

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, Hunter T. George, Nikki Bufford, and Jim Andrews were present.

PRESIDING OFFICER’S REPORT

A. SSHAP Appointment

Mayor Wittner provided an update on the SSHAP appointment. Councilmember George was appointed the 2021 SSHAP representative for the City Council and his term ended on December 31, 2021. **Viafore MOVED to appoint Councilmember George as the 2022 SSHAP representative for the City of Fircrest; seconded by Barrentine.** Wittner invited councilmember comment; Andrews commented on having an alternate SSHAP representative. **Viafore MOVED to amend the motion to also appoint Councilmember Andrews as the alternate 2022 SSHAP representative for the City of Fircrest; seconded by Barrentine.** Wittner invited councilmember comment; none were provided. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Amended Motion Carried (7-0).** The now amended motion to appoint Councilmember George as the 2022 SSHAP representative for the City of Fircrest and Councilmember Andrews, as the alternate, was now on the table. Wittner invited councilmember comment; none were provided. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The motion carried as amended (7-0).**

B. Community Center and Pool Project

Parks and Recreation Director Grover briefed the Council on the progress of the Community Center construction project and reported that the parking lot was lined. The contractor is currently working on the electrical and landscaping. AV equipment is delayed due to supply chain demands. The contractor is also working on the commissioning process, LEED documentation, and finalizing storefronts and the acoustical panel installation. Wittner commented on the City’s invitation to present the Form-based Code area at the Master Builders Association.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Pingel reported that as the Community Center project is closing out, it is time for a workshop or retreat to gather ideas on future City goals.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Parks & Recreation Director Grover briefed the Council that the City received \$25,780 from the WRPA SEEK grant for school-aged kids' summer programming.
- Police Chief Cheesman reported that the CSO 1 interviews will begin this Friday, February 11th. There are four candidates. Cheesman reported that the City is monitoring the debris near Lowe’s and communication efforts have been made with the City of Tacoma’s code enforcement, Tacoma’s Assistant Police Chief Edward Wade, and Community Policing Liaison Chris Travis.
- Public Works Director Bemis reported that the transmission for the AMI water meters has been ordered, and he will be looking into HVAC system quotes in the near future. George asked if there was a timeline chart that reflect water meter installations. Bemis stated that he will provide a report soon. Bemis asked the Council for direction on the Alameda/Claremont traffic issue. There was a consensus to implement traffic rumble strips, new traffic signage, including lit

signage to alert drivers of the upcoming stop sign. The staff intends to conduct community outreach in person and Council asked staff to update the website.

- Administrative Services Director Westman provided a brief update on the project development for the Eaton property. City staff will be meeting with potential project developers on February 17th. Westman reported that she has been working on getting AV equipment bids for the council chambers and the estimated cost is \$20,000 - \$25,000. Viafore expressed concern regarding council involvement.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Andrews; no comment.
- Bufford expressed gratitude for the Whitter Park volunteers that helped this past weekend. She toured the Community Center last week and is excited about the opening. Bufford highlighted that February is Black History Month.
- George thanked meeting attendees and appreciated the opportunity to speak to the Master Builders Association. George thanked Mrs. Burkhart and Grover for getting the SEEK grant.
- Reynolds reported that the PCRC general assembly meeting is on February 17th and encouraged council members to join.
- Barrentine thanked Parks & Recreation staff for the upcoming events. Barrentine commented on the Daddy Daughter Dance.
- Viafore asked if the Tacoma School District has pushed back the Whitter project. George stated that he will get an answer. Viafore encouraged councilmembers to visit Homestead Park in University Place. Viafore highlighted that with the City's centennial anniversary happening soon, it would be beneficial to revamp Masko Park.
- Wittner; no comment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Wittner invited public comment; the following individuals provided comments:

- Jason Stonefield, 1211 Buena Vista Ave, thanked Public Works Department for the Claremont traffic solutions and would like to see more than traffic rumble strips. He also stated that abandoned shopping carts are blocking city sidewalks in front of Lowe's. Lastly, he stated that he would like the Council to hold a study session on the 2021 summer pool management.
- Bryan Rybolt, 1036 Daniels Drive, expressed concern about transit-oriented development.
- Michele Andrews, 1433 Estate Place, commented on mailbox vandalism and asked about the Estate Place driveway project status.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Administration

Bufford briefed the council on her meeting with City Manager Pingel to learn about form-based code. Bufford stated that they spoke about strategic planning and 2022 staff work plans.

B. Environmental, Planning, and Building

Andrews briefed the council on the 11th Tee condo project closeout, the City has received building plans for a dwelling on Golden Gate Ave, and two applications for ADU's. January was the busiest passport month.

C. Finance, IT, Facilities

Reynolds; no report provided

D. Other Liaison Reports

George reported that SSHAP has 3 candidates for the manager position.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Wittner requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar: approval of Voucher No. 217598 through Voucher Check No. 217684 in the amount of \$110,319.13; approval of Payroll Check No. 14127 through Payroll Check No. 14129 in the amount of \$8,679.43; approval of Payroll Check No. 14130 through Payroll Check No. 14135 in the amount of \$55,573.97; approval of Payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$122,882.60; approval of January 18, 2022, Study Session Meeting minutes; approval of January 25, 2022, Regular Meeting minutes; and approval of the February 1, 2022, Joint Meeting minutes. **Reynolds MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as read; seconded by Bufford.** Wittner requested to remove Invoice 26288: Morton McGoldrick PLLC in the amount of \$1,251.25. **The Motion to Approve the Consent Calendar Carried (7-0) as amended.** Wittner stated that he works for Morton McGoldrick Law firm and would like to excuse himself to avoid any potential conflict of interest. **Reynolds MOVED to approve the payment for Invoice 26288 Morton McGoldrick PLLC in the amount of \$1,251.25; seconded by George.** Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited councilmember comment; Viafore asked about the nature of the payment. Pingel stated it was involving a personnel matter and the City will be seeking reimbursement from the City's liability insurance. Viafore requested to address this issue during the executive session. There was a consensus to add Invoice 26288 Morton McGoldrick to the executive session. **Viafore MOVED to table Invoice 26288 Morton McGoldrick PLLC in the amount of \$1,251.25; seconded by George. The Motion Carried (6-0), with Wittner excused.**

PUBLIC HEARING

None scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Resolution No. 1751: Water Tower Easement Approval

Westman briefed the Council on the water tower easement history with Anchor Church and the new terms as requested by the council. **Viafore MOVED to untable Resolution No. 1751, authorizing the City Manager to sign the easement documents as a representative of the City of Fircrest for the water tower property located at 2611 South Orchard Street; seconded by Barrentine.** Wittner invited councilmember comment; Viafore asked if there was an extensive title search. Westman commented that property developers, church staff, and city staff conducted searches. Wittner invited public comment; there was none. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

NEW BUSINESS

A. Ordinance No. 1682: Garbage Service Rate Adjustment

Pingel briefed the Council on the proposed ordinance setting new solid waste rates due to the disposal fee adjustment, the annual CPI adjustment, and the recycling commodity surcharge adjustment. **George MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1682, amending Ordinance No. 1670 and Fircrest Municipal Code 6.08.130 relating to the schedule of rates and charges for solid waste collection; seconded by Barrentine.** Wittner invited councilmember comments; Bufford

asked about bill assistance processes. Pingel stated that the City has bill assistance. Wittner invited public comment; there was none. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

B. Resolution No. 1754: Approval of Department of Commerce Water Meter Grant Agreement

Pingel briefed the Council on the grant contract with the Department of Commerce to help in replacing the City's water meters with Kamstrup AMI meters. **George MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1754, authorizing the City Manager to execute a grant contract with the Washington Department of Commerce for \$165,870 for the Water Meter Replacement Program as approved by the Washington State Legislature through the State Capital Budget; seconded by Bufford.** Wittner invited councilmember comment; there were none. Wittner invited public comment; there were none. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

C. Resolution No. 1755: Approval of Puyallup Jail Agreement

Chief Cheesman briefed the Council on the proposed agreement with the City of Puyallup for Jail Services. **George MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1755 authorizing the City Manager to execute an Agreement with the City of Puyallup for Jail Services; seconded by Barrentine.** Wittner invited councilmember comment; Andrews commented on the schedule of rates. Cheesman stated that Pierce County and Puyallup Jail Services rate schedules are very similar. Wittner invited public comment; there was none. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

C. Resolution No. 1756: Approval of Water System Plan Consultant Agreement Amendment

Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed amendment to the agreement with Murraysmith for the City's Water System Plan. **George MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1756, authorizing the City Manager to execute a budget amendment with Murraysmith in the amount of \$14,689 to edit the City's Water System Plan per requirements of the Washington Department of Health and Pierce County Planning and Public Works; seconded by Bufford.** Wittner invited councilmember comment; George asked what caused the need for the amendment. Bemis stated that there was a lack of anticipation for the 2050 Water System Plan vision. Wittner invited public comment; there were none. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

- Viafore commented that Mr. Stonefield should mention to Lowe's that the shopping carts are blocking the ADA ramp. Viafore also asked Pingel to have Public Works Director Bemis arrange a meeting with Ms. Andrews regarding her comments and report back to the council.
- George stated that he was invited to speak to Cub Scout 148 to earn their public service badge.


EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:25 P.M., Wittner reported that the Council would take a five-minute recess and convene into Executive Session, not to exceed forty-five (45) 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 per RCW42.30.110(1)(b). Wittner stated that Principal Planner Jeff Boers will be invited to the executive session.

Wittner reported that the Council will have a second executive session to discuss potential litigation per RCW42.30.110(1)(i). Wittner stated that City Manager Pingel and City Attorney Hillary J. Evans will be invited to the second executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Reynolds MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 P.M., seconded by Barrentine. The Motion Carried (7-0).


Brett L. Wittner, Mayor


Jayne Westman, City Clerk