

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

City Clerk Burkhart called the special meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers David M. Viafore, Brett L. Wittner, Hunter T. George, Nikki Bufford, and Jim Andrews were present. Councilmember Karen Mauer-Smith was absent and excused. Councilmember Nikki Bufford attended the meeting virtually. Mayor Shannon Reynolds joined the meeting virtually at 6:44 P.M.

City Clerk Burkhart stated per Fircrest City Council Rule 5B., an alternate Mayor Pro Tempore needed to be selected by members of the Council to act as the Presiding Officer. **Councilmember Bufford MOVED to appoint Councilmember Wittner as Alternate Mayor Pro Tempore; seconded by Councilmember George.**

The Motion Carried (5-0).

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were none.

PRELIMINARY 2025 BUDGET – 2nd BUDGET WORKSHOP

City Manager Masko presented the 2025 Preliminary Budget for the Street, Storm, and Water Funds, remaining American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, and personnel changes.

Public Works Director Bemis presented the Street, Storm, Water, and Sewer Fund operating goals, revenues, and expenses to include Capital Fund revenues and expenditures. Director Bemis stated that preliminary design plans for Regents Blvd grind and overlay will be sent to the Council for feedback due to changes in roadway configuration to accommodate bicycle lanes.

Councilmember Viafore left the meeting at 6:08 P.M. and returned at 6:13 P.M.

Discussions included street beautification transfer amount, Centennial Celebration enhancement budget, AMI water meter exchange funding and completion, proposed water rate increase to build operating reserves, Wellhouse #4 repairs, water tower cell site rental advertisement, and pass-through sewer rate increase.

City Manager Masko reported ARPA funds must be obligated contractually by December 31, 2024, and spent by December 31, 2025. Discussions included the City's well water loop system and Fircrest Parks Maintenance Facility electrical specifications.

There was a Council consensus to bring back an amendment to the water meter exchange contract.

ARPA discussions included the Whittier Park Master Plan, the Equipment Repair and Replacement (ERR) Fund, and the City's website accessibility update. City Manager Masko reported on the court security issue and the request for a metal detector for screening purposes. Court Administrator Olivarez stated the municipal court is out of compliance for screening.

Mayor Reynolds left the meeting at 6:53 P.M. and returned in person at 6:59 P.M.

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There was a Council consensus to continue the court security and the use of bailiffs discussion at a study session.

Further ARPA discussions include laptop replacements, City Hall replacement furniture, the 10th police officer hire, City Hall columns, and police vehicle purchase.

Councilmember George reported on the Masko Park enhancement project and stated community members have raised donations for playground equipment. Discussions included additional funds for playground equipment, additional park lighting, ADA compliance, neighborhood outreach, security, the Seabrook Rhododendron garden, and open space.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Reynolds MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 P.M., seconded by Councilmember George.

The Motion Carried (6-0).


Brett L. Wittner, alternate Mayor Pro Tempore


Arlette Burkhardt, City Clerk