

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Brett L. Wittner called the regular meeting to order at 7:03 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

A. Legislative Update - State Representative Leavitt

Rep. Leavitt provided updates on the 2023 Legislative Session and highlighted the legislation’s focus areas which included small business assistance, housing initiatives, workforce development, public safety, environment, and education reforms. The Council thanked the delegation for helping fund the Electron Way & Contra Costa Ave lighted crosswalk upgrade. Council discussions included public education on legislative bills, property exemptions, and local park investments.

Councilmember Reynolds left the meeting at 7:30 P.M and returned at 7:34 P.M.

B. Proclamation: National Night Out

Councilmember Viafore read the proclamation into the record. **Councilmember Viafore MOVED to authorize the Mayor’s signature on a proclamation proclaiming August 1st, 2023, as National Night Out in the City of Fircrest; seconded by Councilmember Reynolds.** Mayor Wittner invited Councilmember comment; none were provided. Mayor Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Masko gave kudos to City staff and volunteers for their efforts at Fircrest Fun Days. She provided several updates including the Police Chief recruitment, the Planning Commission vacancy, the Wainwright School tree issue, and the Mildred Street “Prose” Development.

A. Motion: September 18, 2023, Special Meeting

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the motion to set September 18, 2023, as a special meeting at 7 P.M. to provide an update on the City’s Comprehensive Plan and to discuss housing reforms. **Councilmember Bufford MOVED to change the September 18, 2023, Study Session to a Special Meeting of the City Council to be held at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers; seconded by Councilmember Barrentine.** Mayor Wittner invited councilmember comment. There was a brief discussion on the meeting time. Mayor Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Public Works Director Bemis reported on several projects including the Emerson sidewalk project, stormwater pretreatment project closeout, and the 44th St. lift station project easements. There was a brief discussion on the City of University Place’s chip-sealing process.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Councilmember Andrews; no comment.
- Councilmember Bufford commented on Fircrest Fun Days and gave kudos to staff and volunteers for their efforts. She stated that she was grateful for all the coordinated efforts.
- Councilmember George thanked volunteers and staff for Fircrest Fun Days.

- Councilmember Barrentine thanked event sponsors, staff, volunteers, Kiwanis club, and businesses for Fircrest Fun Days.
- Councilmember Reynolds; no comments.
- Councilmember Viafore commented on Fircrest Fun Days, thanked AlphaPyrotechnics representative Andy for National Night Out fireworks, and gave kudos to the City’s department heads.
- Mayor Wittner stated that Fircrest Fun Days was a great event and thanked all volunteers. Lastly, he reported on the formation of the Holiday and Centennial committees.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Wittner invited public comment; none were provided.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Parks & Recreation

There was no report.

B. Pierce County Regional Council

Councilmember Reynolds provided a brief report on the PCRC meeting agenda to include the August 17, 2023, recess, transportation agenda, and Washington’s Commercial Aviation Coordinating Commission.

C. Public Safety, Courts

Councilmember Viafore reported on the Fircrest police department transition period. He gave kudos for the coordinated efforts during an emergency event at Fircrest Fun Days.

D. Street, Water, Sewer, and Storm Drain

Councilmember Bufford reported on the Public Works booth at Fircrest Fun Days, well house painting, and facilities maintenance needs for the upcoming centennial.

E. Other Liaison Reports

There were no other reports.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Wittner requested the Acting City Clerk read the Consent Calendar:

- A. Approval of Check No. 219861 through 219939 in the amount of \$485,631.27.
Approval of payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$175,569.48.
- B. Approval of the June 23, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes.
Approval of the June 27, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes.
Approval of the July 11, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes.

Councilmember Bufford MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as read; seconded by Councilmember Reynolds. The Motion Carried (7-0).

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public hearing scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution No. 1841: Umpqua Bank Time & Temperature Sign Agreement

Public Works Director Bemis reported on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the City will receive revenue from Umpqua Bank for advertising, maintenance, and future sign replacement. **Councilmember Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1841, authorizing the City Manager to execute a Time and Temperature Sponsorship Agreement with Umpqua Bank; seconded by Councilmember Reynolds.** Mayor Wittner invited Councilmember comment. There was a brief discussion on the replacement of the sign. Mayor Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

B. Ordinance No. 1710: Salary Plan Amendment

City Manager Masko reported on the proposed ordinance and stated that the proposed ordinance would add a Community Development Director position and salary range. **Councilmember Bufford move to adopt Ordinance No. 1710, amending Fircrest Municipal Code (“FMC”) 2.44.050 relating to salaries of non-union City employees and amending Section 1 of Ordinance No. 1709; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date; seconded by Councilmember Reynolds.** Mayor Wittner invited Councilmember comment. Council discussions included identifying funding sources, City expenses, tabling the matter, and providing necessary support to the Planning and Building Department.

Councilmember Viafore MOVED to table Ordinance No. 1710; seconded by Councilmember Reynolds. Mayor Wittner requested a roll call vote: Andrews – Yes; Barrentine – No; Bufford – No; George – No; Reynolds – Yes; Viafore – Yes; Wittner – No. **The Motion Failed as amended (3-4).**

Mayor Wittner invited Councilmember comment. Council discussions included the 2024 budget, position funding, one-time expenses, and necessary workload. Mayor Wittner invited public comment; none were provided.

Mayor Wittner requested a roll call vote: Barrentine – Yes; Bufford – Yes; George – Yes; Reynolds – No; Viafore – No; Andrews – No; Wittner – Yes. **The Motion Carried (4-3).**

C. Ordinance: Budget Amendment #2 – 1st Reading

Finance Director Corcoran briefed the Council on the first reading of the budget adjustment to the Adopted 2023 Budget and reported on the proposal for additional appropriations for anticipated revenues and expenditures not provided for in the Adopted 2023 Budget. Mayor Wittner invited Councilmember comment; none were provided.

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

There was a brief discussion on the upcoming election and candidate forums.

- Councilmember Viafore expressed concern about City deficit spending.
- Councilmember Barrentine commented on the upgraded council chamber’s audio system.
- Councilmember Andrews expressed concern about City spending.
- Councilmember George commented on one-time expenses with City recruitments.

- Mayor Wittner stated that he is also concerned about City spending and has faith in City Manager Masko.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

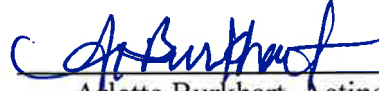
There was none scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Reynolds MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 P.M.; seconded by Councilmember Bufford. The Motion Carried (7-0).



Brett L. Wittner, Mayor



Arlette Burkhardt, Acting City Clerk