

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

Mayor Wittner reported that the Council will modify the agenda to add a second executive session. Mayor Wittner stated that the purpose of the executive sessions is to review the performance of a public employee and to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment per RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g).

Mayor Wittner stated that the Council may take action to select candidates for the City Manager position to interview and gave a recruitment timeline. Council discussions included community panels, Council interview timeframes, staff panels, question variety, and public records laws.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Interim City Manager Corcoran provided a Council group photo update and briefed the Council on the upcoming City Manager and Police Chief Meet and Greet events. There was a Council consensus to reschedule the Council group photo.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Police Chief Cheesman provided a brief report on the upcoming Police Chief oral board.
- Public Works Director Bemis reported on the pool maintenance, asphalt patching, street markings, and Well 7 and Well 8 maintenance.
- Parks & Recreation Director Grover reported on the Community Easter event, summer hiring, and season passes. There was a brief discussion on the Fircrest Tennis Courts.
- Administrative Services Director Westman provided an update on the Council Chamber’s audio/visual upgrade equipment and reported on the Mildred property development.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Viafore; no comment.
- Reynolds; no comment.
- Barrentine thanked the Park and Recreation Department.
- George; no comment.
- Bufford commented on the Whittier Park restoration party.
- Andrews; no comment.
- Wittner thanked the meeting attendees.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

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

- Vince Navarre, 1205 Del Monte Ave, commented on Police Chief Cheesman’s community involvement.
- Jason Berkowitz, 109 Birch St, thanked the City Council and staff for their service.
- Morgan Medlock, 1228 Eldorado Ave, commented on the Center Street Park & Ride homeless encampment issue. Chief Cheesman provided a brief update on the homeless

encampment. There was a brief discussion on contacting State Representatives for assistance and reporting criminal activity.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Administration

There was no report provided.

B. Environmental, Planning, and Building

George and Westman provided a brief update on accessory dwelling unit addressing. George reported on the Planning Commission agenda topics to include the comprehensive plan update and 2023 legislative updates.

C. Finance, IT, Facilities

There was no report provided.

D. Other Liaison Reports

None were provided.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Wittner requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar: approval of Voucher No. 219415 through Voucher Check No. 219469 in the amount of \$145,562.94; approval of Payroll Check No. 14246 through Payroll Check No. 14247 in the amount of \$8,978.60; approval of Payroll Check No. 14248 through Payroll Check No. 14253 in the amount of \$60,474.31; approval of Payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$11,236.80; approval of Payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$145,536.21; Setting a public hearing on April 25, 2023, at 7:15 p.m. or thereafter to receive comments on the proposed text amendments regarding storm drain service charge (FMC 20.16); approval of March 14, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes as corrected; approval of March 20, 2023, Study Session minutes; and March 28, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes as corrected; **Bufford MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as read; seconded by Barrentine. The Motion Carried (7-0).**

PUBLIC HEARING

A. To receive comments on the Stormwater Management Program Plan (SWMP)

At 7:51 P.M., Wittner opened the public hearing. Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed Stormwater Management Program Plan stating the public hearing was to receive comments on the Stormwater Management Program Plan (SWMP). Wittner invited councilmember comments. There was a brief discussion on pet waste disposal bags, dumpster lids, and street sweeping. Wittner invited public testimony; none were provided. At 7:54 P.M., Wittner closed the public hearing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Ordinance No. 1707: 2023 Budget Amendment #1, 2nd Reading and Adoption

Acting Finance Director Dunbar briefed the Council on the proposed ordinance and highlighted that the amendment includes recruitment fees for the City Manager and Police Chief and

additional costs for the City Prosecutor contract. **Bufford MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1707, authorizing revenues, and expenditures of funds for matters not provided for in the adopted City of Fircrest 2023 Annual Budget; seconded by George.** Wittner invited councilmember comment; none were provided. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

B. Resolution No. 1825: Phoebe Mulligan, LICSW Professional Services Agreement Chief Cheesman briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that Mulligan specializes in helping people deal with challenging situations. **Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1825, authorizing the Interim City Manager to sign an Independent Contractor Agreement with Phoebe Mulligan, LICSW; seconded by Barrentine.** Wittner invited councilmember comment. The Council thanked Chief Cheesman for continuing to implement officer wellness programs. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

- Viafore commented on the number of days until the Police Chief's retirement.
- City Attorney Zienemann commented on the City Manager interview question variety and interview notes relating to public records.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:05 P.M., Wittner reported that the Council would take a five-minute recess and convene into Executive Session, not to exceed sixty (60) minutes to review the performance of a public employee per RCW 42.30.110 (1) (g) and not to exceed sixty (60) minutes to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment per RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g). City Attorney Zeinemann was invited to the Executive Session to review the performance of a public employee. City Attorney Zeinemann and Colin Baeniger & Associates consultant, Lynelle Klein, were invited to the Executive Session to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment. Wittner noted that the Council may reconvene to take action after the Executive Session.

At 8:32 P.M., Interim City Manager Corcoran was invited to the Executive Session to review the performance of a public employee per RCW 42.30.110 (1) (g).

At 9:09 P.M., Wittner reported that the Executive Session will be extended, not to exceed the hour of 10:30 P.M.

At 9:58 P.M., the Council reconvened into regular session.

Administrative Services Director/City Clerk Westman read into the record the Council recommendations via preassigned candidate numbers for City Manager candidates. It was noted that no candidate names were stated for confidentiality. Candidate Numbers 4, 7, 8, and 10 were advanced as finalists for the City Manager Interviews.

Viafore MOVED to advance candidates Mark Burlingame, Scott Jorgensen, Dawn Masko, and Rick Rudometkin as finalists for the Fircrest City Manager position; seconded by Bufford. Wittner invited councilmember comment; none were provided. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

There was a brief discussion on the travel reimbursement policy.

Wittner reported that the Council will convene into recess.

Viafore MOVED to continue the April 11, 2023, Fircrest City Council meeting on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 7 P.M.; seconded by Reynolds. Wittner invited councilmember comment; none were provided. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

Wittner reconvened the April 11, 2023 meeting at 7:00 P.M. on April 12, 2023. Wittner reported that the Council will convene into two Executive Sessions pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g) to review the performance of a public employee and to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment. It was noted that all Councilmembers were present.

There was a brief discussion regarding Councilmember Reynolds' City Manager interview schedule.

At 7:02 P.M., Wittner reported that the Council would take a five-minute recess and convene into Executive Session, not to exceed sixty (60) minutes per RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g) to review the performance of a public employee. City Attorney Zeinemann was invited to the Executive Session. Wittner noted that the Council may reconvene to take action after the Executive Session.

At 7:21 P.M., the Council reconvened into regular session.

At 7:22 P.M., the Council convened into Executive Session, not to exceed sixty (60) minutes per RCW 42.30.110 (1)(g) to evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment. City Attorney Zeinemann and Robert Jean were invited to the Executive Session.

At 7:37 P.M., the Council reconvened into the regular meeting.

Viafore MOVED to appoint Robert Jean as Acting City Manager effective immediately; seconded by Barrentine. Wittner invited councilmember comment. The Council thanked Jean for his readiness to assist the City. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

Viafore MOVED to authorize the Mayor and the City Attorney to prepare the necessary legal documents and contract to hire RWJ Consultants, also known as Robert Jean, as Acting City Manager for the salary of \$12,500 per month; seconded by Reynolds. Wittner invited councilmember comment; none were provided. Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

There was a brief discussion on Council's announcement to appoint Jean and the City Manager recruitment timeline.

ADJOURNMENT

Bufford MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 P.M., seconded by Barrentine. The Motion Carried (7-0).

APRIL 11, 2023

FIRCREST CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR 5



Brett L. Wittner, Mayor



Jayne Westman, City Clerk