

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

**PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT**

Wittner reported that the 2023 budget study was completed on Monday, October 24, 2022, and there is one remaining scheduled budget study session. Wittner requested to cancel the October 31, 2022 budget study session. **Reynolds MOVED to cancel the October 31, 2022 budget study session; seconded by Bufford.** Wittner invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The motion carried (7-0).**

**B. Proclamation: Arbor Day**

Interim City Manager Corcoran introduced the Arbor Day proclamation, where the City of Fircrest proclaims to celebrate Arbor Day at FirFest and reported that the proclamation is a requirement for the City to submit a Tree City USA application. Reynolds read the proclamation into the record. **Reynolds MOVED to authorize the Mayor's signature on a proclamation proclaiming to celebrate Arbor Day at FirFest on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in the City of Fircrest; seconded by Bufford.** Wittner invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The motion carried (7-0).**

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

Interim City Manager Corcoran reported that Wainwright Intermediate School has scheduled a Veteran's Day assembly on Wednesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and asked if the City would post an announcement for the public. There were no objections from Council to posting an announcement.

Corcoran reported that Council Committee will review the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the City Manager recruitment. The RFQ deadline closes on Friday, November 18, 2022. Corcoran also reported that the Civil Service Commission recruitment deadline is Friday, October 28, 2022. Lastly, Corcoran stated that the Civil Service Commission provided feedback on the Police Chief recruitment and the City will post an RFQ.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

- Parks & Recreation Director Grover provided a brief overview of the FirFest event scheduled for November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Grover stated that the City received 54 entries for the Scarecrows of Fircrest event. Grover reported that there is a link on the City's website to register for FirFest. Viafore commented on the Cherry Blossom trees on Regents Blvd.
- Police Chief Cheesman reported that Fircrest Police Sergeant Victor Celis submitted his letter of resignation, and his last day will be November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Chief Cheesman reported that Lateral Police Officer Oral Boards occurred last week and background checks will start immediately. The lateral police officer position has been reposted with the 2023 salary rates. Chief Cheesman also reported that the police department is giving prizes for the Scarecrows of Fircrest event.
- Public Works Director Bemis thanked summer hires, Zachary Zakoian and Riley West. Bemis reported that Public Works will monitor the weather and its road impacts.

Wittner stated that the Council will modify the agenda to proceed with the scheduled Public Hearings.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

### **A. To receive comments on the proposed development regulation text amendments relating to the Mildred Property Development Project**

At 7:18 P.M., Wittner opened the public hearing. Principal Planner Jeff Boers briefed the Council on the proposed development regulation text amendments relating to the Mildred Property Development Project and stated the public hearing was to receive comments on the text amendments. Wittner invited councilmember comments. There were discussions on residential flexibility, parking, public participation, and the departure process. Wittner invited public testimony; none were provided.

At 7:31 P.M., Wittner closed the public hearing.

### **B. To receive comments on the 2023 Preliminary Budget Revenue Sources**

At 7:32 P.M., Wittner opened the public hearing. Interim City Manager Corcoran briefed the Council on the 2023 Budget Revenue Sources and stated the public hearing was to receive comments on the Preliminary 2023 Budget Revenue Sources. Wittner invited councilmember comments. Andrews commented on the deferred property taxes.

Wittner invited public testimony.

- Brian Rybolt, 1036 Daniels Drive, commented on the deferred property taxes.

Viafore commented on the preliminary budget without the amendments. Andrews commented on the use of APRA funds.

At 7:40 P.M., Wittner closed the public hearing.

### **C. To receive comments on the 2023 Preliminary Budget**

At 7:40 P.M., Wittner opened the public hearing. Interim City Manager Corcoran briefed the Council on the 2023 Preliminary Budget stating the public hearing was to receive comments on the Preliminary 2023 Budget. Wittner invited councilmember comments. George commented on the preliminary budget and utilizing property taxes to add an additional police officer.

Wittner invited public testimony;

- Brian Rybolt, 1036 Daniels Drive, expressed support for adding a police officer.

Andrews commented on the use of ARPA funds. There was a discussion on the public participation process and budget implementation.

At 7:49 P.M., Wittner closed the public hearing.

## **COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

- Viafore commented on the upcoming legislative session for police pursuit policies. Viafore stated that longtime resident, Eric Rohrs passed away and gave his condolences. Rohrs was very involved in the Fircrest Recreation Department.
- Reynolds; no comment provided.
- Barrentine; no comment provided.

- George commented on the police pursuit policies and drafting a capital project letter for the upcoming legislative agenda.
- Viafore requested the cost of the Emerson Street and West Mount Drive crosswalk cost.
- Bufford thanked volunteers and staff for their efforts at the Haunted Trails event. The event was canceled due to unhealthy weather conditions.
- Andrews commented on the Forterra contract.
- Wittner; no comment provided.

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

Wittner invited public comment; the following individuals provided email or oral comments:

- Vince Navarre, 1205 Del Monte Ave, expressed concern about the Fircrest Council spotlight.
- Sarah Sherman, 1205 Del Monte Ave, expressed concern about the Fircrest Town Topics articles.
- Brian Rybolt, 1036 Daniels Dr, expressed concern about the Fircrest Town Topics articles.

**COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS**

**A. Parks & Recreation**

No report provided.

**B. Pierce County Regional Council**

Reynolds reported that PCRC is currently filling vacancies and reported that Russ Blount passed away. Reynolds also reported that she advocated for the re-writing of the probable stop clause policies and stated that multiple jurisdictions are having issues with eluding vehicles.

**C. Public Safety, Courts**

Viafore stated that the RFQ for the City prosecutor is due October 28, 2022.

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

Barrentine reported that the Summit Ave grind and overlay project is postponed until Spring 2023 due to weather. Barrentine reported that the street sweeping continues and that the City holiday décor inventory is complete.

**E. Other Liaison Reports**

There were none.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Wittner requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar: approval of Voucher No. 218676 through Voucher Check No. 218736 in the amount of \$177,012.38; approval of Payroll Check Nos. 14205 through Payroll Check No. 14205 in the amount of \$373.48; approval of Payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$122,138.53; approval of the September 27, 2022, Regular Meeting minutes as corrected; approval of the October 03, 2022, Special Meeting minutes; approval of the October 10, 2022, Special Meeting minutes; approval of the October 17, 2022, approval of the Study Session Meeting minutes; Setting a Public Hearing on November 22, 2022, at 7:15 pm or thereafter to receive comments on potential water rate increases; Setting a

Public Hearing on November 22, 2022, at 7:15 pm or thereafter to receive comments on potential sewer rate increases; Setting a Public Hearing on November 22, 2022, at 7:15 pm or thereafter to receive comments on potential stormwater rate increases; Registering no objections Nari Sushi & Steak Liquor License Issuance, and; Registering no objections Pint Defiance Liquor License Application. **Reynolds MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as read; seconded by Viafore. The Motion Carried (7-0).**

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Ordinance No. 1690: Amending Sewer Connection Schedule of Fees**

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed ordinance to increase the sewer system General Facilities Charges (GFCs) Service Connection Fee, and Inspection Fee and highlighted that the last increase was implemented in 2018. **George MOVED move to adopt Ordinance No. 1690, amending Ordinance No. 1621 Section 1(a) and FMC 20.04.025 General Facilities Charge; amending Ordinance No. 1621 Section 2(a)(c) and FMC 20.04.030 Service Connection Fees and Inspection Fees; seconded by Bufford.** Wittner invited Councilmember comments. Viafore asked if a public hearing was required for General Facilities Charges. City Attorney Zienemann reported that it was not required. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

##### **B. Ordinance No. 1691: Amending Water Connection Schedule of Fees**

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed ordinance to increase the water system General Facilities Charges (GFCs), Service Connection Fees, and Water Meter Drop-In Fees. **George MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1691, amending Ordinance No. 1619 Section 1(a) and FMC 21.01.030 General Facilities Charge; amending Ordinance No. 1619 Section 2(a)(b) and FMC 21.04.130 Service Connection Fees and Water Meter Drop-In Fees; seconded by Barrentine.** Wittner invited Councilmember comments. There was a discussion on the required annual increase, council notification of increases, and use of ordinances versus resolutions. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

##### **C. Resolution No. 1793: Bid Award Stormwater Pretreatment Project for Emerson & Estate Place**

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that this project has been identified as a high priority by the Washington State Department of Ecology. **George MOVED move to adopt Resolution No. 1793, awarding the construction contract bid for the Stormwater Pretreatment Project on Emerson Street and Estate Place to Pape & Sons Construction Inc. in the amount of \$411,396.70 including tax, and authorizing the City Manager to prepare and execute the required documents and to give the “notice to proceed” to commence construction of the project; seconded by Bufford.** Wittner invited Councilmember comments. George asked what a stormwater pretreatment device is. Bemis stated a stormwater pretreatment device is a filtration system that prevents and catches debris before the stormwater discharges into streams. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

**D. Resolution No. 1794: Washington State Department of Ecology Grant Agreement Funding**

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the Stormwater Pretreatment Project for Emerson and Estate Place will be fully funded. **Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1794, authorizing the Interim City Manager to approve additional grant funding of \$110,451.00 and the extension of the grant funding deadline with the Washington State Department of Ecology for the Stormwater Pretreatment Outfall Project on Emerson Street and Estate Place; seconded by George.** Wittner invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

**CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS**

There were none provided.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:42 P.M. Wittner reported that the Council would take a five-minute recess and convene into Executive Session, not to exceed thirty (30) minutes, to discuss labor negotiations per RCW 42.30.140(4)(b). Wittner noted that Interim City Manager Corcoran and Police Chief Cheesman would be joining Council in the Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**George MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 P.M., seconded by Viafore. The Motion Carried (7-0).**



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Brett L. Wittner, Mayor



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Arlette Burkhart, Deputy City Clerk