

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, Hunter T. George, Nikki Bufford, and Jim Andrews were present. Councilmember Karen Mauer-Smith was absent and excused.

PRESIDING OFFICER’S REPORT

A. Legislative Update – Representative Leavitt

City Manager Masko introduced 28th Legislative District Representative Mari Leavitt to the Council. Representative Leavitt provided an overview of the recently concluded 105-day legislative session. Representative Leavitt reported on the passage of the bipartisan budget, which includes allocations for affordable housing, early learning, and infrastructure. There were several public safety initiatives passed that provide tools to address law enforcement needs. She also highlighted support for veterans and their families, small businesses, and healthcare workers. Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments. Mayor Reynolds expressed concern about the preservation of the Pediatric Interim Care Center (PICC) in Kent, which provides care for drug-exposed infants. Mayor Reynolds also expressed concern about the lack of progress on Kayden’s Law. Representative Leavitt noted that efforts are being made to continue operations at PICC and expand child endangerment laws to include all controlled substances.

B. Police Chief Celis Swearing In & Pinning

Councilmember Viafore welcomed and acknowledged former Councilmember Jerry Foss, former Councilmember Rob Masko, retired Police Chief Don Ramsdell, retired Police Chief John Cheesman, former Acting Police Chief Gollinger, and Ruston Police Chief Nestor Bautista.

City Manager Masko introduced newly hired Police Chief Victor Celis to the Council and highlighted his law enforcement career. City Manager Masko welcomed Victor Celis back, who previously served as a Police Sergeant in Fircrest.

Mayor Reynolds swore in Victor Celis as the Fircrest Police Chief. Police Chief Celis thanked the Council and City Manager Masko for the opportunity and highlighted his efforts on getting reacquainted with the Fircrest Police Department. Lastly, Police Chief Celis thanked retired Police Chief Cheesman for his mentorship and expressed appreciation.

Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comments. Councilmember George congratulated Chief Celis, highlighted Chief Celis’ strong community relationships, and thanked Police Sergeant Gollinger for his service as Acting Police Chief. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment.

- John Cheesman, retired Fircrest Police Chief, congratulated Chief Celis and shared his experience working with Chief Celis. He highlighted his professionalism and dedication. Mr. Cheesman welcomed him back to Fircrest.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Masko reported on several Centennial events, including the July 19th Centennial Parade and the Fircrest Night at the Tacoma Rainiers game on September 17th, 2025. City Manager Masko provided a brief report on a commemorative Council meeting during the City’s birthday week and stated that details are still underway. The City has been invited to participate in discussions

with the Tacoma Fire Department regarding a feasibility study for a regional fire authority. City Manager Masko stated that Tacoma Fire Chief Sionna Stallings-Ala'ilima will be invited to a future Council meeting to discuss the matter further. Mrs. Masko also reported on a new contract with Kim Mahoney to provide interim planning consultant support. Lastly, City Manager Masko congratulated Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford on receiving a Tacoma Pride Award and thanked Sergeant Gollinger for his service as Acting Police Chief.

Councilmember Viafore expressed concerns about potential changes to the City's contract with Tacoma Fire and advised the Council to review and evaluate any proposed adjustments closely. He highlighted that Fircrest has the best per capita fire service rates due to the shared use of the fire station, with EMS levy proceeds covering most costs.

Councilmember George stated that the regional fire authority (RFA) process is exploratory, and no decisions have been made. The feasibility study will take 12-15 months, and he supports inviting the Tacoma Fire Chief to present to the City Council on the potential Fircrest impacts.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Parks and Recreation Director Grover reported on several events, including Derby Days and the Annual Car Show. He thanked the neighbors, sponsors, and the Public Works team for their support. He stated that planning for Fun Days is underway, which will include Centennial-themed activities. There was a brief discussion on the fastest soapbox car speed, which reached 29 miles per hour. There was a noted suggestion to award certificates to racers who exceed 25 miles per hour in future events.
- Police Chief Celis reported that he is developing short- and long-term departmental plans. He also provided a police activity report that included fireworks complaints related to the Fourth of July. Chief Celis reported that the City has contracted with Public Safety Testing for future hiring processes. Lastly, Chief Celis reported that National Night Out has reached its fundraising goal. Mayor Reynolds requested that the Police explore programs to incentivize and promote responsible pet ownership.
- Public Works Director Bemis provided an update on the Fircrest Park grass and stated it was intentionally dried out to prevent park field damage for the car show. The park is back on the watering schedule. He reported on the installation of new thermoplastic crosswalks on Regents Boulevard to improve visibility and durability. Lastly, the Claremont Street project is completed, and new rumble strips and speed markings have been installed. Councilmember Andrews expressed appreciation for the new rumble strips. Mayor Reynolds commented on the potential need for additional traffic calming measures at the Fircrest Community Center crosswalk.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Councilmember Andrews thanked Sergeant Gollinger for his service as Acting Police Chief. He reported on the car show and Derby Days. He stated that his grandchildren enjoyed the car show. He highlighted positive community feedback and the residents' willingness to accommodate the street closure for Derby Days.
- Councilmember Bufford expressed appreciation for the recent community events and highlighted positive community comments on the atmosphere. She expressed excitement about the Derby Days event returning next year.

- Councilmember George provided kudos to staff for organizing two community events over the Fourth of July holiday weekend. He thanked the Kiwanis Club for volunteering at the events and thanked the Council for the opportunity to attend the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) conference. He commended AWC for its strong advocacy and support of local governments.
- Councilmember Wittner congratulated Chief Celis and thanked staff and volunteers for their efforts at the community events. He also thanked Representative Leavitt for attending and providing a legislative update.
- Councilmember Viafore provided kudos to staff for the community events and acknowledged the collaborative efforts. He thanked City Manager Masko for coordinating. He requested that the budget study session dates for 2025 and the study session dates for the 2026 calendar be presented at the next Council meeting.
- Mayor Reynolds; no comment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

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

- Brian Rybolt, a Fircrest resident, expressed frustrations and concerns about the recent legislative session, including rising costs, crime, and policy decisions.
- Ian, 1072 Arleo Lane, expressed concern about the litter throughout the City and requested networking for community help. He commented on placing signage at the City entrances to deter littering by highlighting fines. He also commented about the litter near the freeway off-ramp. Council stated it was Washington State Department of Transportation jurisdiction, and he should contact them for more information. The Council thanked him for his good stewardship.
- Vince Navarre, a Fircrest resident, commented on the Adopt-A-Street program, congratulated Chief Celis on his appointment, and thanked the Police Department for their service. He also thanked Representative Leavitt for her presentation and expressed concerns about the impacts of House Bill 1054 regarding police pursuits. He stated that the bill caused harm to the community and had lasting impacts.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS**A. Administration**

There was no report.

B. Built Environmental, Planning, and Building

There was no report.

C. Finance, and Information Technology

There was no report.

D. Other Liaison Reports

- **Centennial Committee**

Councilmember Bufford reported that the July 14, 2025, Study Session will focus on obtaining Council feedback on the draft schedule for the Centennial birthday week and the legacy project.

There was a brief discussion regarding Councilmembers' inability to attend the July 14, 2025, Study Session. There was a consensus to change the date to the following Monday, July 21st, 2025.

Councilmember Bufford MOVED to change the Council Study Session from July 14, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. to July 21, 2025, at 6:00 P.M. at Fircrest City Hall; seconded by Councilmember Wittner. Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comment. Council discussions included the Study Session topic to be the Centennial Birthday Week schedule, the legacy project update, and department work plan updates. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (6-0).

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Reynolds requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar:

- A. Approval of Check No. 14503 through 14504 in the amount of \$9,421.12
Approval of Check No. 14505 through 14512 in the amount of \$77,070.53
Approval of Check No. 223120 through 223194 in the amount of \$195,287.27
Approval of payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$188,324.08
- B. Registering no objections to the Office Boutique Liquor License Renewal
Registering no objections to the Kiwanis of Clover Park Special Occasion Liquor License Application
- C. Approval of June 16, 2025, Study Session minutes
Approval of June 24, 2025, Regular Meeting minutes

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

The Motion Carried (6-0).

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public hearing scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution No. 1979: The Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County Contract

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the initial term of the agreement will go through December 31, 2028. City Manager Masko introduced the Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County Chief Operating Officer Emily Keegans, and Chief

Financial Officer Michael Macaranas to the Council. **Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1979, authorizing the City Manager to execute an agreement between The Humane Society for Tacoma and Pierce County and the City of Fircrest for animal sheltering and related services; seconded by Councilmember Bufford.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comment. There were discussions on shelter challenges due to kitten season, a recent unplanned renovation, and increased access to affordable spay-neuter services. Further discussions included raising awareness about pet licensing fees and promoting services through social media, apartment mailers, and community events. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (6-0).

B. Resolution No. 1980: Approval of Agreement between City of Fircrest and Teamsters Local Union No. 117

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the Collective Bargaining Agreement would cover from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2027. City Manager Masko reported on a revised wage schedule to include the full 3.6% COLA for the Public Works Office Coordinator. **Councilmember Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1980 authorizing the City Manager to execute a Collective Bargaining Agreement with Teamsters Local Union No. 117 for the period of January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2027; seconded by Councilmember Viafore.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comment. Councilmember George thanked City Manager Masko for her efforts. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (6-0).

C. Resolution No. 1981: Memorandum of Understanding - Teamsters Local Union No. 117 Ratification Bonus

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and highlighted that the MOU provides a one-time ratification bonus. **Councilmember Bufford MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1981, authorizing the City Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with Teamsters Local Union No. 117 regarding contract ratification bonus payments; seconded by Councilmember Wittner.** Mayor Reynolds invited Councilmember comment; none were provided. Mayor Reynolds invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (6-0).

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

Councilmember Viafore requested the 2026 preliminary budget schedule and to reinstate the City Manager Weekly Updates.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT

JULY 08, 2025

FIRCREST CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR 6

Councilmember Bufford MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 P.M., seconded by Councilmember George.

The Motion Carried (6-0).



Shannon Reynolds, Mayor



Arlette Burkhardt, City Clerk