

**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, Brett L. Wittner, Karen Mauer-Smith, Nikki Bufford, and Jim Andrews were present. Councilmember David M. Viafore attended the meeting virtually.

**PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT**

**A. Proclamation: Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

Councilmember Bufford read the proclamation titled Martin Luther King Jr. Day into the record. **Councilmember Wittner MOVED to authorize the Mayor's signature on the proclamation proclaiming Monday, January 20, 2025, as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day in the City of Fircrest; seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

**The Motion Carried (6-0).**

**B. Proclamation: Centennial Celebration Year**

Mayor Reynolds read the proclamation titled Centennial Celebration Year into the record. **Councilmember Viafore MOVED to authorize the Mayor's signature on the proclamation proclaiming the year 2025 as the City of Fircrest's 100th Anniversary; seconded by Councilmember Bufford.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

**The Motion Carried (6-0).**

**C. Motion: Confirmation of Middle Housing Ad Hoc Committee Appointment**

Mayor Reynolds presented the appointment of Eric Lane to the Middle Housing Ad Hoc Committee. **Councilmember Viafore MOVED to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Eric Lane to the Middle Housing Ad Hoc Committee; seconded by Councilmember Wittner.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

**The Motion Carried (6-0).**

Councilmember Hunter T. George joined the meeting at 7:06 P.M.

**D. 2025 Liaison Assignments**

Mayor Reynolds presented her proposed changes to the Council liaison assignments and read the Council liaison assignments into the record.

- Administration – Councilmember Viafore
- Finance, IT, & Facilities – Councilmember Bufford
- Parks & Recreation, & Sustainability – Councilmember Andrews
- Planning & Building – Councilmember Wittner
- Public Safety & Court – Councilmember Mauer-Smith
- Street, Water, Sewer, & Storm – Councilmember George

**E. 2025 Committee Assignments**

Mayor Reynolds proposed no changes to the committee assignments. There was no objection from the Council.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

City Manager Masko reported on City building closures in observance of Martin Luther King Jr Day and requested Council availability to schedule a new Council group photo. She also provided an update on the Passport Specialist and City Hall Administrative Assistant positions. She reported on the Association of Washington Cities' City Action Days, the City's water franchise agreement, and the Murphy Bear unveiling event.

**A. Introduction of Finance Director Allison Deskins**

City Manager Masko introduced Allison Deskins as the City's new Finance Director. Finance Director Deskins thanked the City for the opportunity.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

- Parks and Recreation Director Grover reported on several items, including youth basketball season, coaching clinic, the Daddy-Daughter dance, the Fun Days preparation meeting, and several park improvements.

**COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

- Councilmember Viafore welcomed Finance Director Deskins, gave kudos to the Public Works Department on the Fircrest Park Maintenance Facility, and gave kudos to Parks and Recreation Director Grover for providing great services.
- Councilmember Mauer-Smith thanked the Finance, IT, & Facilities departments for the opportunity to serve as their liaison and commented on the wildfires in Los Angeles County, California.
- Councilmember Wittner welcomed Finance Director Deskins.
- Councilmember George commented on the Pierce County District 5 and District 4 Council elections, thanked the Planning & Building Department for the opportunity to serve as their liaison, reported on his nomination to the Sound Transit Board, and welcomed Finance Director Deskins.
- Councilmember Viafore commented on scheduling a Council Study Session in February to discuss the Pierce County Council's aid to District 4 regarding the City's sewer issue.
- Councilmember Bufford thanked the Police Department for the opportunity to serve as their liaison and welcomed Finance Director Deskins.
- Councilmember Andrews welcomed Finance Director Deskins and thanked Public Works for the opportunity to serve as their liaison. Councilmember Andrews requested information on the number of respondents to the Middle Housing survey and the delivery status of the written survey. There was a brief discussion on mailing issues, providing information to the Council, and social media outreach.
- Mayor Reynolds; no comment.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

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

- Brian Rybolt, a Fircrest resident, commented on the reconciliation of the Middle Housing online and written survey and expressed concern on House Bill 1110 impact survey question.
- Vince Navarre, a Fircrest resident, commented on the American Dream and the impact of political mandates.

**COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS**

**A. Administration**

There was no report.

**B. Built Environment, Planning, and Building**

There was no report.

**C. Finance, Information Technology, and Facilities**

There was no report.

**D. Other Liaison Reports**

Middle Housing Ad Hoc co-chair Mr. Ladenburg welcomed Eric Lane and stated the committee will provide an update on their efforts to submit a Notice of Intent to the Washington State Department of Commerce at the January 21, 2025 Study Session.

Mayor Reynolds reported on the Pierce Transit Board appointments to the Puget Sound Regional Council. Mayor Reynolds also reported on the Pierce County Regional Council's goal to gain full membership and the upcoming General Assembly meeting.

Councilmember Wittner reported on the upcoming Centennial Celebration committee meeting scheduled for Thursday, January 16, 2025.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

- A.** Approval of Check No. 222280 through 222321 in the amount of \$77,081.07  
Approval of the Check No. 14442 through No. 14443 in the amount of \$8,833.56  
Approval of the Check No. 14444 through No. 14452 in the amount of \$68,492.19  
Approval of the payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$154,270.82  
Approval of the payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$161,994.74
- B.** Setting the 2025 City Council Study Session meetings on January 21, February 18, March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 14, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, and December 15 starting at 6:00 pm at Fircrest City Hall.
- C.** Setting a Joint Meeting of the City Council and the Planning Commission on February 4, 2025, at 6:00 pm at Fircrest City Hall.

- D. Setting a Public Hearing on January 28, 2025, at 7:15 pm or shortly thereafter to receive comments on a proposed Solid Waste rate adjustment.

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

**The Motion Carried (7-0).**

#### **PUBLIC HEARING**

There was no public hearing scheduled.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **A. Motion: Authorizing Signers on City Banking and Credit Card Accounts**

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed motion and stated the motion would allow the City to add Finance Director Deskins, remove former Finance Director Corcoran, and provide view access only to Accountant I Wells. **Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to authorize the City Manager to add Allison Deskins, Finance Director, remove former Finance Director Colleen Corcoran, and provide view access only to Accountant I Wanda Wells to all City of Fircrest financial accounts; seconded by Councilmember Bufford.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

**The Motion Carried (7-0).**

#### **CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Viafore inquired about the joint City Council and Planning Commission agenda topics. City Manager Masko stated that Planning Commissioners have provided topics for discussion to staff, and the City Council will have an opportunity to provide a list of topics at the January 21, 2025 Study Session. Councilmember Viafore commented on the Whittier Elementary construction project and would like to discuss it at the joint meeting.

Councilmember Bufford commented on sharing the Middle Housing survey on the City's social media accounts.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 7:50 P.M., Mayor Reynolds reported that the Council would take a ten-minute recess and convene into Executive Session, not to exceed forty-five minutes (45) 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). City Manager Masko and Labor Attorney John Lee were invited to discuss labor negotiations. City Manager Masko was invited to review the performance of a public employee.

**JANUARY 14, 2025**

**FIRCREST CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR 5**

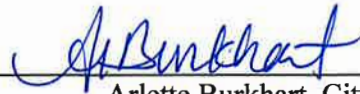
**ADJOURNMENT**

**Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 P.M., seconded by Councilmember Bufford.**

**The Motion Carried (7-0).**



Shannon Reynolds, Mayor



Arlette Burkhardt, City Clerk