

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Shannon Reynolds called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers David M. Viafore, Karen Mauer-Smith, Brett L. Wittner, and Nikki Bufford were present. Councilmember Hunter T. George was absent and excused. Councilmember Andrews joined the meeting virtually at 7:13 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT

There was no report.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Masko reported on the upcoming Pierce County Council's homelessness discussion, and staff vacancies, and asked for patience while the City fills current staff vacancies. She gave kudos to the Municipal Court staff for their efforts in the implementation of the new enterprise case management system. Lastly, City Manager Masko reported on upcoming Council photos.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Community Development Director Newman reported on permit processing and that he is conducting a review of permit fees. He also reported that the City received an application for tenant improvements for an indoor golf center. Lastly, Community Development Director Newman reported that the City was awarded a climate change planning grant.
- Public Works Director Bemis reported on the Fircrest Parks Maintenance Facility and Well House 6/7 request for bids and provided a brief update on the Department of Commerce Electron Way and Contra Costa Avenue project contract. He gave kudos to the part-time Utility Billing Assistant, Holly Veliz. Lastly, he reported on the Claremont Avenue sidewalk and the upcoming Tacoma Environmental Services wetland mitigation project at the Leach Creek holding basin. There was a brief discussion on the project boundaries.
- Parks & Recreation Director Grover reported on the Easter Egg Hunt event and provided a brief update on the pool season preparation, including pool programming.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Councilmember Bufford; no comment.
- Councilmember Wittner thanked the meeting attendees.
- Councilmember Mauer-Smith; no comment.
- Councilmember Viafore; no comment.
- Mayor Reynolds commented on the Mother and Son dance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Reynolds invited public comment. The following individuals provided comment:

- Brian Rybolt, 1036 Daniels Drive, commented on the Pierce County Council's approach to homelessness and the drug rehabilitation issue.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS**A. Parks, Recreation, and Sustainability**

Councilmember Viafore reported on the March Medallion Madness event, upcoming Easter Egg hunt, Fircrest Park temporary fencing, and pickleball noise complaints.

B. Police/Public Safety and Court

Councilmember Bufford reported on upcoming staff photo enforcement discussions and increased police visibility.

C. Public Works

There was no report.

D. Pierce County Regional Council

Councilmember Reynolds reported on the Small City Day event and its main topic about what defines a small city. The upcoming Pierce County Regional Council meeting agenda will be on recent legislative updates to include prison staffing, vehicle pursuit, and drug possession laws.

E. Other Liaison Reports

There was no report.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- A. Approval of Check No. 221015 through 221077 in the amount of \$161,529.82.
Approval of payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$163,632.97.
- B. Registering no objections to the Stina's Cellar Liquor License Renewal.
- C. Approval of the February 27, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes.
- D. Setting a Public Hearing on April 09, 2024, at 7:15 P.M. or shortly thereafter to receive comments on the Stormwater Management Program Plan.

Councilmember Wittner MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as read; seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.

The Motion Carried (6-0).

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public hearing scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution No. 1887: Middle Housing Consultant Agreement

Community Development Director Newman briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the grant funds would help implement the missing middle housing state mandate pursuant to RCW 36.70A.030(26). **Councilmember Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1887, authorizing the City Manager to execute a professional services agreement with Kimley-Horn and Associates to design a Middle Housing Ordinance and Development Regulations; seconded by Councilmember Wittner.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments. Council discussions included consultant evaluation criteria and a small city-tiered approach to legislative changes and exemptions.

Mayor Reynolds invited public comment.

- Jim Otness, 973 Altadena Drive, commented on the density building, applicable existing planning codes, Fircrest characteristics, sewer capacity issue, plat amendments, and further Council discussions to satisfy growth management.

Councilmember Viafore acknowledged and welcomed former Planning Commissioner Jim Otness and former Planning Commissioner Dan DeLorenzo.

Discussions included City Attorney Zeinemann's legislative housing update memo and the clarification of statements.

- Brian Rybolt, 1036 Daniels Drive, commented on the use of tax dollars and government control.

Discussions included state mandates, funding for capital improvement projects, and sewer and water capacity to accommodate growth in Fircrest.

Mayor Reynolds stated that her employer conducts business with Kimley-Horn and would like to excuse herself to avoid any potential conflict of interest. Mayor Reynolds left the Council Chambers at 7:41 P.M.

Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford assumed as the presiding officer. Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited public comment.

- Dan DeLorenzo, 1227 Palm Drive, commented on community education regarding the housing density issue, biased survey questions, and opposed building code changes.
- Vince Navarre, 1205 Del Monte Avenue, commented on the Fircrest mission statement, the housing density intent, and maintaining Fircrest citizen focus.

The Motion Carried (4-1), with Councilmember Andrews dissenting.

Mayor Reynolds returned at 7:48 P.M. and resumed as the presiding officer.

Councilmember Viafore commented on a middle housing educational mailing list and public participation.

B. Ordinance: 2024 Budget Amendment No. 1 - 1st Reading

Finance Director Corcoran briefed the Council on the first reading of the budget amendment to the Adopted 2024 Budget and reported on the proposal for additional appropriations for anticipated revenues and expenditures not provided for in the Adopted 2024 Budget. Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments; none were provided.

C. Resolution No. 1888: Community Center Closeout

Parks and Recreation Director Grover briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the proposed resolution marks the conclusion of the project. **Councilmember Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1888, accepting the Fircrest Community Center Project as complete and authorizing the release of retainage; seconded by Councilmember**

Mauer-Smith. Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments; there were none. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; there were none. Mayor Reynolds expressed her excitement for the Community Center.

The Motion Carried (6-0).

D. Resolution No. 1889: AHBL, Inc. Contract Amendment

Parks and Recreation Director Grover briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the amendment would allow for an additional community meeting on the Whittier Park Master Plan process. **Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1889, authorizing the City Manager to execute an amendment to the professional services agreement with AHBL, Inc. for the Whittier Park Master Plan Process; seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments. Discussions included community involvement, a staff-led meeting, continued dialogue, budget allocation, and the community engagement event mailer issue.

Mayor Reynolds invited public comment.

- Jillian Adkins, 1060 Monterey Lane, commented on the consultant's survey.
- Brian Rybolt, 1036 Daniels Drive, commented on the previous community engagement events, and the potential cost of Whittier Park improvements.

The Motion Carried (5-1), with Councilmember Andrews dissenting.

E. Resolution No. 1890: RWJ Consultant Contract Amendment No. 2

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted the amendment would extend the contract term to June 30, 2024. **Councilmember Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1890 authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment #2 to the professional services agreement with RWJ Consultants for Project Coordinator services; seconded by Councilmember Wittner.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments; there were none. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; there were none.

The Motion Carried (6-0).

F. Comprehensive Plan Update Budget Discussion

Community Development Director Newman provided an update on the Comprehensive Plan Update budget and stated that the City and the consultant agreed on billable items. He also stated that City staff will finish Tasks 5 and 6. Council discussions included a transparent budget, contract changes, and contract deliverables.

Mayor Reynolds invited public comment.

- Dan DeLorenzo, 1227 Palm Drive, commented on contract expectations.

City Manager Masko reported that BHC performed extra work outside of the contract.

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

Community Development Director Newman apologized for his comment and stated that he is always willing to answer questions to clarify any misunderstandings.

Councilmember Viafore acknowledged former Planning Commissioner and Councilmember Jerry Foss. He requested to add an executive session to review the performance of a public employee, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g). No objections were noted by the Council.

Councilmember Bufford requested a calendar placeholder for quarterly performance reviews.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:20 P.M., Mayor Reynolds reported that the Council would take a five-minute recess and convene into Executive Session, not to exceed sixty (60) minutes, to discuss labor negotiations, pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b) and to review the performance of a public employee, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g).

It was noted that City Manager Masko and Police Chief Schaub were invited to the Executive Session to discuss labor negotiations, pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b). City Manager Masko was invited to review the performance of a public employee, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g).

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Andrews left the meeting at 9:09 P.M.

Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 P.M., seconded by Councilmember Bufford.

The Motion Carried (5-0).



Shannon Reynolds, Mayor



Arlette Burkhardt, Acting City Clerk