

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Shannon Reynolds called the special meeting to order at 6:30 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 was absent and excused. Councilmember Nikki Bufford attended the meeting virtually.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were none.

PRELIMINARY 2025 BUDGET – 4TH BUDGET WORKSHOP

City Manager Masko provided an overview of the ARPA discussion, including two additional funding requests, the information technology hypervisor project, and police radio equipment for the 10th police officer. There was a brief discussion on using the police investigation fund for the police radio equipment.

City Manager Masko reported on the Masko Park improvement project including playground equipment costs, park master plan costs, park clean-up and maintenance, and rhododendron signage. Parks and Recreation Director Grover reported on neighbor outreach and playground equipment options. There was a brief discussion on researching lawsuit restrictions within the settlement agreement with the City of Tacoma due to its proximity to the wellhouse. Further discussions included protecting native species in the park, building a community, and utilizing the last ARPA funds for the Masko Park improvement project.

City Manager Masko reported on the street beautification fund transfer amount, police handgun training, and Wellhouse #4 repairs. Ms. Masko stated that City staff is still researching other questions asked by the Council.

City Manager Masko reported on the proposed rate increase for the water utility fund, building fund reserves and recommended a 3% water rate increase. There was a Council consensus to move forward with the 3% water rate increase.

City Manager Masko presented proposed personnel salary adjustments with a phased approach and requested Council feedback. Discussions included remaining competitive with management salaries, adjusting salaries to be within 5% of median market rates, using property tax, and the photo enforcement program revenue.

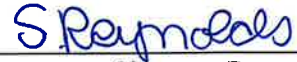
City Manager Masko provided a budget schedule timeline, stating that the property tax ordinance and a second budget public hearing will be scheduled for the November 12, 2024, regular Council meeting. It is anticipated that the budget may be adopted at the December 10, 2024, regular Council meeting.

There was a brief discussion on the recreation facility rental rates and rental fee chart. There was a Council consensus to tentatively place a budget workshop agenda item at the next study session meeting. Further discussions included legislative capital appropriations request, the Unified Building Code fire sprinkler requirement, and rescheduling Council group photos.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 P.M., seconded by Councilmember George.

The Motion Carried (6-0).



Shannon Reynolds, Mayor



Arlette Burkhardt, City Clerk