

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Pro Tempore 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, Nikki Bufford, Jim Andrews, and Mayor Reynolds were present.

Mayor Shannon Reynolds and Councilmember David M. Viafore attended the meeting virtually.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT**A. Proclamation: Recognition of Municipal Court Judge Foley**

Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford read the proclamation titled Recognition of Municipal Court Judge Foley into the record. **Councilmember Viafore MOVED to authorize the Mayor's signature on the proclamation proclaiming the Council's deepest appreciation to Judge Meagan Foley; seconded by Councilmember George.** Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited Councilmember comments.

- Councilmember George expressed his appreciation for Judge Foley and wished her well.
- Councilmember Viafore expressed his appreciation for Judge Foley and congratulated her on her next chapter.
- Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford expressed her appreciation for Judge Foley and wished her well.

Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).**B. Swearing in of Municipal Court Judge Orlando**

City Clerk Burkhart administered the oath of office, and Judge Orlando was duly sworn in as Municipal Court Judge for the City of Fircrest. Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited Councilmember comment.

- Councilmember Viafore congratulated and thanked Judge Orlando for his continued service. He also expressed appreciation to Judge Orlando's family for their support.
- Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford congratulated Judge Orlando.

The Council acknowledged Judge Orlando's birthday and sang "Happy Birthday" in recognition.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Masko expressed her appreciation for Judge Foley and reported on several items, including the Regional Fire Services Study, the upcoming pre-legislative session town hall at the Fircrest Community Center hosted by Representative Mari Leavitt, upcoming City building closures, and her upcoming vacation leave.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Parks and Recreation Director Grover thanked staff, sponsors, and volunteers for their involvement in the City's tree lighting ceremony.

- Police Chief Celis reported on several items, including the new Police Records Technician employee, Emily Hausner, Officer Ortega's attendance at the Equivalency academy, and thanked staff and volunteers for the tree lighting ceremony. Chief Celis provided an update on the upcoming Santa Sleigh Ride and stated that it was weather permitting. He lastly reported on calls for service within the City.
- Public Works Director Bemis provided brief updates on recent weather conditions and related maintenance activities. He reported on the Regents Boulevard Traffic Signal Project received and the Pasadena Pipe Bursting Project. There was a brief discussion on Whittier Park and its improved drainage during recent rainfall.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Councilmember Andrews; no comment.
- Councilmember George thanked staff for the tree lighting ceremony and Holiday Market. He stated that vendors complimented the staff on their professionalism and customer service.
- Councilmember Wittner stated that he attended the Holiday Market at the Community Center and noted strong participation from local schools. He expressed appreciation for the snow machine.
- Councilmember Mauer-Smith expressed appreciation for the Holiday Market and tree lighting ceremony.
- Councilmember Viafore thanked City staff for their efforts with the recent community events. He expressed support for the City Manager's upcoming vacation.
- Mayor Reynolds expressed appreciation for the Holiday Market and tree lighting ceremony.
- Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford expressed appreciation for the Holiday Market and the tree lighting ceremony and noted strong participation from vendors and the community. She encouraged residents to be cautious with the upcoming forecasted storm activity.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

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

- Fircrest resident, 1205 Del Monte Avenue, expressed concerns regarding public safety related to several serious traffic incidents that have occurred within proximity to his residence over the years. He also expressed concerns regarding the presence of multiple registered sex offenders near his neighborhood. Councilmember Andrews commented on the City's authority, within legal limits, to conduct compliance checks on registered sex offenders.

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

There was no report.

B. Built Environment, Planning, and Building

There was no report.

C. Finance and Information Technology

Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford reported that the Finance Department is working on the annual audit report, finalizing the budget books for the Council, and transitioning to year-end close.

D. Other Liaison Reports

Mayor Reynolds reported that Pierce County Regional Council committee assignments will be certified soon, and stated that she will hold the ex officio seat and a seat on the leadership team as the immediate past chair.

Mayor Reynolds reported that the Pierce Transit Board of Commissioners approved a salary increase for CEO Mike Griffiths. The Board also approved the agency's budget, authorizing approximately 924 positions. The CEO will also receive a 4% cost-of-living adjustment effective January.

Mayor Reynolds reported that there were no updates for the Zoo and Aquarium Authority, which did not meet in December.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- A. Approval of Check No. 14555 through 14562 in the amount of \$74,706.25.
 - Approval of Check No. 223802 through 223862 in the amount of \$502,229.30.
 - Approval of payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$166,980.47.
- B. Approval of November 12, 2025, Regular Meeting minutes
 - Approval of November 17, 2025, Study Session minutes
- C. Registering no objections to the Spring Lake Café Liquor License Renewal

Councilmember George MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar; seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public hearing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Ordinance No. 1753: 2025 Budget Amendment #2

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed ordinance and highlighted that the budget amendment accounts for anticipated revenues and expenditures that were not included in the Adopted 2025 Budget. **Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1753 amending the 2025 Adopted Budget to authorize additional expenditures and revise estimated revenues and fund balances across various funds; 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).

NEW BUSINESS**A. Ordinance No. 1754: FMC 22 Design Review Regulations & ADU Code Amendments**

Kim Gunderson, Mahoney Planning, briefed the Council on the proposed ordinance and stated that the public hearing for House Bill 1293 Design Review Regulations and ADU Code Amendments was held on November 25, 2025. **Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1754, amending Fircrest Municipal Code Chapter 22 to ensure consistency with design regulation requirements in RCW 36.70A.630 and accessory dwelling unit provisions in engrossed House Bill 1337; seconded by Councilmember George.** Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited Councilmember comment. There was a brief comment on upcoming state-mandated updates. Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

B. Resolution No. 2003: Pierce County Regional Council Appointments

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the appointed representative will have voting authority beginning January 1, 2026, for a one-year term. **Councilmember George MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 2003, appointing Councilmember Reynolds as the City of Fircrest's representative to the Pierce County Regional Council and further appointing Councilmember Bufford as the alternate representative to the Pierce County Regional Council; seconded by Councilmember Wittner.** Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited Councilmember comment. Mayor Reynolds thanked the Council for their support of her appointment. Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

C. Resolution No. 2004: South Sound Housing Affordability Partners Council Appointment

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the appointed representative will have voting authority beginning January 1, 2026, for a one-year term. **Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 2004, appointing Councilmember George as the City of Fircrest's representative to South Sound Housing Affordability Partners, and further appointing Councilmember Wittner as the alternate representative to South Sound Housing Affordability Partners; seconded by Councilmember Viafore.** Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited Councilmember comment. Councilmember Andrews commented on the future opportunity to appoint Joe Barrentine to South Sound Housing Affordability, once he is on the Council. Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

D. Resolution No. 2005: DOE Stormwater Capacity Grant Acceptance

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that total grant award of \$120,000 will support the implementation and management of the City's Phase II National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Stormwater Permit. **Councilmember George MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 2005, authorizing the City Manager to execute a grant agreement with the Washington state Department of Ecology for the 2025-2027 Municipal Stormwater Capacity Grant in the amount of \$120,000; 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. 2006: TIB Grant Acceptance – Regents West Overlay

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the grant will fund 68% of approved eligible project costs, with a maximum grant award of \$698,607. **Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 2006, authorizing the City Manager to execute a Fuel Tax Grant Agreement with the Washington State Transportation Improvement Board for the Regents West Overlay Project; seconded by Councilmember Wittner.** Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited Councilmember comment. There was a brief discussion on the construction timeline. Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

F. Resolution No. 2007: Ruston Court Contract Amendment

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the amendment extends the term and increases the annual fee for providing municipal court services. **Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 2007, authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment #7 to the Interlocal Agreement with the City of Ruston to provide Municipal Court Services for 2026; 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 (7-0).

G. Resolution No. 2008: Fees & Charges Update

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the proposed fees allow the City to keep pace with rising operational costs and ensure long-term sustainability. **Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 2008, authorizing updated fees and charges for Parks, Recreation, and Planning for 2026; seconded by Councilmember Wittner.** Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited Councilmember comment. There was a brief discussion on the swimming fee increase. Mayor Pro Tempore Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

H. Resolution No. 2009: Columbia Bank – Time & Temperature Sign Contract Amendment

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the agreement provides a three-year sponsorship for the Time and Temperature Sign located on the traffic island at the intersection of Regents Boulevard and Alameda Avenue. The agreement will be effective from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028. **Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 2009, authorizing the City Manager to execute a Time and Temperature Sponsorship Agreement with Columbia Bank; 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 (7-0).

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

Councilmember Wittner commented on resurrecting the Holiday Tree discussions.

Public Works Director Bemis reported that Pierce County Emergency Management was activated at a Level due to weather conditions.

There was a brief discussion on procedures for registered sex offenders' compliance checks.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:05 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 discuss potential litigation, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i), and to review the performance of a public employee, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g).

City Manager Masko, City Attorney Eide, and Planning Consultant Kim Gunderson were invited to attend the Executive Session to discuss potential litigation, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). City Manager Masko was invited to attend the Executive Session to review the performance of a public employee, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g).

Mayor Reynolds and Councilmember Viafore left the meeting at 8:40 P.M.

The Council reconvened at 8:40 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember George MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 P.M., seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.

The Motion Carried (5-0).



Shannon Reynolds, Mayor


Arlette Burkhart, City Clerk