

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Brett Wittner called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers David M. Viafore, Shannon Reynolds, Joe Barrentine, Nikki Bufford, and Jim Andrews were present. Councilmember Hunter T. George was absent and excused.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT

A. UP Schools Levy Presentation, Tacoma Schools Levy Presentation

University Place School District Superintendent Jeff Chamberlin and Tacoma Public Schools Superintendent Carla Santorno provided an overview of the February 8th special election education tax replacement levies.

B. Liaison Assignments

Wittner read into the record the 2022 Council Liaison Assignments. They are as follows:

Public Safety & Court – Councilmember Viafore

Finance, IT, & Facilities – Councilmember Reynolds

Parks & Recreation – Councilmember George

Administration- Councilmember Bufford

Street, Water, Sewer, & Storm – Councilmember Barrentine

Planning & Building – Councilmember Andrews

C. Community Center and Pool Project

Parks & Recreation Director Grover reported that the parking lot paving is scheduled to occur this week. The interior of the building is being cleaned, and furniture will be delivered by the end of the week. The ceiling and wall acoustical panels are being installed. Kassel has tentatively planned for January 31st as the substantial completion date. Barrentine asked for an update on the Daddy and Daughter Dance. Grover stated that the Parks & Recreation staff is looking at venue options to host the event.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Pingel briefed the Council on committees that gained interest. Pingel commented that the City would like recommendations and feedback on establishing a centennial committee for the year 2025 celebration and a holiday tree committee. Viafore commented that he would like to discuss options with Mayor Wittner on appointing committees.

Pingel reported that June 19th is recognized as a federal and state holiday and the City would like feedback on adopting it as a holiday. Viafore commented that he would be in favor of an additional floating holiday. There was a consensus to adopt June 19th as a holiday.

Pingel reported that the City's Rental Assistance Program has had few applications come in since November 2021. The City would like to receive feedback on the continuation of the program. There was a brief discussion on the necessity and public outreach of the program. **Viafore MOVED to continue the Rental and Utility Assistance Program to February 28, 2022; seconded by Andrews.** Wittner invited Council comment; Bufford requested that Council revisit this program before February 28th. Barrentine commented that new outreach ideas may be helpful. Viafore commented that the program can be reopened, new outreach ideas will be considered and the intent to close the program is to assist the finance department with their audit. Wittner invited public comment;

- Yolonda Brooks, 6464 19th St W Apt #C, commented on the Rental Assistance Program and suggested hosting a virtual assistance workshop.

The Motion Carried (6-0).

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Parks & Recreation Director Grover reported that City Manager Pingel and himself conducted public outreach for the new readerboard.
- Finance Director Corcoran reported that finance is closing out the 2020 audit and the exit conference will be held on January 31st.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Viafore asked about the census data. Pingel stated that staff can present it to Council if needed.
- Reynolds provided a COVID-19's Omicron update.
- Barrentine; no comment.
- Bufford commented on her gratitude for the education tax levy presentation.
- Andrews requested a study session for the pool over time and would like to see the City make continued efforts towards transparency.
- Wittner; no comment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Wittner invited public comment;

- Vincent Navarre, 1205 Del Monte Ave, commented that he does not support the COVID-19 updates from Council.
- Yolonda Brooks, 6464 19th St W Apt #C, congratulated councilmember liaison assignments, commented on highlighting businesses, the new readerboard's lamination, approved of the floating holiday and asked Parks & Rec staff to consider hosting events for June 19th and indigenous people holidays. Brooks asked who is the SSHAP representative and also wanted to bring awareness to Executive Order 22-02. She stated that she is organizing an ADA committee. Her contact information is Brooksy@wsdot.wa.gov. Wittner stated that Councilmember George is the SSHAP representative and Pingel stated that the new readerboard is dimmable.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Parks & Recreation

None were provided.

B. Pierce County Regional Council

Reynolds commented that there are board vacancies for PSRC.

C. Public Safety, Courts

None were provided.

D. Street, Water, Sewer, and Storm Drain

None were provided.

E. Other Liaison Reports

None were provided.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Wittner requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar: approval of Voucher No. 217551 through Voucher Check No. 217597 in the amount of \$389,750.87; approval of Payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$124,283.46; approval of the January 11, 2022, Regular Meeting minutes. **Viafore MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as read; seconded by Barrentine. The Motion Carried (6-0).**

PUBLIC HEARING

Wittner opened the public hearing at 8:09 P.M. City Manager Pingel briefed the Council on the proposed new solid waste rate adjustments stating that the purpose of the public hearing was to receive comments on rate adjustment. Wittner invited councilmember comments; there were none. Wittner invited public testimony; there were none. Wittner closed the public hearing at 8:12 P.M.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution No 1753: Approval Pandemic Deferred Payment Plan

Pingel briefed the Council on Grovener Inslee's Proclamation 20-23.6 that establishes guidance for utility providers to help those experiencing financial hardship. The City is currently assessing late fees and with the approval of the payment plan, utility customers can make deferred payment plan arrangements without incurring late fees. **Viafore MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1753, adopting the City of Fircrest Pandemic Deferred Payment Plan; seconded by Bufford.** Wittner invited councilmember comment; none were provided. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (6-0).**

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

Viafore commented that in the future when adding paid holidays, the City should refer to the union's collective bargaining agreements.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:22 P.M., Wittner reported that the Council would take a five minute recess and convene into Executive Session, not to exceed 30 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 pursuant to RCW42.30.110(1)(b). Wittner noted that City Manager Pingel would be joining Council in the Executive Session. Wittner noted that no further action would take place other than adjournment.

Councilmember George joined the Executive Session at 8:27 P.M.

At 8:44 P.M., Wittner reported that the Executive Session will be extended for an additional 30 minutes. The Council reconvened into regular session at 9:24 P.M.

JANUARY 25, 2022

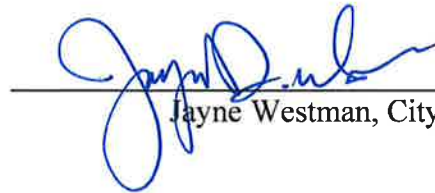
FIRCREST CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR 4

ADJOURNMENT

Reynolds MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 P.M., seconded by Barrentine. The Motion Carried (7-0).



Brett Wittner, Mayor



Jayne Westman, City Clerk