

**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, and Nikki Bufford were present.

Councilmember Jim Andrews joined the meeting virtually at 8:08 P.M.

**PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT**

**A. Proclamation: Pride Month**

Councilmember Bufford read the proclamation titled Pride Month into the record. **Councilmember Bufford MOVED to authorize the Mayor's signature on the proclamation proclaiming the month of June 2025, as LGBTQ+ Pride Month in the City of Fircrest; seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comment. Councilmember Bufford expressed the importance of the Pride Month Proclamation and stated it serves as a powerful gesture of support for LGBTQ+ community. She also stated that the proclamation demonstrates the City's commitment to an inclusive and welcoming environment. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment. The following individuals expressed support for the proclamation:

- Michael Syverson
- Mark Rieke
- Sherry Jansen
- Lisa Kramer
- Tony DeJesus
- Joe Barrentine
- Kathleen Weber
- Jennifer Arnold
- Rick Little
- "Pocket"

The following individuals expressed concern:

- Vince Navarre
- Brian Rybolt
- Sarah Sherman

Council discussions included the importance of the proclamation and the flag, community assistance in authoring the proclamation, and staying within Council procedures.

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

**B. Motion: Fly the Progress Flag at Fircrest City Hall and Roy H. Murphy Community Center**

Councilmember Bufford stated "In accordance with the City's flag policy, commemorative flag requests must be initiated by a City Councilmember, and noting for the record, I am a City Councilmember. I will be initiating this request and asked for it to be on the agenda this evening". **Councilmember Bufford MOVED that the City of Fircrest display the Progress Flag on flagpoles at Fircrest City Hall and the Roy H. Murphy Community Center for the month of**

**June; seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comment. Councilmember Bufford stated that per the City's flag policy, she will donate two Progress Pride Flags for City use. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment.

- Brian Rybolt, address not provided, expressed concern about the limited public participation at other Council meetings, urged the Council to reconsider flying the flag, and suggested flying the traditional Pride Flag as an alternative.
- Vince Navarre, address not provided, expressed concern regarding the perception of the American flag and emphasized the flag as a symbol of freedom.

There was a brief discussion about providing the Council with information on new flags to be flown to help them in responding to constituent questions. Council requested a legal opinion on the flag policy procedures, and City Attorney Eide confirmed that the flag policy is being followed.

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

**C. Motion: Cancel June 16, 2025, Study Session**

**Councilmember Viafore MOVED to cancel the June 16, 2025, Study Session meeting; seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comment; none were provided.

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

At 7:58 P.M., Mayor Reynolds reported that the Council would take a five-minute recess to reset the Council chambers.

The Council reconvened at 8:03 P.M.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS**

City Manager Masko provided several updates, such as the City Manager's interviews with the Police Chief candidates, the Assistant Planner/Permit Coordinator position and HR Specialist/Deputy City Clerk position recruitment, and code enforcement assistance from a neighboring City.

There was a brief discussion on the timing for raising the Progress Pride Flag since flags are currently flown at half-staff per the Washington State Governor's direction. It was agreed that it would be flown as soon as authorized under the Governor's current guidance.

**DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS**

- Public Works Director Bemis commented on several capital projects, such as the Claremont Street and its coordination with University Place and Puget Sound Energy, the recent Harvard Avenue water break, City beautification, Emerson Street traffic island damage, pool preparation, facilities maintenance, and park upkeep.
- Interim Police Chief Gollinger provided departmental updates to include a mid-year statistical summary of police activity, the upcoming Public Safety Testing law enforcement exam at the community center, and a recent classification and arrival of a Level 3 sex offender. Public outreach has begun.

**COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS**

- Councilmember Bufford; no comment.
- Councilmember George thanked the meeting attendees for their participation.
- Councilmember Wittner; no comment.
- Councilmember Mauer-Smith; no comment.
- Councilmember Viafore expressed concern about a recent City-caused sewer backup and urged the City to be proactive and compassionate. City Manager Masko stated that she directed staff to take immediate corrective action. Councilmember Viafore provided kudos to the Public Works Department for their beautification efforts. There was a brief discussion on speed limit sign gaps along Regents Boulevard.
- Mayor Reynolds commented on the telephone reassurance program and expressed interest in reinstating the program.

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

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

- Brian Rybolt, 1036 Daniels Drive, expressed concern with traffic enforcement regarding a recent road rage incident, the Electron Crosswalk signage placement, and the City's continued use of permeable concrete.

Mayor Reynolds acknowledged that Councilmember Andrews has not yet been given the opportunity to speak. Councilmember Andrews stated he had no comments.

**COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS**

**A. Parks, Recreation and Sustainability**

Councilmember Andrews reported on the pool opening, thanked staff for their efforts, and provided kudos to the maintenance staff for keeping the park well-maintained.

**B. Police/Public Safety and Court**

Councilmember Mauer-Smith thanked Interim Police Chief Gollinger for sharing departmental data and provided a brief update on Officer Thompson's field training status.

She also reported that the Court Department has completed its first full year in the state's pilot case management system, Enterprise Justice, and that Court Administrator Olivarez recently attended the District and Municipal Court Management Association Spring Conference.

**C. Public Works and Facilities**

There was no report.

**D. Other Liaison Reports**

Mayor Reynolds reported that the Pierce County Regional Council will not meet in June.

Councilmember Bufford provided a Centennial Committee update, including the plans for the City's birthday week celebrations, and requested Council feedback regarding participation in the Strawberry Festival and the Centennial Parade. Councilmember Bufford thanked Public Works Bemis for the Centennial flag installations and returning flower baskets to the south end of town.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Mayor Reynolds requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar.

- A. Approval of Check No. 222910 through 222980 in the amount of \$277,653.46  
Approval of payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$169,090.67
- B. Setting a public hearing on June 10, 2025, at 7:15 P.M. or shortly thereafter to receive comments on the proposed Middle Housing Code Amendments
- C. Setting a Special Meeting on June 16, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. at Fircrest City Hall for Council discussion and potential action on the Planning Commission's recommended Middle Housing Code Amendments
- D. Approval of April 14, 2025, Special Meeting minutes  
Approval of April 21, 2025, Study Session minutes  
Approval of April 22, 2025, Regular Meeting minutes  
Approval of May 13, 2025, Regular Meeting minutes

Councilmember Viafore requested to remove agenda item 10C.

**Councilmember Bufford MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as amended; seconded by Councilmember Wittner.**

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

There was a brief discussion on potentially incorporating a budget goal-setting discussion into the special meeting. There was a consensus to postpone the discussion until later in the summer.

**Councilmember Viafore MOVED to set a Special Meeting on June 16, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. at Fircrest City Hall for Council discussion and potential action on the Planning Commission's recommended Middle Housing Code Amendments; seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.**

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

- A. **To receive comments on the City's 6-Year Comprehensive Transportation Improvement Program**

At 8:40 P.M., Mayor Reynolds opened the public hearing. Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the City's 6-Year Comprehensive Transportation Improvement Program, stating the public hearing was to receive comments on the City's 6-Year Comprehensive Transportation Improvement Program. Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments; none were provided.

Mayor Reynolds invited public testimony; none were provided.

At 8:42 P.M., Mayor Reynolds closed the public hearing.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Ordinance: 2025 Budget Amendment #1 – 1st Reading**

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the first reading of the budget amendment to the Adopted 2025 Budget and reported on the proposal for additional appropriations for anticipated revenues and expenditures not provided for in the Adopted 2025 Budget. Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comment; none were provided.

**CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS**

There was a brief discussion on watering the flower baskets so they can acclimate.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:46 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 labor negotiations pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(4)(b). City Manager Masko and Labor Attorney John Lee were invited to the executive session.


At 8:57 P.M., Councilmember Andrews left the meeting.

The Council reconvened at 8:59 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 P.M., seconded by Councilmember Bufford.**

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



Shannon Reynolds, Mayor



Arlette Burkhardt, City Clerk