

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 Shannon Reynolds, Karen Mauer-Smith, Hunter T. George, and Joe Barrentine were present.

Councilmember David M. Viafore attended the meeting virtually.

Councilmember Brett L. Wittner was absent and excused.

PRESIDING OFFICER’S REPORT

There was no report.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Masko provided updates on several items, including the City’s Tree City USA designation, continued coordination with the Whittier School Capital Project, the congressionally directed spending request for Alameda Avenue Sidewalk Project – Phase 2A, and stated that Council photos are scheduled for April 14, 2026.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Police Chief Celis provided a departmental update to include calls for service, response to recent incidents, ongoing officer training, coordination with Language Line Solution for translation service, discussions with AXON for equipment contracts, and fuel station transition.
- Finance Director Deskins provided an update on the GreenLeaf invoicing process and stated that future invoices will reflect service periods.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Councilmember Barrentine reported that he attended the Tacoma Sea Scouts ceremony and highlighted the first quarterly Coffee with a Councilmember community event.
- Councilmember Mauer-Smith shared a positive interaction with a student regarding the City of Fircrest and how it is known as the “Jewel of Pierce County”.
- Councilmember George commented on the Pierce County Charter Review open house.
- Councilmember Reynolds; no comments.
- Councilmember Viafore; no comments.
- Mayor Bufford expressed appreciation for the coffee event and recognized volunteers and staff involved in the March Medallion Madness.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Bufford invited public comment. There were none.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Parks, Recreation, and Sustainability

There was no report.

B. Police/Public Safety and Court

Councilmember George reported that he is coordinating a meeting with the Court Administrator.

C. Public Works and Facilities

Councilmember Reynolds reported the progress of the Alameda Avenue sidewalk project and facility updates.

D. Pierce County Regional Council

Councilmember Reynolds reported that the Pierce County Regional Council held their Small Cities roundtable.

Councilmember Reynolds also reported on the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Transportation Policy Board, which launched a new dashboard to track regional transportation plan performance.

E. Other Liaison Reports

Councilmember George reported on the Sound Transit Board workshop and stated that discussions focused on three project scenarios. He highlighted funding constraints, project cost challenges, and regional prioritization. He encouraged public engagement and stated that the Council may consider providing formal input. There was a brief discussion on staying informed through Sound Transit meetings, social media, and public comment opportunities.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- A. Approval of Check No. 224257 through 224311 in the amount of \$248,699.55
Approval of payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$176,687.24
- B. Approval of the February 17, 2026, Study Session minutes
Approval of the March 10, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes

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

The Motion Carried (6-0).

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public hearing scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Fircrest Forever Foundation Year-End Report

Parks and Recreation Director Grover presented the Foundation's year-end report and highlighted their support for community programs, including Fircrest Fun Days, geocaching activities, and summer day camp. He also reported on a planned project to address the glare in the Community Center gym. The total contributions to date are \$31,200.

Fircrest Forever Foundation Chair Andrew Imholt expressed appreciation for the partnership and highlighted the positive community impact of funded projects. The Council expressed appreciation for the Foundation’s contributions and ongoing support.

B. Resolution No. 2018: Fircrest Park Backstop Grant Acceptance

Parks and Recreation Director Grover briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted the grant funding from the Names Family Foundation, distributed through the Fircrest Forever Foundation, for the Fircrest Park backstop and dugout replacement project. **Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 2018, authorizing the acceptance of grant funding in the amount of \$456,785.71 from the Names Family Foundation, distributed through the Fircrest Forever Foundation, for the Fircrest Park Backstop and Dugout Replacement Project, and authorizing the City Manager to execute all necessary documents required to implement the project; seconded by Councilmember Barrentine.** Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comment. There was a brief discussion on the project scope, funding use, and potential recognition of grant contributors. Mayor Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (6-0).

C. Resolution No. 2019: Approval of the 2026 Stormwater Management Program Plan Update

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that it provides continued compliance with Department of Ecology Phase II NPDES permit requirements. **Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 2019, adopting the City of Fircrest’s 2026 Stormwater Management Program Plan Update; seconded by Councilmember Barrentine.** Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comment; none were provided. Mayor Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (6-0).

D. Resolution No. 2020: EMS Levy Renewal – Primary Election

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolutions to place an EMS levy renewal on the ballot, and highlighted that the levy requires voter approval every six years, and explained the need to include both primary and general election options. **Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 2020, authorizing the placement of an Emergency Medical Care and Services levy for the years 2027 through 2032 on the ballot for the primary election to be held on August 4, 2026; seconded by Councilmember Barrentine.** Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comment. There was a brief discussion on the levy structure and potential options for maintaining the tax rate. Mayor Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (6-0).

E. Resolution No. 2021: EMS Levy Renewal – General Election

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that this resolution would place the levy on the general election ballot if it does not pass in the primary. **Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 2021, authorizing the placement of an Emergency Medical Care and Services levy for the years 2027 through 2032**

on the ballot for the general election to be held on November 3, 2026; seconded by Councilmember Barrentine. Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comment; none were provided. Mayor Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (6-0).

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

There was none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. To Review the Performance of a Public Employee, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)

At 7:51 P.M., Mayor Bufford reported that the Council would take a five-minute recess and convene into Executive Session, not to exceed fifteen (15) minutes, to review the performance of a public employee, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g). Mayor Bufford noted that City Manager Masko was invited to the Executive Session.

Councilmember Viafore left the meeting at 8:05 P.M. The Council reconvened at 8:06 P.M. and no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember George MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 P.M., seconded by Councilmember Barrentine.

The Motion Carried (5-0).



Nikki Bufford, Mayor



Arlette Burkhart, City Clerk