

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Pro Tempore Nikki Bufford called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers David M. Viafore, Brett L. Wittner, and Jim Andrews, and Mayor Shannon Reynolds were present. Councilmember Karen Mauer-Smith and Hunter T. George were absent and excused. Mayor Reynolds and Councilmember Andrews attended the meeting virtually.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT

There was no report.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Masko stated that she and Parks and Recreation Director Grover met with representatives from TAPCO Credit Union to discuss event sponsorships, community outreach, and the potential development of a Fircrest Business Association. TAPCO contributed \$6,000 toward the Fircrest Tot Lot sign and expressed interest in partnering on future community events. Councilmember Viafore stated that TAPCO Credit Union had been the driving force behind the original Fircrest Business Association.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Police Chief Celis reported that officers recently trained with a law enforcement simulator, which City Manager Masko and Councilmember Mauer-Smith attended. He noted that John Truong continues to serve in the CSO II role and gave kudos on his performance. Chief Celis stated that he was invited to attend Wainwright Elementary's Panther Night. He also reported that Axon body-worn cameras (BWC) were due for replacement under the City's contract. Staff are currently working with Axon for BWC replacements.

Councilmember George joined the meeting at 7:05 P.M.

- Parks and Recreation Director Grover reported on several senior programming events to include bingo, a trip to the Seattle Mariners game, a Hamilton showing, and the Mount Rainier Steam Train Excursion. He is currently finalizing the 2026 Community Events schedule, which will include the return of Derby Days. Director Grover highlighted that adult swim lessons have started, and September 1, 2025, will be the final day of public open swim for the season. Following the pool closure, the pool will be used for water rescue training and water aerobics. The UPAC Swim Club will rent the pool through October. Director Grover reported that staff are exploring new fall programming ideas, including youth bingo, cooking classes, and a puzzle contest. Councilmember George commented on the lap swim community growth and highlighted participation from college athletes.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Councilmember Viafore; no comment.
- Councilmember Wittner; no comment.
- Councilmember George reported that his family welcomed a Brazilian exchange student and encouraged the community to greet her.
- Councilmember Andrews; no comment.
- Mayor Reynolds; no comment.

- Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford; no comment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited public comment. The following individuals provided comments.

- Melody Magnusson, 505 Farallone Ave, expressed ongoing concerns with a neighboring property on Golden Gate, including excessive noise, large gatherings, disruptive parking, racing, and a lack of neighborhood respect. She stated that she is frustrated and noted that she has called the police department. She requested that the City and Council take action to address the situation regarding neighborhood safety and quality of life.

There was a brief discussion on providing a future update to the Council on code complaints and violations related to the referenced property. Councilmember Viafore noted that he was surprised that the neighborhood issues were still ongoing and had assumed the problems were resolved. He requested clarification if the residence was truly a multi-family or extended family household and stated that there needs to be enforcement regarding noise, parties, and safety concerns.

- Tim Costello, 515 Farallone Ave, expressed concerns regarding the ongoing issues at a neighboring property. He noted repeated disturbances, reckless driving, and unsafe behavior. Mr. Costello expressed frustration with inconsistent police enforcement. He also highlighted that the property owners supply gasoline to the City's police department and urged the Council to seek a new vendor. Mr. Costello stated that the neighborhood signed a petition and requested the Council to address the behavior of the residents and their vendor status.

Council discussions included requesting updates from the City Manager, City Attorney, and Police Chief regarding the complaints of the referenced property. City Manager Masko reported that staff are exploring alternatives for a gas vendor. Chief Celis stated that any police vehicles observed at the property would likely be retired vehicles privately owned, and red/blue lights are restricted.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Parks, Recreation and Sustainability

There was no report.

B. Police/Public Safety and Court

There was no report.

C. Public Works and Facilities

Councilmember George reported on the completion of Citywide roadway striping, updates to the flower baskets, and vegetation removal and fence repairs at the high tank property. He highlighted ongoing work on the utility billing/AMI water meter issues and requested a future study session. Councilmember George also reported on cleaning and planned exterior improvements at the Tot Lot Bathrooms, reinstallation of the Masko Park Rhododendron Garden sign, graffiti removal at Whittier Park, and coordination with the Pierce Conservation District on invasive species removal at Masko Park.

D. Pierce County Regional Council

Mayor Reynolds reported that the Pierce County Regional Council stayed in recess for August.

E. Other Liaison Reports

Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford reported that the Centennial Committee will meet this upcoming Friday, and she will provide an email update to Council on Birthday Week activities.

Councilmember Wittner reported on the Investment Committee's recent meeting on investment strategies. The Committee considered a \$4 million ladder CD investment (5-, 10-, and 18-month terms); however, the bank was not able to commit to the City's investment terms and meet expectations. The Committee will reconvene to determine next steps.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford requested that the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar.

- A. Approval of Check No. 223359 through 223430 in the amount of \$272,343.93
Approval of payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$210,018.20
- B. Setting a public hearing on October 28, 2025, at 7:15 pm or shortly thereafter to receive comments on the 2026 preliminary budget at Fircrest City Hall
- C. Setting a public hearing on October 28, 2025, at 7:15 pm or shortly thereafter to receive comments on the 2026 revenue sources at Fircrest City Hall
- D. Setting a public hearing on November 12, 2025, at 7:15 pm or shortly thereafter to receive comments on the 2026 preliminary budget at Fircrest City Hall
- E. Approval of the July 22, 20-25, Regular Meeting minutes
Approval of the August 12, 20-25, Regular Meeting minutes

Councilmember Wittner MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as corrected; seconded by Councilmember George.

The Motion Carried (6-0).

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public hearing scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Ordinance No. 1743: City Business License Model Threshold Update

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed ordinance and highlighted that the amendment would update the municipal code to increase the model business license exemption threshold from \$2,000 to \$4,000 for out-of-city businesses as required by RCW 35.90. **Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1743, amending Fircrest Municipal Code Chapter 5.04.100, increasing the model business license exemption**

threshold from \$2,000 to \$4,000 as required by RCW 35.90; seconded by Councilmember George. Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited Councilmember comment; none were provided. Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (6-0).

B. Resolution No. 1982: Mahoney Planning Contract Amendment #1

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the amendment would continue providing planning services to include training support to the Permit Coordinator. **Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1982, authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment #1 to the Professional Services Agreement with Mahoney Planning for on-call planning consulting services; seconded by Councilmember George.** Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited Councilmember comment. There was a brief discussion on the term of the contract with Mahoney Planning. City Manager Masko reported that the agreement addresses an immediate need through the end of the year and will help assess the department's long-term needs. Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (6-0).

C. City Council 2026 Budget Goals Discussion

City Manager Masko provided an update on the Council goals established for 2024 and 2025 and highlighted that the Council's priorities serve as a guiding tool for the City's budgetary decisions. City Manager Masko requested Council feedback. Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited Councilmember comment.

- Councilmember Viafore reported on the need to incorporate long-term planning and City facilities upkeep into the budget process to include regularly scheduled street sweeping, establishing 3-, 5-, and 10-year business plans for the Parks and Recreation facilities, ongoing attention to bathrooms, facility maintenance, capital maintenance projects, and potentially exploring additional Parks and Recreation staffing. The 3-year plan would address the pool party room's durability upgrades, air circulation, and AC improvements; the 5-year plan would address the gymnasium repairs; and the 10-year plan would be dedicated to the pool equipment replacement.
- Councilmember George highlighted the importance of maintaining existing facilities and planning for major long-term expenses such as pool pumps, HVAC systems, and gym flooring. He expressed support for creating a financial plan or maintenance fund dedicated to the Community Center and pool needs. Councilmember George encouraged providing status updates twice a year to track progress on priorities. Lastly, he expressed support for hiring a dedicated Human Resources position.
- Mayor Reynolds supported the maintenance and business plan approach.
There was a brief discussion on creating a three-year business plan for the General Fund to anticipate future staffing and service costs.
- Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford highlighted the importance of focusing on long-term health and planning, including the business plan approach, sustaining pedestrian safety initiatives, and adding status updates into Council communications.

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

There was none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:15 P.M., Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford reported that the Council would take a five-minute recess and convene into Executive Session, not to exceed twenty (20) minutes to review the performance of a public employee, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g).

At 8:20 P.M., Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford reported that the executive session will be extended by an additional ten (10) minutes.

At 8:50 P.M., Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford reported that the executive session will be extended by an additional five (5) minutes.

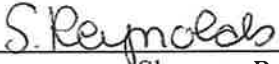
The Council reconvened at 8:55 P.M.

Mayor Reynolds and Councilmember Andrews left the meeting at 8:55 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 P.M., seconded by Councilmember George.

The Motion Carried (4-0).


Shannon Reynolds, Mayor


Arlette Burkhardt, City Clerk