

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. Officer Thompson Introduction

Interim Police Chief Gollinger introduced newly hired Police Officer Thompson and provided a brief background on his education and law enforcement experience. The Council welcomed Officer Thompson.

B. Proclamation: Parks Appreciation Day

Councilmember Andrews read the proclamation titled Parks Appreciation Day into the record. **Councilmember Wittner MOVED to authorize the Mayor's signature on the proclamation proclaiming April 26, 2025, as Parks Appreciation Day in the City of Fircrest; seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comment; none were provided. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Masko provided updates on several items, including the upcoming Civil Service oral board interviews for the Police Chief position, the City's submittal for the Alameda Avenue Sidewalks Project funding request under Representative Strickland's Community Project Funding program, and the upcoming Pierce County In-District Meeting. Mrs. Masko also stated that the City received a favorable review for its Comprehensive Plan from the Puget Sound Regional Council and reported that the City will decertify its Climate Planning Grant funds due to limited staff capacity and competing priorities.

Lastly, City Manager Masko provided several reminders for upcoming events, including the Planning Commission Public Hearing on Middle Housing Code Amendments, the Masko Park Playground ribbon cutting, and the Council group photo.

There was a brief discussion on the Police Chief candidates' meet and greet event.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

There were no department head comments.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Councilmember Andrews; no comment.
- Councilmember Bufford; no comment.
- Councilmember George; no comment.
- Councilmember Wittner thanked staff for their progress on the Masko Park Playground project and expressed appreciation for the community engagement.
- Councilmember Mauer-Smith; no comments.
- Councilmember Viafore thanked staff for their progress on the Masko Park Project and suggested placing a sign to discourage dogs in the playground area.

- Mayor Reynolds; no comment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

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

- Mary Harmon Pena, 1281 Alpine Lane, expressed appreciation for the Council's consideration to keep students on-site while the new Whittier Elementary School is being built.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Parks & Recreation

Councilmember Andrews reported that the youth baseball season has started. He also commented on the upcoming Mom and Son dance, departmental centennial planning, and pool preparations.

B. Police/Public Safety and Court

Councilmember Mauer-Smith reported on the National Night Out preparations and upcoming oral interviews for the Police Chief position.

C. Public Works

Councilmember George provided several reports, including the Public Works transition to summer hours, the Claremont Street Sewer Main project outreach strategies, capital improvement projects such as the 44th Lift Station Upgrade, and the Emerson Sidewalk Project. He also reported on the Masko Park improvements, which include trail rehabilitation, vegetation removal, and improved line-of-sight visibility.

D. Other Liaison Reports

Mayor Reynolds reported that the Pierce County Regional Council hosted the Pierce County Sheriff and discussed unconstitutional laws.

Councilmember Viafore reported that the City's \$1 million CD recently expired, and the committee reviewed current investment options. The committee opted not to reinvest at this time.

Councilmember George provided a Sound Transit update and reported that the City of Tacoma Planning Commission members advocated for rerouting the planned link light rail extension from 19th Street to 6th Avenue. This proposal was not supported by Sound Transit and caused some concerns.

Councilmember Bufford provided a Centennial Committee update to include the passport scavenger hunt, Bear and Rhodie Tour, Fun Days Parade, Centennial banners, the legacy timeline wall project, sponsorships and donations, merchandise sales, and the Derby Days event.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Reynolds requested that the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar.

- A.** Approval of Check No. 222771 through 222832 in the amount of \$861,299.77

Approval of payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$167,777.58

B. Approval of March 25, 2025, Regular Meeting minutes

Councilmember Bufford MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar; 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. Resolution No. 1971: LGIP Authorized Signers

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the resolution would designate position titles rather than individual names as authorized signers. **Councilmember Bufford MOVED to authorize the Finance Director and City Manager as authorized individuals on the City's Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) Account; 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).

B. Resolution No. 1972: HB 1110 Extension Application

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the resolution would authorize the City Manager to formally submit the extension request to the Washington State Department of Commerce on behalf of the City of Fircrest. There was a brief discussion on recognizing the dedicated efforts of the committee members. Middle Housing Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chair Ladenburg expressed concern regarding the City's infrastructure limitations before implementing increased housing density under WA HB 1110. Lastly, he reported that the committee believes the timeline extension would allow Fircrest to make necessary improvements to prepare for the Middle Housing implementation. **Councilmember Viafore MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1972, authorizing the City Manager to submit a Formal Application to the Washington State Department of Commerce requesting a timeline extension for full implementation of House Bill 1110; seconded by Councilmember Andrews.**

Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments.

- Councilmember Bufford expressed appreciation for the committee's efforts and expressed concern that the application may not be ready for approval.
- Councilmember Wittner expressed support for the application and commented on Exhibit 2's relevance to the application.

Committee member Jim Ottness, 973 Altadena Drive, stated that Exhibit 2 was a citizen comment addressing HB 1110 and its impacts.

City Manager Masko stated that minor corrections and formatting updates will be made prior to the submission. The motion was to authorize the City Manager to submit the application once it is finalized.

- Councilmember Andrews expressed appreciation for the committee's efforts on the application and stated it was a complete package at no cost to the City.
- Councilmember George expressed appreciation for the opportunity to learn about the City's wastewater capacity and treatment issues; however, the City is making progress towards long-term infrastructure solutions.
- Councilmember Mauer-Smith thanked the committee for their efforts.

Mayor Reynolds invited public comment.

- Committee Co-Chair Frank Ladenburg, 1309 Palm Drive, thanked the Council for their input throughout the process and highlighted that continued housing development would increase existing capacity issues.
- Denise Ladenburg, 1309 Palm Drive, thanked members of the committee for their volunteered time with the application.
- Jim Ottness, 973 Altadena Drive, thanked the Public Works Department for their assistance, highlighted stormwater management issues, and supported increased density in appropriate areas if infrastructure limitations were addressed.

Councilmember Viafore thanked the committee members for their contributions and stated that this application initiates a dialogue with the Department of Commerce regarding infrastructure limitations.

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

The Motion Carried (5-2), with Councilmembers Bufford and Mauer-Smith dissenting.

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

Councilmember Viafore provided kudos to the Fircrest Police Department for their proactivity.

Councilmember Wittner commented on the NewCold storage facility traffic impacts on Orchard Street and expressed frustration.

Councilmember George reported that the Tacoma Landfill Master Plan update is scheduled soon and requested Public Works Director Bemis to send the City of Tacoma a letter requesting to be notified when their master plan update is scheduled.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:08 P.M., Mayor Reynolds reported that the Council would take a five-minute recess and convene into Executive Session, not to exceed ten minutes (10) minutes, to discuss potential litigation, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (1)(i). City Manager Masko and City Attorney Joanna Eide were invited to the executive session.

The Council reconvened at 8:23 P.M.

APRIL 22, 2025

FIRCREST CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR 5

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Viafore MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 P.M., seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.

The Motion Carried (7-0).



Shannon Reynolds, Mayor



Arlette Burkhardt, City Clerk