

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Pro Tempore Nikki Bufford called the study session to order at 6:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers David M. Viafore, Brett L. Wittner, and Karen Mauer-Smith were present.

Mayor Shannon Reynolds and Councilmember Jim Andrews attended the meeting virtually.

Councilmember Hunter T. George joined the meeting virtually at 6:05 P.M.

AGENDA MODIFICATIONS

There were none.

WATER METER PROJECT UPDATE

Public Works Director Bemis provided an overview of the City's new AMI water meter system and presented a comparison of historical pre-AMI water consumption trends and revenue impacts.

Council discussion included that future analyses should show a continuum of historical water data, AMI meter accuracy, operational workload distribution, long-term planning needs, and maintaining operational service levels.

Councilmember Hunter T. George entered the Council Chambers at 6:15 P.M.

PRELIMINARY 2026 BUDGET – 6th Budget Work Session

City Manager Masko reported that several department directors would present their recommended fee and charge updates.

Police Chief Celis presented a recommendation to increase the City's parking violation fee from \$30 to \$50 and highlighted that the goal is to improve deterrence from behavior such as expired registrations, blocking hydrants, and obstructing driveways. There was no objection from the Council to increasing the parking violation fee.

Planning Consultant Kimberly Gunderson presented recommended revisions to the planning permit fee schedule and noted that it has not been comprehensively updated in several years. Mrs. Gunderson briefed the Council on the fee schedule compared to other Cities and stated that the fee structure does not reflect staff and consultant time required by different permits, highlighting that Fircrest does not charge impact fees.

Discussions included an impact fee analysis, a phased fee increase approach, and setting realistic upfront expectations for applicants. There was no objection from Council to move forward with the recommended planning fee updates.

Parks and Recreation Director Grover presented proposed adjustments to the Parks and Recreation fees based on market comparisons and operational costs.

Discussions included resident and non-resident rates, season pool pass and punch card pricing, affordability, assistance for income-limited households, pool and facility rental fees, a long-term asset maintenance fund, usage and revenue data for future analysis, and community event vendor fee increases.

Finance Director Deskins provided an update on the preliminary 2026 budget and stated that the proposed fee adjustments would be incorporated by a budget amendment.

There was a brief discussion on the status of the Ruston court services contract.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Viafore MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 P.M., seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

S. Reynolds

Shannon Reynolds, Mayor

A. Burkhart

Arlette Burkhart, City Clerk