

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Brett L. Wittner called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 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. Motion: Planning Commission Appointment**

Mayor Wittner introduced and welcomed Eric Lane. **Councilmember George MOVED to confirm the Mayor’s appointment of Eric M. Lane to the City of Fircrest Planning Commission, Position No. 2, effective August 8, 2023, through June 15, 2029; seconded by Councilmember Bufford.** Mr. Lane introduced himself and gave a brief background of his planning experience. Mayor Wittner invited Councilmember comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

Mayor Wittner swore in Eric M. Lane as Planning Commissioner for the City of Fircrest.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Masko reported on the National Night Out event and thanked Interim Police Chief LaTour, staff, and retired Police Chief Cheesman. She provided an update on the Police Chief’s recruitment and stated that a conditional offer was made to Police Chief Ron Schaub. Police Chief Schaub has a vast amount of law enforcement experience and is currently the Police Chief for the City of Pacific. His start date will be September 25, 2023, pending a successful background check. City Manager Masko also reported on new City communication strategies, the Fircrest Park Foundation Memorandum of Understanding, and the Mildred Street “Prose” Development. There was a brief discussion on population growth targets.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Interim Police Chief LaTour commented on several items including city crime analysis, lateral police officer hiring, the National Night Out event, and the 2024 police budget.
- Public Works Director Bemis provided an update on the Letter of Understanding for stormwater agreements. Bemis also reported on the Whittier Park Pavilion light installation and potential grant funding for Claremont Street grind and overlay.
- Parks & Recreation Director Grover reported on Fircrest Park athletic field improvements and the upcoming Concert at the Park event. There was a brief discussion on conducting community outreach for the Fircrest Park athletic field improvements.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Councilmember Viafore welcomed former Planning Commissioner Mr. Foss. He gave kudos to the staff for the pool maintenance and the Spring Street water table issue. Lastly, he thanked Interim Police Chief LaTour for the National Night Out event.
- Councilmember Reynolds thanked Interim Police Chief LaTour and stated that National Night Out was a great event.
- Councilmember Barrentine; no comments.
- Councilmember George commented on the National Night Out event and gave kudos to Interim Police Chief LaTour, police department staffing, and the Fircrest Park Foundation meeting.

There was a brief discussion on the City Manager's weekly updates.

- Councilmember Bufford wished Public Works Director Bemis a happy early birthday.
- Councilmember Andrews commented on pool heating operations and expressed concern about temporary sign code violations.
- Mayor Wittner; no comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Wittner invited public comment. The following individuals provided public comments:

- Sue Little, 1037 Fir Park Lane, commented on political signage and city sign codes.
- Nancy Atwood, 1204 Farallone Ave, commented on the weathered fire station sign.
- Brian Rybolt, 1036 Daniels Dr, expressed concern about the temporary sign code violations.
- Vince Navarre, 1205 Del Monte Ave, expressed concern about political signage and temporary sign code violations.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Administration

Councilmember Andrews gave kudos to City Manager Masko and Interim Police Chief LaTour and reported on the temporary sign code.

B. Environmental, Planning, and Building

There was no report provided.

C. Finance, IT, Facilities

There was no report provided.

D. Other Liaison Reports

Councilmember Reynolds commented on the Pierce County Regional Council's August recess and the September transportation agenda topics.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Wittner requested the Acting City Clerk read the Consent Calendar:

- A. Approval of Check No. 219940 through 220011 in the amount of \$148,974.22.
Approval of Payroll Check No. 14279 through 14280 in the amount of \$8,881.77.
Approval of Payroll Check No. 14281 through 14287 in the amount of \$64,737.25.
Approval of payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$180,195.46.
- B. Setting special budget meetings on October 9, 23, and 30, 2023 at 6:00 PM for the sole purpose of reviewing the 2024 preliminary budget.
- C. Approval of July 17, 2023, Study Session meeting minutes.

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

There was a brief discussion on the special budget meetings.

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public hearing scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation: South Sound Housing Affordability Partners

SSHAP Manager, Jason Gauthier, provided an overview of the SSHAP work plan update and highlighted the 2024 four focus areas. Council discussions included the SSHAP core goals, policy efforts, and interlocal collaboration.

B. Resolution No. 1842: Pierce County Urban Consortium Agreement – Amendment No. 2

City Manager Masko provided an overview of the proposed resolution and highlighted the City may receive program funding when eligible criteria are met. **Councilmember Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1842, authorizing the City Manager and Mayor to execute Amendment No. 2 to the Agreement with Pierce County Human Services for Urban County Community Development Program Funds; seconded by Councilmember Reynolds.** Mayor Wittner invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

C. 2nd Quarter Financial Report

Finance Director Corcoran reported that the review period was through June 30, 2023, and highlighted that we should be at or around 50% of spending and revenue. Corcoran reported that revenue is currently at 53.5% of the budget and expenditures are currently at 44% of the budget. There was a brief discussion on real estate excise tax and city sales tax.

Councilmember Bufford left the meeting at 8:39 P.M. and returned at 8:41 P.M.

D. Ordinance No. 1711: Budget Amendment No. 2 - 2nd Reading and Adoption

Finance Director Corcoran briefed the Council on the proposed ordinance and highlighted that the amendment includes the Acting City Manager contract, additional costs for IT support and increase costs for the City Attorney. **Councilmember Bufford move to adopt Ordinance No. 1711, authorizing revenues and expenditures of funds for matters not provided for in the Adopted 2023 Budget; seconded by Councilmember George.** Mayor Wittner invited Councilmember comment. Council discussions included funding sources for the Community Development Director position, budget processes, sustainability, and the annual CPI. Mayor Wittner invited public comment; none were provided. **The Motion Carried (7-0).**

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

- Councilmember Viafore commented on the Council agenda formatting.
- Councilmember Andrews commented on the United States Coast Guard’s birthday.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

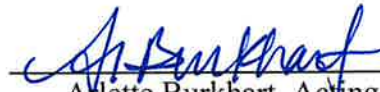
At 9:01 P.M., Mayor Wittner reported that the Council would take a five-minute recess and convene into Executive Session, not to exceed thirty (30) minutes to discuss labor negotiations per RCW 42.30.140 (4)(b). City Manager Masko was invited to the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Reynolds MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 P.M.; seconded by Councilmember Barrentine. The Motion Carried (7-0).



Brett L. Wittner, Mayor



Arlette Burkhardt, Acting City Clerk