

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

Mayor 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, and Joe Barrentine were present.

Councilmember Shannon Reynolds and Hunter T. George attended the meeting virtually.

City Manager Masko was absent and excused. Acting City Manager Grover was present.

PRESIDING OFFICER’S REPORT

There was no report.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

There were no comments.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Police Chief Celis provided a departmental update to include calls for service, a recent incident involving threats of gun violence, arsonist investigation, upcoming oral boards, and Officer Orteza’s shadow phase.
- Public Works Director Bemis provided a departmental update to include the Washington State Department of Transportation South Orchard Street guardrail repairs, the upcoming wastewater flow analysis, the Regents Boulevard grind and overlay project schedule, the Regents Boulevard entryway sign conceptual design and a weather advisory.
- Finance Director Deskins reported that the 2026 budget books have been printed and distributed.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Councilmember Viafore; no comment.
- Councilmember Wittner; no comment.
- Councilmember Mauer-Smith; no comment.
- Councilmember Barrentine encouraged residents to view the Port of Tacoma’s “State of the Port” video.
- Councilmember Reynolds; no comment.
- Councilmember George; no comment.
- Mayor Bufford commented on the upcoming Study Session to initiate discussion on potential Council rule revisions and encourage review of current rules.

There was a brief discussion about the potential to upload Council meetings to YouTube.

- Councilmember Barrentine commented on the quarterly “Coffee with a Councilmember” events to increase community engagement.
- Councilmember Reynolds requested a preliminary list of potential Council rule changes. Mayor Bufford stated that the Study Session is intended to be a brainstorming session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Bufford invited public comment. The following individual provided public comment.

- Brian Rybolt, Fircrest resident, expressed concerns regarding Council alignment.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Administration

There was no report.

B. Built Environmental, Planning, and Building

Councilmember Wittner provided a brief report on the Whittier Elementary School Replacement Project and code enforcement activities.

C. Finance and Information Technology

Councilmember Barrentine reported that Finance staff is participating in Municipal Research and Services Center of Washington (MSRC) and Springbrook trainings.

D. Pierce Transit

Councilmember Reynolds reported that the Pierce Transit Board met and eliminated inactive committees. She reported on the upcoming joint meeting with the Community Transit Advisory Group.

E. South Sound Housing Affordability Partners

Councilmember George reported on the South Sound Housing Affordability Partners and stated that the advisory board adopted their work plan. There is continued effort towards the development of a housing policy toolkit and legislative priorities.

F. Other Liaison Reports

Councilmember George provided a report on Sound Transit and stated that there is a projected \$34 billion capital shortfall. He reported that there is an upcoming workshop to begin discussions on project prioritization with an emphasis on completing the regional “spine” from Everett to Tacoma.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- A. Approval of Check No. 224197 through No. 224256 in the amount of \$113,255.90
Approval of Check No. 14583 through No. 14584 in the amount of \$9,783.07
Approval of Check No. 14585 through No. 14592 in the amount of \$84,460.45
Approval of payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$175,996.11
- B. Registering no objections to the Fircrest Golf Club Liquor License Renewal Application
- C. Approval of February 24, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes

Councilmember Wittner MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as read; seconded by Councilmember Barrentine.

Councilmember Viafore requested to remove Accounts Payable Item No. 37333 – GreenLeaf Landscaping.

The motion was amended to remove Accounts Payable Item No. 37333.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

There was a brief discussion on invoicing practices for GreenLeaf Landscaping.

PUBLIC HEARING

A. To receive comments on the Stormwater Management Program Plan

At 7:28 P.M., Mayor Bufford opened the public hearing. Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the Stormwater Management Program Plan, stating that the public hearing was to receive comments on the Stormwater Management Program Plan. Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Bufford invited public testimony; none were provided.

At 7:30 P.M., Mayor Bufford closed the public hearing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution No. 2017: Interlocal Agreement with the City of University Place for 44th Street West Improvements

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the interlocal agreement is for the design and construction of the 44th Street West Sidewalk and Pedestrian Safety Project. **Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 2017, authorizing the City Manager to execute an Interlocal Agreement with the City of University Place for design and construction of the 44th Street West Sidewalk and Pedestrian Safety Project; seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.**

Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comments. Council discussions included agreement designee clarification, agreement structure, funding, timeline, and project scope.

Mayor Bufford invited public comment.

- Brian Rybolt, Fircrest resident, requested to avoid adding permeable sidewalks to the project.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

Councilmember Wittner highlighted the upcoming St. Patrick's Day Medallion Madness event.

Councilmember Reynolds commented on the timing of materials for the Council rule discussions.

There was a brief discussion on expectations regarding communications with staff during sick leave.

MARCH 10, 2026

FIRCREST CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR 4

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Barrentine MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 P.M., seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.

The Motion Carried (7-0).



Nikki Bufford, Mayor



Arlette Burkhardt, City Clerk