

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Nikki Bufford called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Councilmember Viafore requested a moment of silence after the Pledge of Allegiance in honor of Civil Service Commissioner Bechtholt, who recently passed away. Councilmember Viafore acknowledged Commissioner Bechtholt's service to the community to include his role in the Fircrest Civil Service Commission, serving as the former CEO of TAPCO Credit Union, and his involvement with the Fircrest Business Association.

Mayor Bufford led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers David M. Viafore, Shannon Reynolds, Brett L. Wittner, Karen Mauer-Smith, Hunter T. George, and Joe Barrentine were present.

Councilmember Reynolds attended the meeting virtually.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT

A. Proclamation: National Police Week

Councilmember George read the proclamation titled National Police Week into the record. **Councilmember George MOVED to authorize the Mayor's signature on the proclamation proclaiming May 10th – 16th, 2026, as National Police Week in the City of Fircrest; seconded by Councilmember Viafore.** Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comment; none were provided. Mayor Bufford expressed appreciation for law enforcement officers and recognized the sacrifices made in service to the community. Mayor Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

B. Proclamation: National Public Works Week

Mayor Bufford read the proclamation titled National Public Works Week into the record. **Councilmember Wittner MOVED to authorize the Mayor's signature on the proclamation proclaiming the week of May 17th – 23rd, 2026, as National Public Works Week in the City of Fircrest; seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.** Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comment. Councilmember Reynolds expressed appreciation for the Public Works Department and the Police Department. Mayor Bufford thanked the Public Works Department for their service to the community. Mayor Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

C. Proclamation: Memorial Day

Councilmember Mauer-Smith read the proclamation titled Memorial Day into the record. **Councilmember Viafore MOVED to authorize the Mayor's signature on the proclamation proclaiming Monday, May 25th, 2026, as Memorial Day in the City of Fircrest; seconded by Councilmember Wittner.** Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comment; none were provided. Mayor Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Masko provided an update on the photo enforcement traffic study and stated that it has been delayed until early June due to the consultant attending to a family matter. She highlighted that Orchard Street, near the Cor Deo School site at Praise Covenant Church, will be evaluated after the school opens and school signage is installed. She also reported that the updated traffic study report is tentatively scheduled for the July Study Session for Council discussion. Lastly, City Manager Masko reported that Mayor Bufford, Councilmember George, Councilmember Reynolds, and she attended the Best of Sound South event at Cheney Stadium, where the City of Fircrest was recognized as Best City in the Best of the South Sound Awards sponsored by South Sound Magazine.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Parks and Recreation Director Grover reported on the upcoming opening of pool season, to include staff training and orientation, and continued sales of season passes. He reported on the Mother and Son Dance event, ongoing use of Cirque Park for sports practices during the Whittier Park staging process, and the senior trip to a Tacoma Rainiers game. There was a brief discussion on current Recreation Leader vacancies.
- Acting Police Chief Gollinger provided a departmental update to include the Police Chief's attendance at the 2026 Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) conference, a recent incident involving a protection order violation and foot pursuit, and expressed appreciation for the Police Department.
- Finance Director Deskins reported that the City's part-time Accountant I, Wanda Wells, has accepted a full-time position with PenMet Parks. She also reported that the position has been posted and thanked Ms. Wells for her service to the City.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Councilmember Viafore commented on the passing of Civil Service Commissioner Bechtholt and recognized his contribution to the Fircrest community. Councilmember Viafore wished City Manager Masko a Happy Birthday.
- Councilmember Wittner wished City Manager Masko a Happy Birthday. He also expressed condolences to the Bechtholt family and recognized Mr. Bechtholt's involvement with the City's Centennial Historical Committee.
- Councilmember George wished City Manager Masko a Happy Birthday.
- Councilmember Mauer-Smith wished City Manager Masko a Happy Birthday.
- Councilmember Barrentine wished City Manager Masko a Happy Birthday.
- Councilmember Reynolds wished City Manager Masko a Happy Birthday.
- Mayor Bufford wished City Manager Masko a Happy Birthday. Mayor Bufford also reported on attending the Best of the South Sound event and announced the upcoming Coffee with a Councilmember event with Councilmember Barrentine at the Fircrest Community Center.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

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

- Vince Navarre, Fircrest resident, encouraged the display of blue lights in recognition of National Police Week. He also wished City Manager Masko a Happy Birthday.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Administration

There was no report.

B. Built Environmental, Planning, and Building

Councilmember Wittner reported on Planning and Building's staffing challenges and noted that the City Manager is evaluating the department's future staffing needs.

C. Finance and Information Technology

Councilmember Barrentine reported that staff is finalizing the year-end financial report, which is due at the end of May. He also reported on the new fuel cards.

D. Pierce Transit

Councilmember Reynolds reported on the recent Pierce Transit Board and Community Transit Advisory Group meetings and stated that discussions included a proposed ballot initiative.

E. South Sound Housing Affordability Partners

Councilmember George reported that South Sound Housing Affordability Partners is discussing their annual budget and membership fees. There was a brief discussion on membership fees.

F. Other Liaison Reports

Councilmember George provided an update on Sound Transit's long-term planning to address funding challenges and future transit expansion projects. He reported that the Tacoma Dome Link Extension project remains on schedule. There was a brief discussion on how to continue public participation and engagement.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Bufford requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar as amended to include the Windmill Garden voucher.

- A. Approval of Check No. 224404 through No. 224575, as amended, in the amount of \$639,958.03
Approval of Check No. 14603 through No. 14604 in the amount of \$9,782.00
Approval of Check No. 14605 through No. 14612 in the amount of \$84,325.32
Approval of payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$178,043.96
- B. Registering no objections to the Royal Thai Bistro Liquor License Renewal Application
- C. Approval of April 28, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes

Councilmember Viafore MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as amended; seconded by Councilmember Barrentine.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public hearing scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS**A. Ordinance: Comcast Franchise Extension Agreement – 1st Reading**

City Manager Masko provided an overview of the proposed ordinance for a five-year extension of the existing Comcast Cable Communications Franchise Extension agreement through 2031. She reported that the extension would maintain the current franchise terms to include the existing five percent franchise fee. Council discussion included the existing franchise fee rate, comparison with other jurisdictions, the timeline of formal franchise negotiations, and the City's ability to reevaluate franchise terms in the future. There was no action taken, and this was a first reading only.

B. Resolution No. 2025: Regents Boulevard Water Turnaround Project

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the proposed project would convert nine existing backyard water services to front yard water mains along Regents Boulevard and Amherst Street. **Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 2025, authorizing the City Manager to execute a Public Works Contract with Marv's Backhoe Service for the Regents Water Service Turnaround Project; seconded by Councilmember Barrentine.** Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comments. There was a brief discussion on the contractor selection and bid pricing. Mayor Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).**C. Resolution No. 2026: Mahoney Planning Contract Amendment #3**

City Manager Masko provided an overview of the proposed resolution for the third amendment to the Professional Services Agreement with Mahoney Planning for on-call planning consulting services. **Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 2026, authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment #3 to the Professional Services Agreement with Mahoney Planning for on-call planning consulting services; seconded by Councilmember Barrentine.** Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comments. Discussions included contract amendment amount, contract term, and hourly rates for services. Mayor Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).**CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Viafore requested a future Study Session discussion regarding staffing levels, vacancies, and budget impacts. There was a brief discussion regarding the June Study Session agenda and providing a future staffing update to the Council.

Councilmember Barrentine requested a future Study Session discussion regarding posting Council meetings to YouTube. City Manager Masko reported that internal discussions regarding storage requirements and IT infrastructure are occurring.

Councilmember Wittner commented on the Public Works Department seasonal hiring needs.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

At 8:00 P.M., Mayor Bufford reported that the Council would take a five-minute recess and convene into Executive Session, not to exceed twenty (20) minutes, to review the performance of a public employee, pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g). Mayor Bufford noted that City Manager Masko and City Attorney Eide were invited to the Executive Session.

At 8:25 P.M., Mayor Bufford extended the Executive Session for an additional five minutes.

Councilmember Reynolds left the meeting at 8:30 P.M.

The Council reconvened at 8:31 P.M., and no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 P.M., seconded by Councilmember George.

The Motion Carried (6-0).



Nikki Bufford, Mayor



Arlette Burkhardt, City Clerk