

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, Hunter T. George, Nikki Bufford, and Jim Andrews were present.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT

A. Proclamation: Veteran's Day

Councilmember Andrews read the proclamation titled Veteran's Day into the record. Councilmember Viafore **MOVED to authorize the Mayor's signature on the proclamation proclaiming November 11, 2024, as Veterans Day in the City of Fircrest; seconded by Councilmember Wittner.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments. Mayor Reynolds apologized for the late proclamation. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

Mayor Reynolds provided a brief report on the Middle Housing Ad Hoc Committee formation and its intent for civic engagement.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Masko reported on the Transportation Improvement Board grant for the Alameda Avenue Sidewalks Project from Cypress Point to Emerson Street, the City's congressional appropriations request, the Passport Specialist position posting, and the Utility Service Person II position interviews. She also stated the Middle Housing survey is available on the City's website and the survey will be mailed to residents. Mrs. Masko reported on the notice of withdrawal to the City's insurer CIAW and stated she will research other insurance pools for cost and coverage. Lastly, Mrs. Masko stated the Administration Department is currently busy with contract renewals and labor union negotiations. There was a brief discussion on the project locations for the City's funding requests.

A. Motion: City Building Closures

City Manager Masko reported on the City's request to close City buildings.

Councilmember Viafore **MOVED to close all City buildings on December 6, 2024, from 11:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. for the annual City Wellness Lunch; 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).

Councilmember Viafore **MOVED to close all City buildings at 12:00 PM on December 24, 2024, to allow City staff to spend Christmas Eve with their families; 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).

Councilmember Viafore **MOVED to close all City buildings at 3:00 PM on December 31, 2024, to allow City staff to safely celebrate New Year's Eve with their families; 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).

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Parks and Recreation Director Grover provided a brief report on the upcoming Holiday Market and Tree Lighting event. He also commented on the intent of the Fircrest Park Improvement project and drainage improvements. Lastly, he provided a brief report on the FirFest event.
- Police Chief Schaub provided a brief report on the drive-by shooting incident, the Department's involvement at Whittier Elementary's food drive, and the upcoming Santa Sleigh event.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Councilmember Viafore; no comment.
- Councilmember Mauer-Smith; no comment.
- Councilmember Wittner commented on the fatality incident on Alameda Avenue and Emerson Street and expressed his condolences to the family.
- Councilmember George commented on the Fircrest Parks and Recreation Foundation's grant for Masko Park playground equipment and expressed his condolences to the family.
- Councilmember Bufford expressed her condolences to the family.
- Councilmember Andrews expressed his condolences to the family.
- Mayor Reynolds; no comment.

Councilmember Andrews left the meeting at 7:22 P.M. and returned at 7:23 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

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

- Vince Navarre, Fircrest resident, expressed concern about increased crime and expressed condolences to the family. He also provided a brief history of the Thanksgiving holiday.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Parks, Recreation, and Sustainability

There were no reports.

B. Police/Public Safety and Court

There were no reports.

C. Public Works

Councilmember Andrews reported on the storm drainage cleanup efforts.

D. Pierce County Regional Council

Mayor Reynolds stated the Pierce County Regional Council (PCRC) elected new members for their delegations and alternates to the Puget Sound Regional Council for 2025 and developed their legislative agenda for 2025.

E. Other Liaison Reports

Councilmember Bufford provided a brief Centennial Committee report to include new events with a centennial theme, a potential legacy project, and working on a landing webpage.

Mayor Reynolds stated she was unable to attend the Pierce Transit Board meeting.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Reynolds requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar.

- A. Approval of Check No. 222088 through 222144 in the amount of \$186,988.86
Approval of payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$167,192.83
- B. Registering no objections to the Slice Garden Liquor License Application
Registering no objections to the Spring Lake Cafe Liquor License Renewal
Registering no objections to the Fircrest Bottle Shop Liquor License Renewal
- C. Approval of the October 22, 2024, Regular Meeting minutes
Approval of the November 04, 2024, Special Meeting minutes

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

The Motion Carried (7-0).

PUBLIC HEARING

A. To receive comments on a Proposed Water Rate Adjustment

At 7:35 P.M., Mayor Reynolds opened the public hearing. City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed water rate adjustment, stating the public hearing was to receive comments on the proposed water rate adjustment. Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments; none were provided.

Mayor Reynolds invited public testimony.

- Vince Navarre, Fircrest resident, commented on the GoFundMe fundraiser for the family affected by the fatality.

At 7:38 P.M., Mayor Reynolds closed the public hearing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution No. 1943: Middle Housing Ad Hoc Committee Formation

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the committee will allow Fircrest residents to collaborate with the City to prepare an application for an alternative or timeline extension for full implementation of House Bill 1110. **Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1943, establishing a Special Middle Housing Ad Hoc Citizen Advisory Committee; seconded by Councilmember Viafore.** Mayor Reynolds invited

Councilmember comments. There was a brief discussion on researching an alternative, and keeping the Council informed of City staff time and involvement. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

B. Motion: Confirmation of Middle Housing Ad Hoc Committee Appointments

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed motion to confirm the Mayor's appointments to the committee. Mayor Reynolds provided a brief report on her appointments to the committee and stated the current appointments are for the purpose of establishing the committee. **Councilmember Wittner MOVED to confirm the Mayor's appointments to the Middle Housing Ad Hoc Committee as follows:**

- **Councilmember David Viafore – Committee Chair**
- **Councilmember Jim Andrews**
- **Councilmember Hunter George**
- **Frank Ladenburg, Fircrest Resident**
- **Jim Otness, Fircrest Resident**
- **Denise Ladenburg, Fircrest Resident**

; seconded by Councilmember Viafore.

Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments. Councilmember George stated he would like to include Fircrest resident Eric Lane due to his knowledge and expertise. Acting City Attorney Eide commented on Council rules and procedures regarding motions. Mayor Reynolds stated that applications from interested residents for committee appointments will be accepted at a later date. Council discussions included community outreach for interested residents, the intent of advice and consent motions, and Council rules and procedures.

Mayor Reynolds invited public comment.

- Jim Otness, 973 Altadena Dr, commented on the alternatives for House Bill 1110 and would like to proceed with preparing materials for the City's consideration.

Mayor Reynolds requested a roll call vote: Andrews – Aye; Bufford – Nay; George – Nay; Mauer-Smith – Nay; Viafore – Aye; Wittner – Aye; Reynolds - Aye

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

C. Ordinance No. 1731: Salaries of Non-Union Employees, Including Casual and Seasonal Employees

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed ordinance and highlighted the cost-of-living adjustment of 3.6% for non-represented employees. **Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1731, amending Fircrest Municipal Code 2.44.050 relating to salaries of non-union City employees and amending Fircrest Municipal Code 2.44.090 relating to hourly rates of pay for casual and seasonal employees; 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).

D. Resolution No. 1944: Changing the Date of 12/24/24 Regular Meeting

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the meeting's date and time would be changed. **Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1944, changing the date of the December 24, 2024, City Council meeting to December 23, 2024, at 4:00 P.M.; 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).

E. Resolution No. 1945: Apex Engineering Contract Amendment #9

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted the amendment would extend the term of the agreement through December 31, 2025. **Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1945, authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment #9 to the Professional Services Agreement with Apex Engineering LLC for on-call engineering services.; seconded by Councilmember Bufford.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments. There was a brief discussion on including the rate increase amount in the agenda summary. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

F. Resolution No. 1946: CivicPlus Website Contract

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted the contract will provide the City with an updated website. **Councilmember Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1946, authorizing the City Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement with CivicPlus LLC for website design and hosting services; seconded by Councilmember Wittner.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments. There was a brief discussion on the Council's excitement for an updated website. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment.

- Jerry Foss, 1101 Paradise Parkway, commented on the ongoing annual fee cost.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

G. Resolution No. 1947: City Hall Columns Repair Contract

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted the deterioration of the columns at the south entrance of City Hall. **Councilmember Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1947, authorizing the City Manager to execute a Public Works Contract with Creative Custom Construction, LLC, for the City Hall exterior columns repair project; seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments. There was a brief discussion on the uniformity of construction materials. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

H. Resolution No. 1948: Wellhouse #8 Repair Contract

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted the failure of the check valves at Wellhouse #8. **Councilmember Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1948, authorizing the City Manager to execute a Public Works Contract with Holt Services, Inc. to replace the check valves at Well #8; seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment.

- Brian Rybolt, Fircrest resident, expressed concern about the use of ARPA funds.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

I. Ordinance: 2024 Budget Amendment #3 – First Reading

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the first reading of the third budget adjustment 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.

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

There was a brief discussion on suspending Council rules and procedures.

Councilmember George MOVED to suspend Fircrest City Council Rule 23C; seconded by Councilmember Bufford. Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments. There was a brief discussion on appointing Fircrest resident Eric Lane to the Middle Housing Ad Hoc Committee. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment.

- Eric Lane, Fircrest resident, commented on an equitable process and expressed his interest in joining the Middle Housing Ad Hoc Committee.

Mayor Reynolds requested a roll call vote: Bufford – Aye; George – Aye; Mauer-Smith – Aye; Viafore – Nay; Wittner – Nay; Andrews – Nay; Reynolds – Nay.

The Motion Failed (3-4), with Councilmember Viafore, Wittner, and Andrews, and Mayor Reynolds dissenting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:38 P.M., Mayor Reynolds reported that the Council would take a five-minute recess and convene into Executive Session, not to exceed fifteen (15) minutes, to review the performance of a public employee pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(g). Acting City Attorney Eide and City Manager Masko were invited to the Executive Session.

At 8:58 P.M., Mayor Reynolds reported that the Council would extend their Executive Session, not to exceed twenty (20) minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 P.M., seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

NOVEMBER 26, 2024

FIRCREST CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR 7



Shannon Reynolds, Mayor



Arlette Burkhardt, City Clerk