

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

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

**PRESIDING OFFICER’S REPORT**

**A. Proclamation: Black History Month**

Councilmember Barrentine read the proclamation Black History Month into the read. **Reynolds MOVED to authorize the Mayor’s signature on the proclamation proclaiming the month of February is Black History Month in the City of Fircrest; seconded by Bufford.** Wittner invited councilmember comment; none were provided. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

**B. Community Center and Pool Project**

Grover reported that the Community Center Project’s substantial completion date is set for February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Most of the door hardware has been installed and the building is currently secure. The contractor is currently installing audio-visual equipment and roller shades. LEED documentation and submittals are being drafted. The testing and balancing reports are to be expected soon. There is a long list of small punch list items and by the end of this week, the contractor should have an idea of a final completion date. There was a brief discussion held on the removal of the fence, statues installation, and maintaining up-to-date communication with the community.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

City Manager Pingel reported that Sherry Maenhout, lead Community Service Officer 2, passed away. Pingel briefed the Council on changing the lead CSO 2 position to a full-time position and asked for Council feedback. There was a brief discussion on work coverage, employee benefits, and budget amendments. City staff met with Alliance last Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup> for a pre-development meeting. Pingel requested to dedicate some time in the March Study Session for Council feedback on the development of the Eaton Property. Viafore commented on providing City-owned utilities and the use of commercial space. Pingel asked for Council feedback on the readerboard. There was a consensus on adding the readerboard to the agenda for the next meeting.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

- Finance Director Corcoran stated that the State Audit Report is now available online and Council will receive copies.
- Public Works Director Bemis reported that the Claremont Street traffic issue measures will be posted on the City’s website.
- Police Chief Cheesman reported that the police department will be holding a remembrance gathering for Sherry Maenhout tomorrow, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Parks & Recreation Director Grover reported that Office Assistant Raquel LaPointe started last week, and she updated the Parks&Rec webpage. Andrews asked if the City has data on webpage views. Pingel stated that a report will be provided soon.

**COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

- Viafore asked about the timeline status of the Whittier Elementary project and Ms. Andrews' concerns. Pingel stated that he will follow up with Tacoma School District. Bemis stated that he will reach out to Ms. Andrews and report back to Council. Police Chief Cheesman spoke with the Whittier Elementary Principal and students will be attending McKinley during the construction. There was a brief discussion on the construction timeline and if the anticipated construction schedule was impacted.
- Reynolds; no comment.
- Barrentine; no comment.
- George gave his condolences to the police staff and the Maenhout family. He addressed the Whittier Elementary construction project and referred to the Tacoma School District website. Whittier is slated to open in 2027 and students will be attending McKinley.
- Bufford; no comment.
- Andrews congratulated Curtis High School boys swim team for winning the 2022 State Champions.
- Wittner gave his condolences to the city and police staff, and the Maenhout family. Wittner and Pingel met with Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland, last Friday, to discuss the future of Fircrest.

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

Wittner invited public comment. The following individual provided public comment:

- Brian Rybolt, 1036 Daniels Drive, expressed his concern about the Tacoma School District construction bond, Whittier Elementary's new playground equipment, and the readerboard.

**COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS**

**A. Parks & Recreation**

George reported that the request for proposals to resurface the tennis courts will be going out soon. The tentative schedule for the resurfacing will begin in June and it will produce three tennis courts and six pickleball courts. Staff is waiting for the Community Center construction to finish before moving on to the athletic field improvements. Parks & Recreation Director Grover will post an RFQ and RFP for the improvements. The community center is going to operate seven days a week, tentatively. Logistics and rental reservations are being discussed by staff.

**B. Pierce County Regional Council**

Reynolds reported that the 2022 work plan has passed. The contract with Ceiba Consulting to continue to use Brynn Brady as the PCRC's lobbyist was signed.

**C. Public Safety, Courts**

Viafore reported that there have been no major changes with legislation. Viafore gave kudos to Judge Miller and the court staff. Viafore commented that he participated in the community service officer interview process and a frequently asked question was medical benefits. Viafore gave his condolences to the Maenhout family.

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

Barrentine reported that the 44<sup>th</sup> and 67<sup>th</sup> lift station upgrade will be going out to RFP soon. KPG consultant is in the process of finalizing the Summit Ave water main upgrade design. The

stormwater pre-treatment project has been approved by the Department of Ecology. The Tot Lot was closed for pressure washing.

**E. Other Liaison Reports**

None were provided.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Wittner requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar: approval of Voucher No. 217643 through Voucher Check No. 217643 in the amount of \$1,251.25; approval of Voucher No. 217685 through Payroll Check No. 217738 in the amount of \$249,706.74; approval of Payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$123,333.24; approval of the February 8, 2022, Regular Meeting minutes as corrected. **Barrentine MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as read; seconded by Viafore.** Finance Director Corcoran requested to remove Accounts Payable 26300: Tacoma City Treasurer, check number 217693, in the amount of \$405,470.89. Corcoran stated that the corrected certification form needs to be reviewed and signed by Council. **The Motion to Approve the Consent Calendar Carried (7-0) as amended.**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

No Public Hearing was scheduled.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Voucher Number 217643, Morton McGoldrick PLLC**

Wittner stated that he works for Morton McGoldrick Law firm and excused himself to avoid any potential conflict of interest. **Viafore MOVED to untable Voucher Number 217643, Morton McGoldrick PLLC; seconded by Bufford.** Manager Pingel briefed the Council that Voucher Number 217643, Morton McGoldrick PLLC was tabled at the previous Council meeting and discussed at the executive session. Barrentine invited councilmember comment. There was a brief discussion on the handling of the situation. **Barrentine MOVED to pay Voucher Number 217643, Morton McGoldrick PLLC; seconded by Bufford.** Reynolds requested legal guidance on the Council rules pertaining to voting. **The Motion Carried (4-2), with Viafore and Reynolds, dissenting and Wittner excused.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Resolution No 1757: Approval of Radio Equipment Management Agreement with Pierce County**

Police Chief Cheesman provided an overview of the proposed agreement and noted that the County Communications rate has not increased since 2016. **Barrentine MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1757, authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with Pierce County for a communications maintenance program for the years 2022-2026; seconded by Bufford.** Wittner invited councilmember comment; none were provided. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

**B. Resolution No. 1758: Approval of SEEK Grant Agreement**

Park and Recreation Director Grover briefed the Council on the proposed contract with the Association of Washington Cities through the Summer Experiences & Enrichment for Kids Fund and highlighted that this grant will provide programming to community youth. **Barrentine MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1758, authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement with the Association of Washington Cities through the Summer Experiences & Enrichment for Kids Fund (SEEK Fund) a program of the Washington Office of**

**Superintendent of Public Instruction for a grant in the amount of \$25,780 to provide a Teen Late Night program, Summer Day Camp, and Summer Basketball Camp.; seconded by Viafore.** Wittner invited councilmember comment. Viafore commented on the Pierce County Library outreach. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

**C. Resolution No. 1759: Approval of Professional Services Agreement with Forterra for Grant and Property Acquisition Services**

City Manager Pingel briefed the Council on a professional services agreement with Forterra for Grant and Property Acquisition Services to potentially purchase the Bourgaize Property through various conservation grants. **Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1759 authorizing the City Manager to execute a professional services agreement with Forterra for Grant and Property Acquisition Services; seconded by Barrentine.** Wittner invited councilmember comment. Andrews requested a written legal opinion from the City Attorney for the Forterra Contract. Extensive discussions included the budget impacts and potential amendment, geospatial engineering services, the bid process, the timing of grant applications, public outreach, and intended use of land. Wittner invited public comment:

- Brian Rybolt, 1036 Daniels Dr, expressed his concern about land development, the cost of services, and focusing on maintaining current parks.

**Andrews MOVED to amend Resolution No. 1759 to remove all geospatial engineering services from the Forterra contract; seconded by Reynolds.** Wittner invited councilmember comment; there were none. Wittner invited public comment; there were none. **The Motion As Amended Failed (2-5).**

There were further discussions to include funding source, budget amendment passage, and the cost and timing of the contract.

Wittner requested a roll call vote: Andrews- No; Barrentine – Yes; Bufford – Yes; George – Yes; Reynolds – No; Viafore - No; Wittner – Yes.

**The Motion Carried (4-3).**

**D. End of Year 2020 Financial Report**

Finance Director Corcoran provided an overview of the year-end report and highlighted changes in certain funds. Corcoran reported that the City distributed \$127,404 in rental assistance and business assistance through grants. ARPA funds in the amount of \$350,000 were transferred to the Water Capital Fund to supplement the water meter replacement program. The General Fund still has \$473,948 to use before 12/31/24. The city will receive the second half of ARPA in 2022. The City has fared well through COVID-19 due to very conservative financial practices.

**CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS**

- Andrews congratulated Public Works Director Bemis' son for his efforts in helping Curtis High School Boy's swim team win the 2022 State Championship.
- Viafore requested Pingel and Bemis to give an update on the City of Tacoma voucher. Pingel stated that the City of Tacoma believes it was in error and is being researched.

- City Manager Pingel gave kudos to Police Chief Cheesman.
- Wittner commented on the live transcripts.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

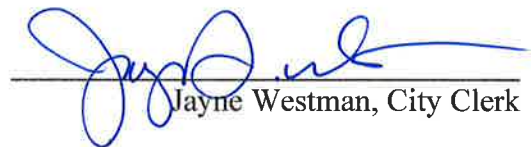
No executive session was scheduled.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Reynolds MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 P.M., seconded by Bufford. The Motion Carried (7-0).**



Brett L. Wittner, Mayor



Jayne Westman, City Clerk