

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Wittner called the special meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers David M. Viafore, Shannon Reynolds, Joe Barrentine, Nikki Bufford, and Jim Andrews were present. Councilmember Hunter T. George was absent.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:02 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). Interim City Manager Corcoran was invited to the Executive Session.

Councilmember George joined the meeting at 6:05 P.M.

PRELIMINARY 2023 BUDGET

Interim City Manager Corcoran presented the Preliminary 2023 Budget General Fund overview, which included personnel changes, capital projects, and transfers. Corcoran highlighted that the preliminary budget reflects a 9.5 percent cost of living adjustment increase for all employees based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Personnel changes include the addition of an Accountant II position for six months and a Police Officer.

There was a brief discussion on the equipment cost of an additional Police Officer.

Corcoran presented the Equipment Repair and Replacement (ERR) Fund overview, and General Fund projections and changes. Capital Projects for 2023 include HVAC improvements for City Hall, Public Safety Building, Public Works, and the Whittier Park master plan.

Discussions included the replacement of the John Deere lawn tractor, the Council chamber's audio-visual equipment upgrade, and retail sales tax revenue.

Corcoran highlighted General Fund revenue changes, stating the property tax line, retail sales tax, and utility tax increased. Telephone and cable revenues continue to decrease with trends moving from landlines and cable. Pool and recreation revenue increases are based on the first pool season usage and the new community center. Municipal Court revenue decreased due to the current trend and projected effects of recent legislation. There was a brief discussion on Police staffing impacts. Investment interest is anticipated to increase based on the current market and Cumulative Reserves loan.


Corcoran reported that there was an increased cost for the City Attorney and City Prosecutor, a transfer out of ARPA funds to Water Capital, and a decrease in ARPA funds. Viafore commented on maintenance funds for the centennial anniversary. There was an increase in Information Systems for a part-time technician and an increase in purchase and maintenance license software.

Police changes include an increase in professional services due to body-worn cameras, and an interfund repair and maintenance increase for fuel cost. There was an increase in Fire and Emergency Management Systems of 9.5 percent due to an increase in CPI.

Recreation changes include an increase in instructor-based expenses and an increase in donations. Fircrest Parks and Recreation Department will continue to use the 2022 senior programming donation to support all senior events.

ADJOURNMENT

Viafore MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 P.M., seconded by Bufford. The Motion Carried (7-0).



Brett L. Wittner, Mayor



Jayne Westman, City Clerk