

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, Hunter T. George, Nikki Bufford, and Jim Andrews were present.

PRESIDING OFFICER’S REPORT

A. Officer Bugarin Introduction & Swearing In Ceremony

Mayor Wittner swore in Miguel A. Bugarin as a Police Officer for the City of Fircrest. Police Chief Schaub briefed the Council on Officer Bugarin’s law enforcement background. The Council welcomed Officer Bugarin.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Masko provided several updates, including the part-time Court Clerk position, the lateral Police Officer oral board, the City Council photo, the Pierce County Mayors and City Manager’s letter, and current work activities.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Parks & Recreation Director Grover provided a brief overview of Haunted Trails and the Skeleton and Scarecrows event. He also reported on the Whittier Park Master Plan progress and updated the Council on the Fircrest Park field improvements.
- Public Works Director Bemis commented on the Maintenance Worker I position and the 44th Lift Station Upgrade bid opening.
- Police Chief Schaub reported on the Police Department’s data collection, Lexipol policy, and Civil Service Commission rules update, and provided a staff report.
- Community Development Director Newman reported on code enforcement reports, the Department of Commerce Middle Housing and Climate Change grants, provided a “Prose” project update, and asked for Council feedback on the Department of Ecology’s Level 2 electric vehicle charging grant.

There was a brief discussion on the electric vehicle charging station's ongoing cost, location, and maintenance.

There was a Council consensus to pursue the Level 2 electric vehicle charging grant.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Councilmember Viafore; no comment provided.
- Councilmember Reynolds; no comment provided.
- Councilmember Barrentine; no comment provided.
- Councilmember George gave kudos to the Parks and Recreation staff for their efforts at the Haunted Trails event and commented on the event advertisement.
- Councilmember Bufford thanked volunteers and staff for their efforts at the Haunted Trails event and commented on the need for accessible restrooms.
- Councilmember Andrews commented on the Haunted Trails event and the need for litter control and accessible restrooms.
- Mayor Wittner thanked the meeting attendees.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

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

- Alicia Kuper, 905 Manor Dr, commented on safety, law enforcement, and sign code violation issues.
- Jerry Foss, 1101 Paradise Pkwy, commented on the Haunted Trails event and the Community Center usage.
- Theresa Hamilton, 202 Ramsdell St, commented on speeding and traffic safety issues.
- Pat Sollars, 600 San Juan Ave, commented on various nuisance issues, including temporary signs and parking.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Parks & Recreation

Councilmember Barrentine reported on the Haunted Trails event and thanked the volunteers.

B. Pierce County Regional Council

Councilmember Reynolds reported on several items, including the operations and transportation meeting, and the upcoming election of officers.

C. Public Safety, Courts

Councilmember Viafore reported on increasing police officer visibility and the Municipal Court Judge transition plan.

D. Streets, Facilities, & Equipment

Councilmember Bufford reported on the Fircrest Park Maintenance Facility, the Claremont Well House repair status, and City park’s resurfacing and irrigation repairs.

E. Other Liaison Reports

There were none.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- A. Approval of Check No. 220286 through 220357 in the amount of \$214,321.90
Approval of payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$152,369.46
- B. Approval of the September 26, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes
Approval of the October 09, 2023, Special Meeting minutes
Approval of the October 10, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes

Councilmember Bufford MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as read; seconded by Councilmember Barrentine.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

PUBLIC HEARING

- A. To receive comments on the 2024 Preliminary Budget

At 8:12 P.M., Mayor Wittner opened the public hearing. Finance Director Corcoran briefed the Council on the 2024 Preliminary Budget, stating the public hearing was to receive comments on the Preliminary 2024 Budget. Mayor Wittner invited Councilmember comments; none were provided.

Mayor Wittner invited public testimony; none were provided.

At 8:16 P.M., Mayor Wittner closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Viafore left the meeting at 8:15 P.M. and returned at 8:18 P.M.

B. To receive comments on the 2024 Preliminary Budget Revenue Sources

At 8:16 P.M., Mayor Wittner opened the public hearing. Finance Director Corcoran briefed the Council on the 2024 Budget Revenue Sources and stated the public hearing was to receive comments on the Preliminary 2024 Budget Revenue Sources. Mayor Wittner invited Councilmember comments. There was a brief discussion on tax revenue distribution between University Place and Tacoma School District.

Mayor Wittner invited public testimony; none were provided.

At 8:33 P.M., Mayor Wittner closed the public hearing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Wittner invoked Rule 20. Order of Business in the Fircrest City Council Rules and stated that the Council will modify the agenda to proceed with New Business Item 13D. Claremont Street Fence Discussion. There were no objections noted by the Council.

D. Claremont Street Fence Discussion

City Manager Masko provided an update on the damaged Claremont Street well house and fence. She requested Council feedback on the fence repair. Council discussions included proceeding with the fence repair, removing the damaged fence, community outreach, parking issues, property fencing requirements, and City liability.

Mayor Wittner invited public comment.

- Jeanie Foss, 1101 Paradise Pkwy, expressed safety concerns with removing the damaged fence.
- Jerry Foss, 1101 Paradise Pkwy, expressed safety concerns with removing the damaged fence, lack of public restrooms, and community outreach.

There were no noted objections from the Council to proceed with the fence repair.

A. Resolution No. 1850: Kenyon Disend, PLLC Contract Amendment

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the changes include extending the term through December 31, 2024, and an increase in the hourly rate. **Councilmember Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1850, authorizing the City**

Manager to execute Amendment #2 to the Professional Services Agreement with Kenyon Disend, PLLC, for City Attorney services; seconded by Councilmember Reynolds. Mayor Wittner invited Councilmember comments. There was a brief discussion on attorney costs in 2023. Mayor Wittner invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

B. Resolution No. 1851: Approval of the Alliance/ “Prose” Project Memorandum of Understanding

Project Coordinator Bob Jean briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the developer would voluntarily contribute funds to the City towards the Infiltration and Inflow reduction program and sewer availability. **Councilmember Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1851, authorizing the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Alliance Residential regarding the Infiltration and Inflow reduction program and sewer availability; seconded by Councilmember Barrentine.** Mayor Wittner invited Councilmember comments. Discussions included the commitment of funds, Infiltration and Inflow study cost, developer’s project schedule, and notice for termination.

Mayor Wittner invited public comment.

- Brian Rybolt, 1036 Daniels Dr., expressed concern on affordable housing and property tax exemptions.
- Jerry Foss, 1101 Paradise Pkwy, expressed concern on the stormwater runoff connection to the City’s sewer system.

Council discussions included peak flow data, project revenue to add a 10th police officer, Infiltration and Inflow program study, and groundwater penetration into the sewer system.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

C. Resolution No. 1852: MOU Salary Plan Amendment with Teamsters 117

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the Utility Billing Clerk desk audit warranted a position reclassification to a Public Works Office Coordinator position. **Councilmember Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1852, authorizing the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Teamsters Local Union No. 17 regarding creating a Public Works Coordinator position and reclassifying the Utility Billing Clerk position; seconded by Councilmember Barrentine.** Mayor Wittner invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Wittner invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

Councilmember Viafore thanked the meeting attendees.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:32 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 review the performance of a public employee, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (g). Mayor Wittner noted that City Manager Masko

was invited to the executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Bufford MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 P.M., seconded by Councilmember George. The Motion Carried (6-0), with Councilmember Barrentine absent.



Brett L. Wittner, Mayor



Arlette Burkhardt, Acting City Clerk