

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Pro Tempore Joe Barrentine called the regular meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers David M. Viafore, Shannon Reynolds, Hunter T. George, Nikki Bufford, and Jim Andrews were present. Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine informed the Council that Mayor Brett L. Wittner would be attending the meeting later in the evening.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT

Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine 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 13A. Resolution No. 1865: Honoring Fircrest Municipal Court Judge Miller. There were no objections noted by the Council.

NEW BUSINESS

13A. Resolution No. 1865: Honoring Fircrest Municipal Court Judge Miller

Councilmember Viafore read the resolution into the record. **Councilmember Viafore MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1865, honoring Municipal Court Judge John A. Miller for his 28 years of loyal and selfless service to the City of Fircrest; seconded by Councilmember George.**

Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited public comment.

- Rob Masko, University Place resident, commented on Judge Miller's fairness, responsibility, and integrity.

Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited Councilmember comments.

- Councilmember Viafore commented on his history with Judge Miller, Judge Miller's integrity, and Judge Miller's ability to dispense justice. Councilmember Viafore thanked Pam Miller for her contribution to Fircrest.
- Councilmember Andrews thanked Judge Miller for his goodwill and service and thanked Pam Miller for being supportive.
- Councilmember George commented on Judge Miller's compassion and directness and stated that it has been an honor to work with him.
- Councilmember Barrentine thanked Judge Miller for sharing his time and talents with the City of Fircrest.

The Motion Carried (6-0).

13B. Motion: Confirmation of Municipal Court Judge Appointment

City Manager Masko introduced Judge Foley and provided an overview of Judge Foley's experience and education. **Councilmember Viafore MOVED to confirm the City Manager's appointment of Meagan M. Foley as Municipal Court Judge to fill the remainder of retired Judge John A. Miller's unexpired term, effective January 1, 2024; seconded by Councilmember Bufford.** Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited public comment; none was provided. Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited Councilmember comments.

- Councilmember Viafore expressed their excitement about the appointment.
- Councilmember George expressed their excitement about the appointment.

The Motion Carried (6-0).

Judge Foley stated that she is honored to assume the position.

At 7:26 P.M., Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine reported that the Council would take a five-minute recess to allow the public to congratulate Judge Miller.

At 7:37 P.M., the Council reconvened.

Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine reported that agenda items 13H. Resolution: Memorandum of Understanding with Teamsters and 13Q. Resolution: Claremont Avenue Overlay TIB Grant Agreement will be removed from the agenda. There were no objections noted by the Council.

A. Motion: Cancellation of December 18, 2023 Study Session

Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine requested Council feedback on the cancellation of the December 18, 2023 Study Session. There was a Council consensus to keep the December 18, 2023 Study Session.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Masko reported on the City's holiday luncheon, Pierce County sewer interlocal agreement, and the Civil Service oral board. City Manager Masko requested Council feedback regarding a quorum at the Whittier Park Master Plan community event. It was noted that there would not be a quorum.

Mayor Wittner joined the meeting at 7:44 P.M.

There was a discussion on the Whittier Park Master Plan mailer and having staff host a third open house.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Police Chief Schaub commented on the Holiday sleigh, access fees for the Combined Communication Network, the surplus of the police motorcycle, and wished everyone a Happy Holiday. There was a brief discussion on holiday police vehicle decoys.
- Community Development Director Newman reported on the missing middle housing ordinance, the Planning Commission meeting, and the Affordable Housing and Treatment letter of support.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Councilmember Viafore; no comment.
- Councilmember Reynolds wished everyone Happy Holidays.
- Mayor Wittner commented on the Wainwright School band concert and thanked Mayor Pro Tempore.
- Councilmember George commented on the Tacoma Public School bond measure for school improvements.
- Councilmember Bufford; no comment.

- Councilmember Andrews expressed concern about the Pierce County Regional Council and South Sound Housing Affordability Partners appointments. There was a brief discussion on the timing of the appointments.
- Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine wished everyone Happy Holidays and reported on the Lights of Fircrest.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited public comment. None were provided.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Administration

Councilmember Andrews reported on Municipal Court Judge Miller’s retirement. There was no report.

B. Environmental, Planning, and Building

There was no report.

C. Finance, IT

There was no report.

D. Other Liaison Reports

Councilmember George commented on the Pierce County Climate Conversation.

Councilmember Viafore commented on the Centennial Committee meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine requested the Acting City Clerk read the Consent Calendar:

- A. Approval of check No. 220528 through 220579 in the amount of \$543,868.99.
Approval of payroll check No. 14315 through 14316 in the amount of \$9,042.74.
Approval of payroll check No. 14317 through payroll check No. 14323 in the amount of \$69,146.71.
Approval of payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$155,640.88.
- B. Approval of the November 14, 2023, Special Meeting minutes.
Approval of the November 14, 2023, Regular Meeting minutes.
Approval of the November 20, 2023, Study Session minutes.

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

The Motion Carried (7-0).

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public hearing scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

C. Ordinance No. 1716: 2023 Budget Amendment #3 – 2nd Reading

Finance Director Corcoran briefed the Council on the second reading of the budget adjustment to the Adopted 2023 Budget and reported on the request for additional appropriations for anticipated revenues and expenditures not provided for in the Adopted 2023 Budget. There was a brief discussion on changes to the budget amendment, late invoices, and one-time expenditures. **Councilmember George MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1716, authorizing revenues and expenditures of funds for matters not provided for in the Adopted 2023 Budget; seconded by Councilmember Bufford.** Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

D. Resolution No. 1866: Pierce County Regional Council Appointment

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and stated that the representatives would have voting authority from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2025. **Councilmember George MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1866, appointing Councilmember Shannon Reynolds as the representative to the Pierce County Regional Council, and further appointing Councilmember Nikki Bufford as the alternate representative to the Pierce County Regional Council; seconded by Mayor Wittner.** Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited Councilmember comments. There was a discussion on the new Council opportunity to serve, voting by-laws, procedures, and strategic appointment time. Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

E. Resolution No. 1867: South Sound Housing Affordability Partners Appointment

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the appointment allows for the City to participate in housing affordability and stability issues in Pierce County. **Councilmember Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1867, appointing Councilmember George as the representative to South Sound Housing Affordability Partners, and further appointing Mayor Wittner as the alternate representative to South Sound Housing Affordability Partners; seconded by Councilmember Viafore.** Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (6-1), with Councilmember Andrews dissenting.

F. Resolution No. 1868: Greenleaf Landscaping Maintenance Contract Amendment

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the changes include extending the contract term through December 31, 2024, and updating the rate schedule. **Councilmember George MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1868, authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment #6 to the Professional Services Agreement with Greenleaf**

Landscaping, Inc. for landscape maintenance services; seconded by Councilmember Bufford. Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

G. Resolution No. 1869: Tacoma Daily Index Contract

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the agreement provides for required City legal publishing. **Councilmember Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1869, authorizing the City Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Sound Publishing, Inc., dba Tacoma Daily Index, for continued legal publishing services as the official City newspaper for the City of Fircrest; seconded by Councilmember George.** Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

I. Resolution No. 1870: RWJ Consultant Contract Amendment

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the changes extend the contract term through March 31, 2024, and update the fee structure. **Councilmember Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1870 authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to the professional services agreement with RWJ Consultants for Project Coordinator services; seconded by Councilmember George.** Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited Councilmember comments. Discussions included funding sources and the agreement cap. Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

J. Resolution No. 1871: Audio-Visual System Replacement Change Order

Finance Director Corcoran briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the change order includes the necessary labor and materials to complete the project. **Councilmember Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1871 authorizing the City Manager to execute Change Order #1 to the Professional Services Agreement with DescoAV for the Council Chambers audio-visual system replacement; seconded by Mayor Wittner.** Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited Councilmember comments. There was a brief discussion on the lobby speakers. Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

K. Ordinance No. 1717: Water Rate Adjustment

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed ordinance and stated the proposed rate increase would generate additional revenue for the Water Utility fund. **Councilmember George MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1717, amending Section 1 of Ordinance No. 1701 and Fircrest Municipal Code Title 21.04.030 – Residential Rates and Section 2 of Ordinance No. 1701 and Fircrest Municipal Code Title 21.04.040 –Commercial Rates; seconded by Councilmember Bufford.** Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (6-1), with Councilmember Andrews dissenting.

L. Resolution No. 1872: Robert W. Droll, PS Contract Amendment

Parks and Recreation Director Grover briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the change includes extending the term to December 31, 2024. **Councilmember Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1872, authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with Robert W. Droll, Landscape Architect, PS for the Fircrest Park Athletic Field Improvement Project; seconded by Mayor Wittner.** Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited Councilmember comments. There was a brief discussion on additional costs. Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

M. Resolution No. 1873: Humane Society Contract

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and stated that the Humane Society provides animal sheltering services for the City. **Councilmember Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1873, authorizing the City Manager to execute the agreement between The Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County and the City of Fircrest for animal sheltering and related services for 2024; seconded by Mayor Wittner.** Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

N. Resolution No. 1874: KBH Contract Amendment

Parks and Recreation Director Grover briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and stated that the changes include extending the term to July 31, 2024. **Councilmember Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1874, authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to the Construction Services Contract with KBH Construction Company for the Fircrest Park Athletic Field Improvement Project; seconded by Mayor Wittner.** Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

O. Resolution No. 1875: Emerson Street Sidewalk Extension Design Contract

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and stated that the contract would add a sidewalk and bike lane along the south side of Emerson Street. **Councilmember Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1875, authorizing the City Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Shea, Carr & Jewell, Inc. for engineering design services for the Emerson West Sidewalk Project; seconded by Mayor Wittner.** Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited Councilmember comments. Discussions included retaining walls, Right of Way, geotechnical engineering, and pedestrian connectivity. Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

P. Resolution No. 1876: 44th Street West/67th Ave West Lift Station Upgrade Contract

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and stated that the 44th Street W/ 67th Ave W lift station is the last station to be upgraded. **Councilmember Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1876, authorizing the City Manager to execute a Construction Contract with Pape and Sons Construction Inc. for the 44th Street Sewer Lift Station Upgrade Project; seconded by Mayor Wittner.** Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited Councilmember comments. There was a brief discussion on bids exceeding the engineer's estimate. Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

There was a brief discussion on the Prose development and the City Manager evaluation period.


EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:06 P.M., Mayor Pro Tempore Barrentine reported that the Council would take a five-minute recess and convene into Executive Session, not to exceed forty-five (45) minutes, to discuss potential litigation, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). City Manager Masko, City Attorney Zeinemann, and Project Coordinator Bob Jean were invited to the Executive Session.

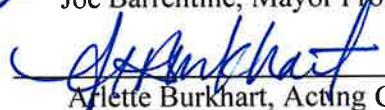
ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Bufford MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 P.M., seconded by Councilmember George.

The Motion Carried (7-0).



Joe Barrentine, Mayor Pro Tempore



Aflette Burkhardt, Acting City Clerk