

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, Nikki Bufford, and Jim Andrews were present.

PRESIDING OFFICER’S REPORT

Councilmember George joined the meeting at 7:04 P.M.

A. Civil Service Appointment

Interim City Manager Corcoran briefed the Council on her appointment for the Fircrest Civil Service Commission vacancy. **Viafore MOVED to confirm the Interim City Manager’s appointment of Phillip A. Wilson to fill the 6-year term on the Fircrest Civil Service Commission beginning November 23, 2022 and ending on November 22, 2028; seconded by Reynolds.** Wittner invited councilmember comment; none were provided. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Interim City Manager Corcoran reported on her requested time off.

Corcoran reported that the Pierce County Regional Council and South Sound Housing Affordability Partners appointments expire on December 31, 2022. Council requested to have Councilmembers appointed at the next regular meeting.

There was a discussion on the Pierce Transit Board appointment.

A. City Building Closures

Corcoran requested to close City buildings from 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. on December 16, 2022, for the annual City staff luncheon. **Viafore MOVED to close all City Buildings on December 16, 2022, from 11:30 – 1:30 for the annual City Wellness Lunch; seconded by Bufford.** Wittner invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

Corcoran requested to close the Roy H. Murphy Community Center on December 24, 2022, for Christmas Eve. **Viafore MOVED to close the Roy H. Murphy Community Center on December 24, 2022, to allow recreation staff to spend Christmas Eve with their families; seconded by Barrentine.** Wittner invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

Corcoran requested to close the Roy H. Murphy Community Center on December 31, 2022, for New Year’s Eve. **Viafore MOVED to close the Roy H. Murphy Community Center on December 31, 2022, to allow recreation staff to safely celebrate New Year’s Eve; seconded by Barrentine.** Wittner invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Police Chief Cheesman reported on the lateral Police Officer applicants and current staffing.

- Public Works Director Bemis reported that Curtis High School Boys Water Polo won State Championships.
- Parks & Recreation Director Grover reported on the Christmas tree lighting event details.
- Administrative Services Director Westman reported on the draft Four Corners agreement.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Andrews commented on the readerboard.
- Bufford; no comment provided.
- George; no comment provided.
- Barrentine; no comment provided.
- Reynolds; no comment provided.
- Viafore reported that former Mayor Larry Cavanaugh’s wife, Lora Cavanaugh, passed away and gave his condolences. Viafore wished everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.
- Wittner thanked the meeting attendees and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

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, commented on the Police Department’s speeding enforcement.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Parks & Recreation

George reported on the Fircrest Tennis Court RFQ, and Whitter Master Plan RFP. George stated that the Fircrest Parks Foundation provided their first donation, and they are in the process of creating a procedure for donations. Lastly, George reported on several events occurring at the Community Center. There was a brief discussion on the Fircrest Tennis Court.

B. Pierce County Regional Council

Reynolds reported that the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department presented the Opioid Settlement Funding Priorities, Bethel School District presented Transportation concerns and Ceiba Consulting discussed the 2023 Legislative Priorities. Lastly, the Pierce County Regional Council held its election of 2023 officers and Puget Sound Regional Council appointments.

C. Public Safety, Courts

Viafore reported that Interim City Manager appointed a new City prosecutor. There was a discussion held on crosswalk improvements on Contra Costa Ave and legislative priorities.

D. Street, Water, Sewer, and Storm Drain

Barrentine reported that Public Works will be placing Christmas décor throughout the City and reported that Maintenance Worker II, Salvador Marez, is acclimating well.

E. Other Liaison Reports

There were none.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Wittner requested the Deputy City Clerk read the Consent Calendar: approval of Voucher No. 218799 through Voucher Check No. 218863 in the amount of \$456,933.88; approval of Payroll Check Nos. 14214 through Payroll Check No. 14214 in the amount of \$595.37; approval of Payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$128,461.37 and; approval of the November 8, 2022, Regular Meeting minutes. **Viafore MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as read; seconded by Barrentine.** Andrews requested to remove Invoice 28304: Agrishop Inc. in the amount of \$584.58. **The Motion to Approve the Consent Calendar Carried (7-0) as amended.** Andrews commented for further details. There was a discussion held on procedures for stolen goods, and maintaining City property secure. **Viafore MOVED to approve the payment for Invoice 28304: Agrishop Inc in the amount of \$584.58 to replace the stolen backpack blower; 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. 1698: Adopting the 2023 Budget

Corcoran briefed the Council on the proposed ordinance adopting the annual budget for the fiscal year 2023, stating the total of the 2023 Budget, which included estimated revenues, expenditures, and fund balances, was \$32,718,002. **Bufford MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1698, adopting the annual budget of the City of Fircrest for the Fiscal Year 2023; seconded by Barrentine.** Wittner invited Councilmember comments. Discussions included property taxes, the additional police officer, and the cost of living adjustment. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

B. Resolution No. 1800: Change Time for 12/27/22 Regular Meeting

Corcoran briefed the Council on changing the time of the December 27th Regular Council Meeting to start at 4:00 P.M. **Barrentine MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1800, changing the time of the December 27, 2022, meeting from 7:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M.; seconded by Bufford.** Wittner invited councilmember comment. Andrews commented on having a quorum. Wittner commented on new employee introductions. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

C. Resolution No. 1801: Kenyon Disend, PLLC Contract Amendment

Corcoran briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and stated that the 2023 rate will be \$255 per hour. **Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1801, authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute Amendment #1 to the professional services agreement with Kenyon Disend, PLLC for City Attorney services; seconded by Barrentine.** Wittner invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

D. Resolution No. 1802: Amending the Hearings Examiner Agreement with Olbrechts, PLLC

Administrative Services Director Westman briefed the Council on the proposed amendment to the professional services agreement with Olbrechts to extend the contract term and update the schedule of rates. **Barrentine MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1802, authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute an amendment to the contract for hearing examiner services with Olbrechts & Associates, PLLC in 2023; seconded by Bufford.** Wittner invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

E. Resolution No. 1803: Summit Law Contract Amendment

Corcoran briefed the Council on the proposed amendment to the professional services agreement with Summit Law Group to extend the contract term and update the schedule of rates. **Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1803, authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute Amendment #16 to the professional services agreement with Summit Law Group for personnel legal services; seconded by Barrentine.** Wittner invited councilmember comment; none were provided. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

F. Ordinance No. 1699: Adjusting the Sewer Rate

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed ordinance and stated the increase will supplement increased maintenance and operations, and sewage treatment costs. **Bufford MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1699, amending Ordinance No. 1627 Section 1 FMC 21.12.010 Residential and Commercial Sewer Rates and Sewage Treatment Pass through costs from Tacoma Wastewater; seconded by Barrentine.** Wittner invited Councilmember comments. Andrews commented on household financial impacts. Viafore commented on analyzing non-resident sewer rates. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

G. Ordinance No. 1700: Adjusting the Storm Rate

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed ordinance and stated the increase will supplement increased maintenance and operations. **Barrentine MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1700, amending Ordinance No. 1587 Section 1 FMC 20.16.030 Bi-Monthly stormwater rate schedule; seconded by Bufford.** Wittner invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

Viafore commented on the effective date. Bemis stated that the new rates will be effective in the first full billing cycle of 2023.

H. Ordinance No. 1701: Adjusting the Water Rate

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed ordinance and stated that the increase was recommended by the financial analysis of the updated Water System Plan. **Bufford MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1701, amending Ordinance No. 1681 Section 1 FMC 21.04.030 Residential Rate; and amending Ordinance No. 1681 Section 2 Commercial Rate; seconded by Barrentine.** Wittner invited Councilmember comments. There was a brief discussion on the utility rates. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

I. Resolution No. 1804: Approval of GIS Services Contract Amendment

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed resolution extending the term through December 31, 2023. **Barrentine MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1804, authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute an amendment to the contract for on-call GIS support services with NW GIS Consulting, LLC for the calendar year 2023; seconded by Bufford.** Wittner invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

Bufford left the meeting at 8:29 P.M. and returned at 8:31 P.M.

J. Information Only: 3rd Quarter Financial Report

Interim Finance Director Chambers presented the 3rd quarter report which includes APRA grant funds received and highlighted revenue comparisons year to year. General property tax revenue is at 56 percent of the budget. The budget is not reflective of revenue to be received from Pierce County Assessor. Chambers stated that retail sales increased while telephone tax revenue continues to decrease. Lastly, Chambers reported that this report will be available online. Viafore requested a report on delinquent property tax.

K. No Action Taken: 1st reading of the 2022 budget amendment # 3

Interim Finance Director Chambers stated that there were marginal errors on the second budget adjustment, which were corrected for the third budget amendment. Legal counsel confirmed that the 2022 budget amendment #2 ordinance does not need to be readopted. Chambers briefed the Council on the first reading of the third budget adjustment to the Adopted 2022 Budget and reported on the proposal for additional appropriations for anticipated revenues and expenditures not provided for in the Adopted 2022 Budget. Wittner invited councilmember comment; none were provided.

L. Resolution No. 1805: WSDOT Project Administration Agreement

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and stated that the Washington State Department of Transportation will provide documentation and reporting for certification acceptance. **Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1805, authorizing the Interim City Manager to execute a Project Administration Agreement with the Washington State Department of Transportation for Certification Acceptance services for the projects of Regents Blvd west Overlay and Emerson St West Sidewalk Extension; seconded by Barrentine.** Wittner invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

- Bemis commented on the stolen City property.
- Chief Cheesman thanked Council for the additional police officer.
- George commented on MacKenzie Scott's donation to the Tacoma Public Schools District.
- Westman commented on Periodic Update RFQ and stated that the City has not received responsive bids. The RFQ will be reposted.
- Wittner commented on ARPA funds for homeowner assistance and asked City Staff to post on the website.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

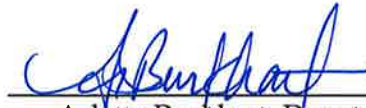
At 8:52 P.M., Wittner reported that the Council would take a five-minute recess and convene into Executive Session, not to exceed fifteen (15) minutes, to discuss labor negotiations per RCW 42.30.140(4)(b). Wittner noted that Interim City Manager Corcoran and Police Chief Cheesman would be joining Council in the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Viafore MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 P.M., seconded by Barrentine. The Motion Carried (7-0).



Brett L. Wittner, Mayor



Arlette Burkhardt, Deputy City Clerk