

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, Karen Mauer-Smith, Hunter T. George, Jim Andrews, and Mayor Shannon Reynolds were present. Mayor Reynolds, Councilmember Andrews, and Councilmember Viafore attended the meeting virtually.

PRESIDING OFFICER’S REPORT

There was no Presiding Officer’s report.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Masko reported on several items, including that the Pierce County Department of Assigned Counsel notified the City that it will no longer provide public defender services for the Fircrest and Ruston Municipal Courts after December 31, 2025. The City is preparing an RFP for new public defender services. A new Municipal Court Judge will also be appointed in mid-December. City Manager Masko highlighted several staffing updates to include John Truong’s promotion to the Police Records Coordinator position, Rosa Maria Sebastian’s promotion to the permanent Custodian position, and the departure of Utility Service Person II Trina Scholer. Tacoma Public Schools and the Whittier Elementary Design-Build Team will hold a community open house on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at the Fircrest Community Center to present conceptual designs and answer questions.

Council discussions included the City’s requirement to provide representation to individuals determined to be indigent, and statewide challenges created by new legislation reducing public defender caseloads.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Parks and Recreation Director Grover provided an update on a recent cross-country meet, the Scarecrows and Skeletons of Fircrest registration, and the upcoming Haunted Trails event.
- Police Chief Celis reported on several items, including the upcoming Police Records Technician oral boards, congratulated John Truong on his promotion, the department’s participation in the Terrific Kids event, and provided an update on calls for service within the City. Chief Celis recognized and commended Detective John Roberts for his outstanding work on a multi-jurisdictional fraud case.
- Finance Director Deskins reported that the State Auditor’s Office has reached out to begin preparations for the City’s upcoming audit. She will notify the Council once the audit is scheduled.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Councilmember George congratulated Detective Roberts on the outstanding work.
- Councilmember Wittner expressed excitement for the Mariners.
- Councilmember Mauer-Smith echoed Councilmember George and Wittner’s comments.
- Councilmember Andrews; no comment.
- Councilmember Viafore; no comment.
- Mayor Reynolds congratulated Detective Roberts.
- Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford; no comment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited public comment. The following individual provided a comment.

- Vince Navarre, no address provided, commended Chief Celis for his support and participation in the Terrific Kids program.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Administration

There was no report.

B. Built Environment, Planning, and Building

Councilmember Wittner reported that staff is updating the Planning and Building webpage and working on cost recovery for consultant review time. The Planning Commission is reviewing HB 1998 – Co-Living Housing, HB 1293 – Design Review Standards, and HB 1337 – ADUs, and will review HB 1220 – Supportive Housing in November.

There was a brief discussion about sharing updates on the upcoming Whittier Elementary Open House.

C. Finance and Information Technology

There was no report.

D. Other Liaison Reports - Centennial Committee

There was no report.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- A.** Approval of Check No. 14533 through 14534 in the amount of \$9,464.87
Approval of Check No. 14535 through 14542 in the amount of \$76,007.34.
Approval of Check No. 223537 through 223618 in the amount of \$195,555.80.
Approval of payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$175,923.83.

- B.** Approval of September 23, 2025, Regular Meeting minutes

Councilmember Wittner 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. 1985: Finance Consultant Contract Amendment #2

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the amendment would allow Ms. Corcoran to continue training and assisting the Finance Director with the 2026 Budget and year-end closing processes. **Councilmember George MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1985, authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment #2 to the Professional Services Agreement with Colleen Corcoran for financial consulting services; seconded by Councilmember Wittner.** Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited Councilmember comments. Councilmember Wittner thanked Ms. Corcoran for her willingness to assist the City. Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

B. Resolution No. 1986: Ethos PNW Contract Amendment #1

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the amendment would allow Ethos PNW to continue providing planning services, including support for the Whittier Elementary School Replacement project. **Councilmember George MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1986, authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment #1 to the Professional Services Agreement with Ethos PNW for on-call planning consulting services; seconded by Councilmember Wittner.** Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited Councilmember comment; none were provided. Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

C. Resolution No. 1987: Kenyon Disend Contract Amendment #4

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the amendment extends the term to December 31, 2026, and amends the hourly rate schedule. **Councilmember George MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1987, authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment #4 to the Professional Services Agreement with Kenyon Disend, PLLC, for City Attorney services; seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.** Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited Councilmember comment; none were provided. Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

D. Resolution No. 1988: City of Puyallup Jail Interagency Agreement

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the Interagency Agreement provides the City with an additional option to house inmates at a local jail. **Councilmember George MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1988, authorizing the City Manager to execute an Interagency Agreement with the City of Puyallup for Jail Services; seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.** Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited Councilmember comment; none were provided. Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

E. Resolution No. 1989: WA Traffic Safety Commission Interagency Agreement

Police Chief Celis briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the agreement allows the Police Department to participate in traffic safety emphasis patrols. **Councilmember George MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 1989, authorizing the City Manager to execute an Interagency Agreement with the Washington Traffic Safety Commission regarding traffic safety emphasis patrols and related funding; seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.** Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited Councilmember comment; none were provided. Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

There were no final comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:33 P.M., Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford reported that the Council would take a five-minute recess and convene into Executive Session, not to exceed thirty (30) minutes to review the performance of a public employee, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g). City Manager Masko was invited to attend the Executive Session.

Mayor Reynolds and Councilmember Andrews left the Council meeting at 8:06 P.M.

The Council reconvened at 8:08 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 P.M., seconded by Councilmember Wittner.

The Motion Carried (5-0).



Shannon Reynolds, Mayor



Arlette Burkhardt, City Clerk