske sent to the City the formatting and questions to answer if the City intended to make a state budget request. Pingel stated that the City does not have a project for this session.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

- Parks & Recreation Director Grover reported that staff will be opening RFP’s for the readerboard on Monday, November 29, 2021.
- Police Chief Cheesman congratulated Councilmember-elect Jim Andrews.
- Public Works Director Bemis provided a brief update on the Summit water main project. Bemis reported that the Santas on Regents Blvd have been replaced due to weathering. Viafore asked about the upper Regents Blvd. Street repair. Bemis stated that the cost was \$30,000 for preventive street maintenance.
- Administrative Services Director Westman reported that Tacoma School District has replaced the trees at Wainwright Intermediate School and staff will be monitoring the tree’s health as spring comes. Westman stated that staff has updated the compliance policy to ensure fairness and steps are in place for any future noncompliance instances.

**COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

- Viafore congratulated Councilmember-elect Jim Andrews and encouraged Councilmembers to tour the Community Center. He wished everyone a safe holiday.
- Reynolds welcomed Councilmember-elect Jim Andrews and thanked Rieke for his service. Reynolds commented on the use of the Owl video conferencing camera for the swearing-in of the Councilmembers.
- Waltier welcomed Councilmember-elect Jim Andrews. Waltier commented on the speediness of the street repair crew.
- Andrews thanked Westman for her assistance as he steps into his new role. Andrews commented on Town Topics rotations to allow for residents to learn about each Councilmember. Lastly, Andrews stated that the senior residents enjoy seeing the street sweeper going through their streets and he has finished his AWC training.
- Wittner wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and commented that many are facing difficult times and the unemployment benefits are set to expire soon.
- George welcomed Councilmember-elect Jim Andrews and thanked Rieke for his service. George stated that he liked the idea for the Councilmember rotation of Town Topics.

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

George invited public comment; the following individuals provided comment:

- Yolonda Brooks, 6464 19<sup>th</sup> St. W Unit C, welcomed Councilmember Jim Andrews and asked the City to consider a section on the City’s website to focus on businesses and spotlight them. Brooks thanked Jayne Westman for her promptness responding to all her Public Records Requests. Lastly, Brooks requested that the virtual meetings display all Councilmembers.
- Brian Rybolt, 1036 Daniels Drive, thanked Jim Andrews for reminding City staff of the importance of the street sweeper, commented on opening up the Chambers for meetings, and parking that obstructs views at Alameda Ave.
- Nancy Atwood, 1204 Farallone Ave, commented on the closed captioning, hybrid meetings, and technical difficulties with Zoom. Westman stated that George’s block stays highlighted because he manages the Zoom meetings.

There was a brief discussion on current duties the City takes to maintain active communication with local businesses.

**COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS**

**A. Parks and Recreation**

Barrentine was absent; no report provided.

**B. Pierce County Regional Council**

Reynolds reported that the PCRC met and discussed countywide planning policies. Reynolds asked the Council to nominate her as the delegate for next year.

**C. Public Safety, Courts**

Reynolds reported that the Fircrest Police Department and the Kiwanis Club have partnered to adopt families for thanksgiving. The Lunch Buddies and Terrific Kids programs have started again and Police have been proactively making their presence at the schools.

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

Waltier reported that the street repair was quick and went smooth.

**E. Other Liaison Reports**

There were none.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

George requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar: approval of Voucher No. 217283 through Voucher Check No. 217342 in the amount of \$707,614.88; approval of Payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of the \$120,796.59; approval of the October 26, 2021, Regular Meeting minutes; approval of November 09, 2021, Regular Meeting minutes; approval of the November 15, 2021, Study Session Meeting minutes. **Viafore MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as read; seconded by Reynolds.** George asked Council if there were any items for removal. Viafore requested the removal of the November 9, 2021, regular meeting minutes. **The Motion Carried (5-0).**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**A. To receive comments on a water rate adjustment**

At 7:59 P.M., George opened the public hearing. Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the water rate adjustment, stating that the financial analysis of the updated Water System Plan recommended a two percent water rate increase. George invited councilmember comments; none were provided. George invited public testimony;

Brian Rybolt, 1036 Daniels Drive, commented on his concern for the rate increase.

Yolonda Brooks, 6464 19<sup>th</sup> St. W Unit C, commented on the resident's concern for the water utility cost and asked about utility bill assistance.

There was a brief discussion on new meter analysis and the history of water rate increases.

At 8:17 P.M., George closed the public hearing.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was none.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Ordinance No. 1680 : 2021 Budget Amendment #2, Second 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. **Viafore MOVED to defer Ordinance No. 1680, 2021 Budget Amendment #2, second reading for adoption, authorizing revenues and expenditures of funds for matters not provided for in the Adopted 2021 Budget; seconded by Reynolds.** George invited councilmember comment; Andrews and Reynolds requested payroll reports for summer pool operating costs. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (5-0).**

**B. Resolution No. 1737: AMI Meter Transmission System Installation Sole Source Purchase**

Bemis briefed the Council on the purchase of the transmission system and installation services required to activate the AMI capabilities of the newly installed meters. **Viafore MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1737, authorizing the City Manager to approve a Sole Source purchase for the Transmission Hardware & Software installation services required for newly installed AMI Meters. seconded by Reynolds.** George invited councilmember comment; Viafore asked for

clarification on AMR and AMI transmission software. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (5-0).**

Councilmember Joe Barrentine joined the meeting at 8:25 P.M.

**C. Resolution No. 1738: Summit Law Contract Amendment**

Pingel briefed the Council on the proposed amendment to the professional services agreement with Summit Law Group to extend the contract term and update the schedule of rates. **Viafore MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1738, authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment #15 to the professional services agreement with Summit Law for personnel legal services; seconded by Andrews.** George invited councilmember comment; Viafore commented on the rate change. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (6-0).**

**D. Resolution No. 1739: Local Records Grant Contract Approval**

Westman briefed the Council on the history of record-keeping and provided an overview for the Local Records Grant Contract with the Washington State Archives Department. **Viafore MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1739, authorizing the City Manager to execute a grant contract with the Washington State Archives to accept the grant in the amount of \$14,680 for funding the organization of historical records and establishing an effective date; seconded by Waltier.** George invited councilmember comment; Viafore commented on retaining historical valued items. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (6-0).**

**E. Resolution No. 1740: Changing the time of the December 28th Regular Council Meeting to begin at 4:00 pm**

Pingel briefed the Council on changing the time of the December 28<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting to start at 4:00 P.M. **Viafore MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1740, changing the time of the December 28, 2021 meeting from 7:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.; seconded by Barrentine.** George invited councilmember comment; Reynolds stated the change may conflict with her schedule. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (6-0).**

**CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS**

- Viafore gave kudos to Westman for her promptness in getting Councilmember Andrews situated.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

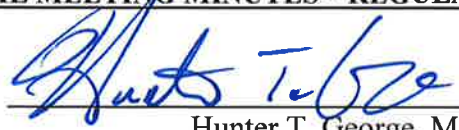
At 8:07 P.M. George reported that the Council would take a five-minute recess and convene into Executive Session, not to exceed 30 minutes, to review the performance of a public employee per RCW 42.30.110(g). George invited former Councilmember Rieke to join the Executive Session and asked if there were any objections. There was a brief discussion on inviting a former councilmember. Former Councilmember Rieke did not join the Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Reynolds MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 P.M., seconded by Barrentine The Motion Carried (6-0).**

NOVEMBER 23, 2021

FIRCREST CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR 5



Hunter T. George, Mayor



Wayne Westman, City Clerk