

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

Mayor Hunter T. George called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers David M. Viafore, Shannon Reynolds, Brett Wittner, Joe Barrentine, Denny Waltier, and Jim Andrews were present.

**PRESIDING OFFICER’S REPORT**

**A. Pool & Community Center Update**

Parks & Recreation Director Grover reported that the contractors are currently working on installing electrical work, landscaping, and sidewalks. The steel gates near the dumpster, wall paneling on the west of the building, and sports flooring have been installed. Storefronts are delayed and the arrival date is unknown. Grover briefed the Council that the Community Center is still on schedule and will confirm the timeline with Kassel. City Manager Pingel reported that the Community Center grand opening is tentatively scheduled for February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Pingel also reported that the Edwards Foundation donated \$30,000 for senior programming.

**B. Claremont Traffic Issue**

Police Chief Cheesman briefed the Council on the investigation and the history of the Claremont intersection. Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on potential options for Claremont Street to include additional lighting, a lighted stop sign, and advance warning signs. There was a discussion held on the Claremont Street and Alameda Ave intersection, speeding on Claremont Street, the turnaround time for blood samples from Washington State Patrol Lab, lenient DUI penalties, and traffic engineering and its financial impacts. George invited public comment;

- Lisa Kremer, 1047 Buena Vista Ave, thanked Council for bringing this matter to attention and asked the City to look into traffic islands on Claremont Street.
- Vince Navarre, 1205 Del Monte Ave commented on the use of a traffic engineer and the turnaround time for blood sample results. Navarre asked if the breathalyzer is still being used and what is causing the lengthy turnaround time.
- Chris Allen, 1222 Contra Costa Ave, commented on potentially adding stop signs on Claremont Street.
- Jason Stonefield, 1211 Buena Vista Ave, commented on blocking off Claremont Street with concrete barriers.

There was a discussion on the use of the breathalyzer, the importance of obtaining blood samples, and Washington State Patrol Lab’s need for funding. Cheesman reported that he spoke with Washington State Patrol Chief Batiste and he is welcoming efforts to assist in securing funding through legislation. Barrentine requested Council to look into using a study session to gather ideas on what to request from the State Legislature. George requested City staff to look into possible and preliminary traffic solutions for the January study session.

Councilmember Waltier left the meeting at 8:02 P.M.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

City Manager Pingel reported that City buildings will be closed on Friday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. City buildings will be closed all day on December 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

- Parks & Recreation Director Grover reported that the Lights of Fircrest tour guide is on the website.
- Public Works Director Bemis reported that Puget Sound Energy will be working on Mildred Street and 19<sup>th</sup> Street. Public Works Department has conducted exercises in preparation for ice and snow.
- Police Chief Cheesman reported that the police department has partnered with the Kiwanis Club to host their first Kids and Cops event on Saturday.

### **COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

- Andrews commented on his concern for the lack of information being dispersed to the Council. City Manager Pingel stated that the Four Corners meeting information was sent to Council before Andrews' seating.
- Barrentine thanked Judy Schmidtke and the Parks & Recreation Department for the tree lighting ceremony.
- Wittner welcomed Andrews to Council.
- Reynolds provided an update on the spread of COVID-19's variant, Omicron.

Councilmember Viafore left the meeting at 8:10 P.M. and returned at 8:12 P.M.

Councilmember Waltier returned to the meeting at 8:13 P.M.

- Waltier; no comment provided.
- Viafore welcomed councilmember elects, gave kudos to Parks & Recreation Department for the tree lighting ceremony, addressed speeding in Fircrest. He thanked the staff for setting up the video conferencing camera, Owl, and requested a laptop. He wished everyone Happy Holidays and thanked meeting attendees.
- George thanked the staff for the tree lighting ceremony and thanked Jayne Westman for setting up the hybrid meeting.

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

George invited public comment; the following individuals provided written and/ or oral comment:

- Chris Allen, 1222 Contra Costa Ave, commented on the tree lighting ceremony.
- Yolonda Brooks, 6464 19<sup>th</sup> St W #C, thanked the staff and the Kiwanis Club for the tree lighting ceremony and Santa Sleigh event. She commented on supporting small businesses on the City's website.

### **COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS**

#### **A. Administration**

Viafore; No report provided.

#### **B. Environmental, Planning, and Building**

Andrews; No report provided.

#### **C. Finance, IT, Facilities**

Wittner reported the Adopted 2022 Budget booklets are in each councilmember's mailbox, the City audit is still in process and the accounting system is changing to an online system. The community center grant has been billed and it has been accepted. The City will receive funds soon. Viafore commented on the use of King County auditors.

**D. Other Liaison Reports**

George commented on the South Sound Housing Affordability Partners meeting. Andrews commented on George's appointment term to SSHAP.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

George requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar as follows: approval of Voucher No. 217343 through Voucher Check No. 217408 in the amount of \$490,511.70; approval of Payroll Check Nos. 14112 through Payroll Check No. 14117 in the amount of \$52,235.45; approval of Payroll Check Nos. 14109 through Payroll Check No. 14111 in the amount of \$8,557.39; approval of Payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$121,867.17; registering no objections to the Spring Lake Café liquor license renewal; approval of November 9, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes; approval of November 23, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes. **Wittner MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar; seconded by Reynolds. The Motion Carried (7-0).**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

There was no Public Hearing scheduled.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Ordinance No. 1680: 2021 Budget Amendment #2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**

Corcoran briefed the Council on the proposed ordinance and highlighted that the amendment which includes CARES grant revenue and pool operating expenses. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1680, authorizing revenues and expenditures of funds for matters not provided for in the Adopted 2021 budget; seconded by Waltier.** George invited Councilmember comments. There was a brief discussion on the pool over time. George invited public comment; none were provided. George requested a roll call vote. **The motion carried (6-1 with Viafore dissenting).**

**B. Ordinance No. 1681: Adjusting the Water Rate**

Public Works Director Bemis provided an overview of the updated Water System Plan regarding water charges to reflect a two percent water rate increase. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1681, amending Ordinance No. 1589 Section 1 FMC 21.04.030 Residential Rate; and amending Ordinance No. 1589 Section 2 Commercial Rate; seconded by Waltier.** George invited Councilmember comments. There was a brief discussion on the rate increase. George invited public comment; Yolonda Brooks, 6464 19<sup>th</sup> St W #C, commented on the rate increase and its financial effects. **The motion carried (5-2), with Andrews and Reynolds dissenting.**

Councilmember Barrentine left the meeting at 8:44 P.M. Councilmember Waltier left the meeting at 8:44 P.M and did not return.

**C. Resolution No. 1741: Greenleaf Landscaping Contract Amendment**

Public Works Director Bemis reported that the amendment includes a rate change for the community center landscaping and extending the term through December 31, 2022, with a yearly renewal. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1741, authorizing the City**

**Manager to amend the landscape maintenance contract with Greenleaf Landscaping, Inc. to provide landscape maintenance services for the City of Fircrest; seconded by Viafore.** George invited Councilmember comments; Viafore commented on the open-ended contract and providing exact costs. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The motion carried (5-0), with Barrentine and Waltier excused.**

**D. Resolution No. 1742: KPG On-Call Contract Amendment**

Public Works Director Bemis provided a history of the professional services rendered by KPG and the only change is to extend the term. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1742, authorizing the City Manager to execute a seventh amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with KPG, P.S. for providing on-call engineering services for transportation-type projects and additional services as needed; seconded by Viafore.** George invited Councilmember comments. Viafore commented on the rates. George invited public comment;

Yolonda Brooks, 6464 19<sup>th</sup> St W #C, commented on taking the contract through the bidding process.

Councilmember Barrentine returned to the meeting at 8:50 P.M.

**The motion carried (6-0), with Waltier excused.**

**E. Resolution No. 1743: Apex Engineering Contract Amendment**

Public Works Director Bemis provided an overview on the sixth amendment for Apex Engineering. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1743 authorizing the City Manager to execute a sixth amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with Apex Engineering for providing on-call engineering services for transportation type projects and additional services as needed.; seconded by Viafore.** George invited Councilmember comments. There was a brief discussion on the bidding process. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The motion carried (6-0), with Waltier excused.**

**F. Resolution No. 1744: Revising the City Purchasing Policy**

Finance Director Corcoran reported that this revision adds the authority to the purchasing card policy to use the award points received for the City's Wellness Program. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1744, revising the purchasing card policy for the City of Fircrest; seconded by Viafore.** George invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. **The motion carried (6-0), with Waltier excused.**

**G. Resolution No. 1745: Revising the City Credit Card Policy**

Finance Director Corcoran reported that this revision adds the authority to the credit card policy to purchase gift cards for City Manager approved programs. It also adds written documentation to the policy to use the award points received for the City's Wellness Program. **Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1745, revising the credit card policy for the City of Fircrest; seconded by Barrentine.** George invited Councilmember comments. Viafore commented on the verbiage of the resolution. **Wittner MOVED to amend Resolution No. 1745, revising the credit card policy for the City of Fircrest for Section G to read City Credit Card shall not be used to purchase gift cards unless it is authorized by the City Manager for an approved City-sponsored program; seconded by Viafore.** George invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. George invited public

comment; none were provided. The motion carried as amended (6-0), with Waltier excused.

**H. Motion: Approval of Paying the Sales Tax portion of the Backyard Sewer Main Pipe Bursting Project**

City Manager Pingel briefed the Council on the motion to approve the use of sales tax to fund the Backyard Sewer Main Pipe Bursting project for \$35,541. **Wittner MOVED that the City Council authorize payment to Budget Sewer for the sales tax portion of the Backyard Sewer Main Pipe Bursting Project in the amount of \$35,541; seconded by Barrentine.** George invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. George invited public comment; none were provided. The motion carried (6-0), with Waltier excused.

**CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS**

Chief Cheesman wished everyone a happy and healthy holiday.

**Wittner MOVED to cancel the study session on December 20, 2021, due to lack of agenda items; seconded by Barrentine.** George invited Councilmember comments. Viafore commented on the canceling of meetings with advance notice. George invited public comment; none were provided. The motion carried (6-0), with Waltier excused.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 9:18 P.M., George reported that the Council would take a seven-minute recess and convene into Executive Session, not to exceed forty-five (45) minutes to discuss labor negotiations per RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) to review the performance of a public employee. George noted that City Manager Pingel would be joining Council in the Executive Session. At 10:07 P.M., the Council reconvened into regular session

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Wittner MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 10:07 P.M., seconded by Viafore. The Motion Carried (6-0), with Waltier excused.**

  
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Hunter T. George, Mayor

  
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Jayne Westman, City Clerk

