

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

Councilmember Reynolds attended the meeting virtually.

City Manager Masko attended the meeting virtually.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT**A. Reappointment of Kathy McVay to the Planning Commission**

Mayor Bufford presented the reappointment of Kathy McVay to Planning Commission Position No. 1 for an additional six-year term. Mayor Bufford recognized Commissioner McVay's longtime service to the community. **Councilmember Viafore MOVED to confirm the Mayor's reappointment of Kathy McVay to the City of Fircrest Planning Commission, Position No. 1, for a six-year term effective June 16, 2026, through June 15, 2032; seconded by Councilmember Barrentine.** Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comments. The Council thanked Commissioner McVay for her continued service. Mayor Bufford invited public comment; none was provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).**B. Proclamation: LGBTQIA+ Pride Month**

Mayor Bufford read the proclamation titled "LGBTQIA+ Pride Month" into the record. **Councilmember George MOVED to authorize the Mayor's signature on the proclamation proclaiming the month of June 2026 as LGBTQIA+ Pride Month in the City of Fircrest; seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.** Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comments. Mayor Bufford expressed appreciation for the Council's continued consideration of the proclamation. Mayor Bufford invited public comment.

- Marc Rieke, 1033 Sunrise Lane, supported the proclamation and display of the Pride Flag.
- Nancy Atwood, Fircrest resident, supported honoring the LGBTQIA+ community. She expressed concerns regarding the display of additional flags.

The Motion Carried (7-0).**C. Motion: Display Pride Flag at City Hall and Community Center**

Councilmember George MOVED that the City of Fircrest display the Progress Pride Flag on the flagpoles at both City Hall and the Roy H. Murphy Community Center for the month of June, subject to commonly understood flag protocols; seconded by Councilmember Barrentine. Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comments. Council discussions included proper flag etiquette, including during Flag Day and other observances, clarification on the Progress Pride Flag and the Pride flag, and the importance of welcoming spaces. Mayor Bufford invited public comment.

- Marc Rieke, 1033 Sunrise Lane, supported the display of the Progress Pride Flag.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Masko reported that the House Appropriations Committee included the City's Alameda Avenue Phase 2A project in the federal fiscal year 2027 transportation bill. She thanked Public Works Director Bemis, City Clerk Burkhart, Senator Nobles, Representative Leavitt, Pierce County Councilmember Ayala, Pierce County Executive Mello, the City of University Place, and Congresswoman Strickland and her staff for their support. She also reported that the Whittier Elementary School groundbreaking is scheduled for May 27, 2026, at 9:00 A.M. Lastly, she reported that she would be out of the office and working remotely. Parks and Recreation Director Grover would serve as Acting City Manager during her absence.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Police Chief Celis provided a departmental update to include calls for service, a reminder of the off-leash dog law, staffing updates, and thanked the Finance Department for their work on the fuel card program. There was a brief discussion of the leash law, including education, enforcement, and penalties.
- Acting City Manager Grover provided a brief departmental update to include the pool's opening weekend, continued staff training, and preparation for recreation programming.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Councilmember Barrentine; no comment.
- Councilmember Mauer-Smith; no comment.
- Councilmember George wished City Manager Masko well and congratulated staff on the Alameda Avenue project funding progress.
- Councilmember Wittner; no comment.
- Councilmember Viafore acknowledged and welcomed former Mayor and Councilmember McVay and former Councilmember Rieke. He also requested communication regarding the City Manager's leave schedule and Acting City Manager coverage.
- Councilmember Reynolds; no comment.
- Mayor Bufford reported on the Whittier Elementary School groundbreaking event, the recent Coffee with Councilmembers event, and the litter pickup event. She commented that additional trash cans near the baseball field may be helpful.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Bufford invited public comment. There was none.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS**A. Parks, Recreation, and Sustainability**

Councilmember Viafore commented on the importance of a long-term maintenance plan for the Community Center and stated that volunteers are still needed for the Strawberry Feed.

B. Police/Public Safety and Court

Councilmember George reported that Police Chief Celis is working on AXON on proposals for body cameras, tasers, and in-car video cameras. He also reported that the traffic camera study is expected soon. Councilmember Viafore requested that the study be completed before school is out to capture school-related traffic near Whittier Elementary.

C. Public Works and Facilities

Councilmember Reynolds reported that flower plantings have been completed at City buildings and traffic islands.

D. Pierce County Regional Council

Councilmember Reynolds reported that the Pierce County Regional Council discussed its budget and dues. She reported that she recommended against reducing dues due to inflationary concerns.

E. Other Liaison Reports

Councilmember George provided a Sound Transit update and stated that the Board would be voting on a package that includes funding for the planning of the Tacoma Community College extension.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- A. Approval of Check No. 224538 through 224602 in the amount of \$213,492.32
Approval of payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$167,549.83
- B. Setting a Public Hearing on June 9, 2026, at 7:15 pm or shortly thereafter to receive comments on the City's 6-Year Comprehensive Transportation Improvement Program
- C. Registering no objections to the Kiwanis Club of Clover Park Special Occasion Liquor License Application
- D. Approval of the May 05, 2026, Special Meeting minutes
Approval of the May 12, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes

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

The Motion Carried (7-0).

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public hearing scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Ordinance No. 1756: Comcast Franchise Extension Agreement – Adoption

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed ordinance and highlighted that the extension would continue the current franchise terms through 2031, including the existing five percent franchise fee. **Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1756, authorizing the City Manager to execute a five-year extension of the Cable TV Franchise Agreement with Comcast Cable Communications Management, LLC; seconded by Councilmember Barrentine.** Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Bufford invited public comment; none was provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

NEW BUSINESS**A. Ordinance: Forged Fiber Franchise Agreement – 1st Reading**

City Manager Masko presented the first reading of a franchise agreement with Forged Fiber and stated that the City had been working with both Forged Fiber and Ezee Fiber on telecommunications franchise agreements. She stated that City Attorney Eide had developed a franchise agreement template and that the agreements are intended to provide strong protections for the City.

City Attorney Eide stated that revenue-based franchise fees are not allowed under state law for these agreements and that the City may recover administrative costs incurred in negotiating and processing the agreements.

Discussions included infrastructure impacts and installation, as well as protections for activities that require restoration of recently paved roads.

No action was taken, as this was the first reading.

B. Ordinance: Ezee Fiber Franchise Agreement – 1st Reading

City Manager Masko presented the first reading of a franchise agreement with EZ Fiber and highlighted that the agreement is similar to the Forged Fiber franchise agreement.

There was a brief discussion that the franchise agreement does not mean the company will proceed with work, and they are still required to obtain site-specific permits before performing work.

No action was taken, as this was the first reading.

C. Resolution No. 2027: Fun Days Performers & Entertainment Agreements

Acting City Manager Grover briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the community event total budget is \$23,500, which includes performers and fireworks. **Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 2027, authorizing the City Manager to execute agreements with performers and entertainers for entertainment at the 2026 Fircrest Fun Days event in an amount not to exceed \$23,500; seconded by Councilmember Barrentine.** Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comments. Council discussions included attendance estimates, Kiwanis Club beer garden, crowd control, police staffing, additional safety measures, and the Fun Days event theme. Mayor Bufford invited public comment; none was provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).**D. Resolution No. 2028: Regents Boulevard Grind & Overlay Bid Award**

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the project scope includes a 2-inch grind and asphalt overlay to restore pavement conditions. **Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 2028, authorizing the City Manager to execute a Public Works Contract with Miles Resources, LLC for the Regents Boulevard Grind and Overlay Project; seconded by Councilmember Barrentine.** Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comments. Council discussions included the challenges of a pedestrian safety crossing near Regents Boulevard and Alameda Avenue, and continued

pedestrian connectivity throughout the City. Mayor Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

E. Resolution No. 2029: Regents Boulevard Grind & Overlay Construction Management Contract

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted that the services will include project management, construction observation, inspection, and contract administration during the construction phase. **Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 2029, authorizing the City Manager to execute a Professional Services Agreement with David Evans and Associates, Inc. (DEA) for construction management services for the Regents Boulevard Grind and Overlay Project; seconded by Councilmember Barrentine.** Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Bufford invited public comment; none was provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

F. First Quarter Financial Report

Finance Director Deskins presented the first quarter 2026 financial report. Mrs. Deskins reported that the City collected \$3.2 million in total revenues and highlighted a decrease from the first quarter of 2025, due to a decline in grant revenue and the completion of the Edwards Family Foundation commitment. The General Fund revenues totaled \$1.4 million, which had increases in taxes, charges for services, permits, passport fees, recreation fees, licenses and permits, and fines and forfeitures.

She reported that City expenditures totaled \$3.8 million and highlighted that expenditures were on track with budget expectations. She reviewed departmental spending, personnel costs, utility fund expenditures, donation revenue, and jail costs. There was a brief discussion regarding adding a separate sales tax category to future quarterly reports and adding beautification donation information on the main page of the City's website.

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

Councilmember Viafore expressed frustration with the communication regarding the City Manager's evaluation process, the cancellation of the executive session, and the scheduling of the June 3, 2026, special meeting. There was a brief discussion on maintaining communication, executive session confidentiality, and Council availability for the June 3, 2026, special meeting.

There was a consensus to schedule the June 3, 2026, special meeting for 7:15 P.M.

Councilmember Barrentine requested a future update on the City's water system and water supply.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session scheduled.

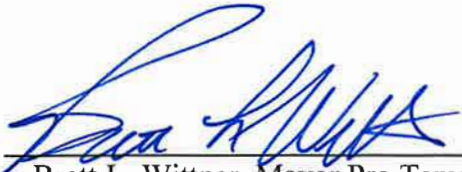
ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 P.M., seconded by Councilmember Barrentine.

MAY 26, 2026

FIRCREST CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR 6

The Motion Carried (7-0).


Brett L. Wittner, Mayor Pro Tempore


Arlette Burkhardt, City Clerk