

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 Brett L. Wittner, Hunter T. George, Nikki Bufford, and Jim Andrews were present. Councilmembers David M. Viafore and Karen Mauer-Smith were absent and excused.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT**A. Officer Castaneda Swearing-In Ceremony**

Mayor Reynolds invoked Rule 20. Order of Business from the Fircrest City Council Rules and requested to modify the Council agenda to remove agenda item 4A. Officer Castaneda Swearing-In Ceremony. There were no objections noted by the Council.

B. Tacoma Public Utilities Rates Adjustment Presentation

Tacoma Public Utilities (TPU) representatives Regional Relations Manager Rosa McLeod, Public Utility Board Chair John O'Loughlin, Financial Planning Manager Michelle Brown, and Senior Utilities Economic Analyst Andrew Zaremba were in attendance to present the proposed rate adjustments. Ms. McLeod reported on TPU's clean power-generating resources, responsible management of infrastructure assets, and environmental stewardship. Ms. McLeod also reported on the rate adjustments during a budget cycle process, supply chain delays, increased cost pressures, and federal regulation compliance. Lastly, Ms. McLeod provided an overview of the proposed rate adjustments for power and water customers and reported on TPU's customer financial assistance programs. Discussions included rate comparison for Fircrest and Tacoma water, a phased rate increase approach for replaced revenue, and energy efficiency audits.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Masko reported that she has been busy with the 2025 preliminary budget and Teamster negotiations. Ms. Masko gave kudos to the Fircrest businesses named Best of Pierce County winners. Lastly, Ms. Masko reported on the upcoming interviews for the Finance Director position and provided a reminder for the Council photo scheduled for November 12, 2024.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**A. End-of-Season Community Pool Report**

Parks and Recreation Director Grover reported on the end-of-season revenues and expenditures. Mr. Grover stated that the cost recovery rate will be 77.52% after billing UPAC for their pool rental. Mr. Grover provided an overview of the season passes and punch cards sold, and pool programming. Discussions included cost recovery rate before the pool remodel, pool rental availability, UPAC relationship, lifeguard staffing, resident versus non-resident entries, and season pass advertising.

- Parks and Recreation Director Grover reported on the Haunted Trails event and thanked the participating volunteers.
- Public Works Director Bemis reported on the replacement of Tacoma Power poles throughout the city.
- Interim Finance Director Dunbar reported on the annual state audit, including the audit kickoff meeting, entrance conference, and weekly meetings.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Councilmember Andrews; no comment.
- Councilmember Bufford thanked staff and volunteers for the Haunted Trails event. She provided kudos for the timed entry and presale tickets.
- Councilmember George provided kudos for the Haunted Trails event.
- Councilmember Wittner provided kudos for the Haunted Trails event.
- Mayor Reynolds; no comment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Reynolds invited public comment. The following individual(s) provided comment:

- Nancy Atwood, 1204 Farallone Ave, expressed concern about the Comprehensive Plan survey.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Parks, Recreation, and Sustainability

There were no reports.

B. Police/Public Safety and Court

Councilmember Bufford reported on the police department's co-responder training program and upcoming defensive tactics and emergency vehicle operations course training.

C. Public Works

Councilmember Andrews reported on the water meter installation progress and the Fircrest Park Maintenance Facility construction progress.

D. Pierce County Regional Council

Mayor Reynolds stated that the Pierce County Regional Council (PCRC) discussed honoring veterans, and participation in initiatives such as becoming a Purple Heart City. Lastly, Mayor Reynolds reported that next month PCRC will elect a 2025 slate for representation and Puget Sound Regional Council delegates.

E. Other Liaison Reports

Mayor Reynolds reported that she was absent and excused from the Pierce Transit meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Reynolds requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar. City Manager Masko stated that the Consent Calendar will need to be amended to include adding a special meeting for the Council group photo. There were no objections from the Council.

- A. Approval of Check No. 221926 through 222200 in the amount of \$298,000.59
Approval of payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$160,280.54
- B. Approval of the September 30, 2024, Special meeting minutes
Approval of the October 07, 2024, Special meeting minutes
Approval of the October 08, 2024, Regular meeting minutes

- C. Setting a special meeting on November 12, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. for the sole purpose of taking council photos.

Councilmember Bufford MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as amended; seconded by Councilmember Wittner.

The Motion Carried (5-0).

PUBLIC HEARING

A. To receive comments on the 2025 Revenue Sources

At 7:50 P.M., Mayor Reynolds opened the public hearing. City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the 2025 revenue sources, stating the public hearing was to receive comments on the 2025 revenue sources. Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments. There was a brief discussion on intergovernmental grants and the Tacoma Public Schools and University Place School district property tax distribution.

Mayor Reynolds invited public testimony.

- Brian Rybolt, a 38-year Fircrest resident, commented on the property tax levy for education and the 1% inflationary increase for general property taxes.

At 8:08 P.M., Mayor Reynolds closed the public hearing.

B. To receive comments on the 2025 Preliminary Budget

At 8:09 P.M., Mayor Reynolds opened the public hearing. City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the 2025 preliminary budget, stating the public hearing was to receive comments on the 2025 preliminary budget. Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments. There was a brief discussion on encouraging the public to follow along with the 2025 preliminary budget documents located on the City's website.

Mayor Reynolds invited public testimony. There were no comments.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution No. 1930: Kenyon Disend, PLLC Contract Amendment

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the amendment will extend the agreement to December 31, 2025, and amend the hourly rate schedule. **Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1930, authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment #3 to the Professional Services Agreement with Kenyon Disend, PLLC, for City Attorney services; seconded by Councilmember Bufford.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments. Council discussions included the level of service and including the new rate in the 2025 budget. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; there were none.

The Motion Carried (5-0).

B. Memorandum of Understanding – Fircrest Police Schedule

Police Chief Schaub briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the police department preferred the modified schedule. **Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1931, authorizing the City Manager to execute an Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding with the Fircrest Police Guild regarding a modified 12-hour work schedule; seconded by Councilmember Bufford.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments. There was a brief discussion on sleep-related concerns and fatigue. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; there were none.

The Motion Carried (5-0).

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

Police Chief Schaub reported on Police Officer Bugarin's crisis intervention training and the Whittier Elementary trunk-or-treat event. He also stated that the police department would be handing out candy during Halloween.

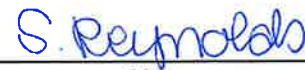
EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:24 P.M., Mayor Reynolds 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). City Manager Masko was invited to the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 P.M., seconded by Councilmember Bufford.

The Motion Carried (5-0).



Shannon Reynolds, Mayor



Arlette Burkhart, City Clerk