

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

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

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were none.

DEPARTMENT GOALS DISCUSSION

City Manager Masko provided an update on the City's departmental work plans.

City Manager Masko reported on the Community Development Department, including the implementation of WA House Bill 1110 requirements and the extension application process. She also covered current staffing vacancies and provided an update on the Assistant Planner and Community Development Director recruitments. There was a brief discussion about the recruitment timelines and the workload of the Community Development Director position. Mrs. Masko also reported on current community development mandated items, which included updating development regulations and the comprehensive plan update. Lastly, City Manager Masko stated that certain work items will be temporarily paused, which include the urban tree canopy study, sign code update, and other minor projects.

There was a brief discussion on the Whittier Elementary Replacement Project, its aggressive project schedule, and the City's action to respond.

City Manager Masko also reported on the Police Chief vacancy, stating that the first review of applications is scheduled for March 18, 2025. The City has received four applications and will continue to review applications as they are submitted. The Civil Service Commission will hold a special meeting on March 24, 2025, to discuss the Police Chief recruitment process. Mrs. Masko also reported that Sergeant Gollinger is currently serving as the Acting Police Chief. Furthermore, she reported that police officer candidates are undergoing the background process. Lastly, she reported on the City's Photo Enforcement Program and stated she is working on the proposed ordinance for Council approval. There was a brief discussion on the Photo Enforcement Project costs and the upcoming National Night Out preparations.

City Manager Masko provided a brief update on the Administration Department and stated that there is a potential candidate for the Deputy City Clerk/Human Resources position. Mrs. Masko reported on several items that will be temporarily paused due to staffing shortages, which include the Pedestrian Safety Program and the implementation of the City's new website.

City Manager Masko reported on the March Medallion Madness event and its media attention by King 5 News.

There was a brief discussion on the need for janitorial services.

Parks and Recreation Director Grover provided an update on the department's upcoming work plans, which include new programming such as IDEA robotics, a Senior Spring Wellness Fair, and activities for spring and summer break. Director Grover also reported on sport clinics, customer service focus training, volunteer safety, and upcoming Centennial Celebration events. Director Grover reported on the aquatics programming, including adult swimming lessons, theme swimming events, and water aerobics. Lastly, Director Grover updated the Council on the Masko Park Improvements Project, including the playground equipment installation timeline and assistance from the Pierce Conservation District.

Council discussions included the Whittier Elementary School Replacement Project, the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the light pole easement at Whittier Park, and the status of the University Place and Fircrest recreational programming partnership.

Public Works Director Bemis reported on the GIS mapping updates, internal asset management program, safety of facilities, and Public Works security.

There was a brief discussion on maintaining public access to the Public Works facility.

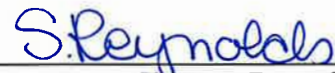
Finance Director Deskins reported on the Finance Department's new Administrative Assistant and stated the department will focus on cross-training.

There was a brief discussion on providing training for the Finance Department on the traffic cameras program reporting element and a Middle Housing Ad Hoc Committee update.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Bufford MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 P.M., seconded by Councilmember George.

The Motion Carried (6-0).



Shannon Reynolds, Mayor



Arlette Burkhart, City Clerk