

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 Hunter T. George joined the meeting at 7:03 P.M.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT

A. Proclamation: Arbor Day 2024

Mayor Reynolds read the proclamation titled Arbor Day 2024 into the record. **Councilmember Viafore MOVED to authorize the Mayor's signature on the proclamation proclaiming the fourth Saturday of November as Arbor Day in the City of Fircrest; seconded by Councilmember Wittner.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Masko reported on the selection of Allison Deskins for the Finance Director position. Mrs. Masko also reported on Congresswoman Strickland's annual Vietnam War Veterans Ceremony held at the Fircrest Community Center. The City of Fircrest was presented with a United States flag that was flown over the United States Capitol on October 25, 2024. The flag will be displayed at Fircrest City Hall. City Manager Masko thanked all military veterans for their service. She also provided a report on the Hanover Company and their due diligence for their current feasibility period regarding the Mildred Street property. Lastly, Mrs. Masko stated that Administrative Assistant Sierra Lee's last day with the City was November 8, 2024, and she will be missed. The City is working on advertising the vacant Administrative Assistant and Passport Acceptance Specialist positions.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

There were no department head comments.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Councilmember Andrews stated he was disappointed that the City did not have a proclamation for Veterans Day and thanked all veterans.
- Councilmember Bufford; no comment.
- Councilmember George; no comment.
- Councilmember Wittner thanked the meeting attendees.
- Councilmember Mauer-Smith; no comment.
- Councilmember Viafore welcomed and acknowledged Honorable Judge John Miller, Jim Otness, former Planning Commissioner and former Councilmember Jerry Foss, and former Planning Commissioner Mr. Gustin. He also welcomed the long-time Fircrest residents who were in attendance.
- Mayor Reynolds; no comment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

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

- Frank Ladenburg, a Fircrest resident, commented on honoring military veterans, Washington State House Bill 1110, and the zoning mandates. Mr. Ladenburg requested that the City seek an extension based on the City's sewer infrastructure issue.
- Name Not Provided, a Fircrest resident, commented on the City's infrastructure issue and water pressure issues. He encouraged the Council to consider requesting an extension to House Bill 1110.
- Denise Ladenburg, 1309 Palm Drive, requested the Council to consider applying for an extension to House Bill 1110 and plan for the future of Fircrest.
- Jim Otness, 973 Altadena Drive, commented on avenues for extensions to meet state mandates and stated that the City of Fircrest is listed as one of the densest cities within Pierce County. Mr. Otness provided a letter to the Fircrest City Council.
- Doug Off, address not provided, expressed support for the extension application to House Bill 1110.
- Marty Jackson, 1102 Paradise Parkway, expressed concern about crime and a sense of community. He expressed support for the extension application to House Bill 1110.
- Mike Rock, 1044 Monterey Lane, expressed support for the extension and commented on the parking issue with housing density.
- Bertil Johnson, a Fircrest resident, expressed support for the extension.
- Vern Harkins, 976 Altadena Drive, expressed support for the extension.
- Jerry Foss, 1101 Paradise Parkway, expressed support for the extension.
- Vince Navarre, a Fircrest resident, expressed support for the extension and commented on increased crime, traffic, and infrastructure issues.

Mayor Reynolds invited Council comment.

Councilmember Andrews MOVED that the Council direct the City Manager to direct City staff to apply immediately for the extension with the assistance of the members who spoke during the public comment period; seconded by Councilmember Viafore. Mayor Reynolds invited Council comment. Discussions included the Acting City Attorney's legal opinion on the House Bill 1110 extension and receiving assistance from interested community members. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment.

- Frank Ladenburg, 1309 Palm Drive, commented on his interest in assisting the City with applying for an extension.
- Jim Otness, 973 Altadena Drive, commented on the intent of House Bill 1110.
- Marty Jackson, 1102 Paradise Parkway, expressed concern about the density building.
- Jillian Adkins, 1060 Monterey Lane, commented on the City's contract with the Middle Housing consultants.
- Vince Navarre, a Fircrest resident, expressed support for the extension of House Bill 1110.

There was a brief discussion of the use of the term "immediately" within the motion, and the City Attorney verified that the City Council can apply for an extension.

Councilmember Wittner MOVED to amend the motion to remove the word immediately; seconded by Mayor Reynolds. Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments. Council discussions included providing a detailed study that would be needed to apply for an extension and few infrastructure issues.

Mayor Reynolds requested a roll call vote.

Councilmember Andrews - Yes; Councilmember Bufford - No; Councilmember George – Yes; Councilmember Mauer-Smith – Yes; Councilmember Viafore – Yes; Councilmember Wittner -Yes; Mayor Reynolds - Yes

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

Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmembers to comment on the amended motion.

Councilmember Viafore requested that the Mayor and Council consider Council Rule 23. Special Ad Hoc Committee formation. Mayor Reynolds stated that if the motion prevailed, she would like to see the committee work with integrity to meet the spirit of the intended motion, consider Home Rule, and provide materials to the Council for review.

There was a brief discussion on City staff capacity and further research. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

Mayor Reynolds requested a roll call vote.

Councilmember Andrews - Yes; Councilmember Bufford - No; Councilmember George – No; Councilmember Mauer-Smith – No; Councilmember Viafore – Yes; Councilmember Wittner – Yes; Mayor Reynolds - Yes

The Motion Carried (4-3), with Councilmembers Bufford, George, and Mauer-Smith dissenting.

At 8:17 P.M., Mayor Reynolds requested a five (5) minute recess and stated that the Council would reconvene at 8:22 P.M.

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

D. There was no report.

E. Other Liaison Reports

There were no other reports.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Reynolds requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar:

- A. Approval of the Check No. 14422 through No. 14423 in the amount of \$9,421.60
Approval of the Check No. 14424 through No. 14431 in the amount of \$67,541.28
Approval of Check No. 222001 through 222087 in the amount of \$885,102.50
Approval of the payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$11,186.10
Approval of the payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$161,930.77
- B. Approval of the October 14, 2024, Special Meeting minutes
Approval of the October 21, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes
- C. Setting a public hearing on November 26, 2024, for proposed water rate adjustments at 7:15 PM or shortly thereafter at Fircrest City Hall

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

The Motion Carried (7-0).

PUBLIC HEARING

At 8:25 P.M., Mayor Reynolds opened the public hearing. City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the City's 2025 Preliminary Budget, stating the public hearing was to receive comments on the City's 2025 Preliminary Budget. Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Reynolds invited public testimony; none were provided.

At 8:27 P.M., Mayor Reynolds closed the public hearing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Motion: Emergency Sewer Repair

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed motion to retroactively approve the emergency sewer repairs at Fordham Court and 62nd Avenue West in the amount of \$38,535. **Councilmember George MOVED to retroactively approve the emergency sewer repairs at Fordham Court and 62nd Avenue West in the amount of \$38,535; seconded by Councilmember Wittner.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments. There was a brief discussion on the age of the sewer line. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

B. Ordinance No. 1729: Municipal Court Judge and Chief Examiner Rate of Pay

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed ordinance and highlighted that the proposed pay increase includes a 3.6% cost of living adjustment. **Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1729, amending Fircrest Municipal Code 2.44.070 amending**

the Municipal Court Judge and Civil Service Chief Examiner monthly rates of pay, and amending Fircrest Municipal Code 2.44.095 amending the Municipal Court Judge Pro Tempore hourly rate of pay, providing for severability, and establishing an effective date; seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith. Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

C. Ordinance No. 1730: 2025 Ad Valorem Tax Levy

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed ordinance and highlighted that the proposed property tax levy would provide necessary funds for 2025 City operations. Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1730, fixing the amount of the annual ad valorem tax levy necessary for the fiscal year 2025, providing for severability, and establishing an effective date; seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith. Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments. There was a brief discussion on the property tax and EMS tax increase. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

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

D. Resolution No. 1932: Adoption of Whittier Park Master Plan

Parks and Recreation Director Grover briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the Whittier Park Master Plan serves as a roadmap for future park improvements. Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1932, approving and adopting the 2024 Whittier Park Master Plan, attached hereto as Exhibit “A”; seconded by Councilmember George. Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments. Council discussion included providing kudos for the community input, looking for grant opportunities, and utilizing the plan as a roadmap. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

E. Resolution No. 1933: Leavitt Group Insurance Broker Contract

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the contract provides for insurance broker services. Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1933, authorizing the City Manager to execute a Broker Service Agreement with Leavitt Group NW for insurance broker services; seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith. Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments. There was a brief discussion on the terms of the rates. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

F. Resolution No. 1934: Olbrechts & Associates, Hearing Examiner Amendment #5

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the amendment extends the term to December 31, 2025, and updates the service fees. Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1934, authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment #5 to the Professional Services Agreement with Olbrechts & Associates, PLLC, for Hearing Examiner services; seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith. Mayor Reynolds

invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

G. Resolution No. 1935: Summit Law Group Amendment #18

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the amendment extends the term to December 31, 2025, and updates the hourly rate schedule. **Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1935, authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment #18 to the Professional Services Agreement with Summit Law Group for personnel legal services; seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

H. Resolution No. 1936: Pierce County Interlocal Agreement Amendment

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted the inclusion of an additional section regarding communications and record keeping added by Pierce County. **Councilmember Wittner MOVED to authorize the City Manager to execute an amended Interlocal Agreement with Pierce County for specialized law enforcement services; seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

I. Resolution No. 1937: BJA Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Grant Acceptance

Police Chief Schaub briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the grant award would provide for 50% of the cost of bulletproof vests for police officers. **Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1937, accepting a \$1,461.70 grant award from the U.S. Department of Justice Bulletproof Vest Partnership Program; seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

J. Resolution No. 1938: Tacoma Public Safety Radio System User Agreement

Police Chief Schaub briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted the Police Department is requesting to move from Pierce County's Combined Communication Network 700 MHz system to Tacoma Public Safety 800 MHz radio system. **Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1938, authorizing the City Manager to execute a User Agreement with the City of Tacoma to utilize the Tacoma Public Safety Radio System; seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments. Council discussions included mutual aid partnership, officer safety, dispatch channels, and patching. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

K. Resolution No. 1939: KPG Psomas Amendment #10

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the amendment to the agreement would continue to provide on-call engineering services. **Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED move to adopt Resolution No. 1939, authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment #10 to the Professional Services Agreement with KPG Psomas for on-call engineering services; seconded by Councilmember Wittner.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

L. Resolution No. 1940: NW GIS Consulting Amendment #9

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the amendment to the agreement provides continued on-call GIS services. **Councilmember Mauer-Smith to adopt Resolution No. 1940, authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment #9 to the Professional Services Agreement with NW GIS Consulting for on-call GIS services; seconded by Councilmember Wittner.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

M. Resolution No. 1941: Water Meter Exchange Contract Amendment #1

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the amendment to the contract provides additional support to complete the Water Meter Exchange Project. **Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1941, authorizing the City Manager to execute a Contract for Services with Pape & Sons Construction, Inc. to provide additional support to the Water Meter Exchange Project; seconded by Councilmember Wittner.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments. There was a brief discussion on the residential versus commercial water meter exchange, project timeline, business outreach, reduction in meter reading days, labor cost, and the use of ARPA funds. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

N. Resolution No. 1942: Electron Way/Contra Costa Ave Crosswalk Bid Award

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that R.L. Alia Company was the lowest responsive bidder. **Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1942, authorizing the City Manager to execute a Public Works Contract with R.L. Alia Company for the Electron Way and Contra Costa Avenue Crosswalk Project; seconded by Councilmember Wittner.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments. There was a brief discussion on the project timeline, community outreach and education, power source for the crosswalk, and additional lighting on Electron Way. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

Councilmember Bufford reported tagging on the Emerson Street retaining wall.


EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:27 P.M., Mayor Reynolds reported that the Council would take a five-minute recess and convene into Executive Session, not to exceed twenty (20) minutes, to discuss labor negotiations pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b). City Manager Masko, Labor Attorney John Lee, and Public Works Director Bemis were invited to the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:49 P.M., seconded by Councilmember George.

The Motion Carried (7-0).



Shannon Reynolds, Mayor



Arlette Burkhart, City Clerk