

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Nikki Bufford called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 P.M. and reported that the Council would take a five-minute recess.

The Council reconvened at 7:06 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers David M. Viafore, Brett L. Wittner, and Hunter T. George were present.

Councilmembers Karen Mauer-Smith and Joe Barrentine were absent and excused.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT

Mayor Bufford invoked Rule 20. Order of Business from the Fircrest City Council Rules and modified the Council agenda to discuss and take action on Agenda Item 4B. Proclamation: Police Sergeant John Villamor before 4A. Representative Leavitt – Legislative Update. There were no objections from the Council.

Councilmember Shannon Reynolds joined the meeting virtually at 7:11 P.M.

B. Proclamation: Police Sergeant John Villamor

Councilmember George read the proclamation titled Police Sergeant John Villamor into the record. **Councilmember Viafore MOVED to authorize the Mayor's signature on the proclamation proclaiming the Council's sincere appreciation and gratitude to Police Sergeant John Villamor for his contributions and commitment to the City of Fircrest; seconded by Councilmember Wittner.** Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comments. The Council expressed its appreciation for Sergeant Villamor's professionalism, kindness, leadership, and lasting impact on the Fircrest community. Police Chief Celis presented Sergeant Villamor with a letter of commendation for his response to a domestic violence incident, stating that Sergeant Villamor's actions helped safely resolve the situation. Mayor Bufford invited public comment.

- Sue Little, address not provided, expressed her appreciation for Police Sergeant Villamor.
- Derek Stansbury, former Fircrest Police Officer, expressed his appreciation for Police Sergeant Villamor.
- David Seeley, retired Fircrest Police Officer, expressed his appreciation for Police Sergeant Villamor.

The Motion Carried (5-0).

At 7:24 P.M., Mayor Bufford reported that the Council would take a five-minute recess.

At 7:29 P.M., the Council reconvened.

A. Representative Leavitt – Legislative Update

28th Legislative District Representative Mari Leavitt provided a legislative update on the recently completed 60-day supplemental legislative session. She reported that more than 3,000 bills were introduced, with 268 passed by the Legislature and signed into law.

Representative Leavitt discussed the state operating budget, highlighted a budget deficit, and focused on food, health, shelter, continuity of government, and maintenance. She reported

legislative priorities to include early learning, housing, health care, public safety, wildfire response, property tax relief, utility assistance, transportation, public works, and capital budget investments.

Representative Leavitt read House Resolution 2026-4686 honoring the life and service of Robert Steven “Rob” Masko. The Council thanked Representative Leavitt for honoring Rob Masko.

Council discussions included the status of the Keeping Families Together Act, the importance of protecting the Public Works Trust Fund, and the need to address public defense funding.

The Council thanked Representative Leavitt for her presentation and continued work on behalf of Fircrest and the 28th Legislative District.

C. Proclamation: Flag Day

Mayor Bufford read the proclamation titled Flag Day into the record. **Councilmember Wittner MOVED to authorize the Mayor’s signature on the proclamation proclaiming Sunday, June 14th, 2026, as Flag Day, in the City of Fircrest; seconded by Councilmember George.** Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comments. There was a brief discussion about a community member’s interest in funding an additional flagpole and revisiting the conversation. Mayor Bufford invited public comment; none was provided.

The Motion Carried (5-0).

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Masko provided an update regarding flags being flown at half-staff at City facilities in recognition of Civil Service Commissioner John Bechtholt’s passing and the victims of the Longview tragedy. She stated that the flag at City Hall would be fully raised beginning Friday, with the POW/MIA flag displayed beneath it, while flags at other City facilities would remain at half-staff until Sunday.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Police Chief Celis provided a departmental update to include calls for service, police officer recruitment, his FBI leadership command training, and thanked staff for coordinating Sergeant Villamor’s retirement reception.
- Public Works Director Bemis reported that he met with the Transportation Improvement Board regarding potential funding for the Emerson Street pedestrian safety project.
- Finance Director Deskins reported that the City submitted its state report to the State Auditor’s Office and expects to be audited in the fall. She also reported that the new fuel card program is operational and that the City’s former part-time Accountant I, Wanda Wells, has returned.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Councilmember Viafore; no comment.
- Councilmember Wittner; no comment.
- Councilmember George thanked staff for their work on the fuel card program.
- Councilmember Reynolds; no comment.
- Mayor Bufford; no comment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Bufford invited public comment. There were none provided.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Administration

There was no report.

B. Built Environment, Planning, and Building

Councilmember Wittner reported that the Alameda Avenue property with the large rear structure is scheduled to go before the Hearing Examiner later in the month.

C. Finance and Information Technology

There was no report.

D. Pierce Transit

Councilmember Reynolds reported that the Pierce Transit Board discussed World Cup preparations, including planned fan zone shuttles, and officially recognized Ride Transit Month.

E. South Sound Housing Affordability Partners

Councilmember George reported that South Sound Housing Affordability Partners (SSHAP) met in person in Sumner and discussed form-based code, multifamily design, and maintaining community character. He also reported that SSHAP adopted its 2027 budget.

F. Other Liaison Reports

There were no other liaison reports.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

- A. Approval of Check No. 224603 through No. 224681 in the amount of \$312,437.97
- Approval of Check No. 14613 through No. 14614 in the amount of \$9,942.17
- Approval of Check No. 14615 through No. 14622 in the amount of \$84,406.21
- Approval of payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$175,500.05

- B. Approval of May 18, 2026, study session meeting minutes.

Councilmember George MOVED to approve the Consent Calendar as amended; seconded by Councilmember Wittner.

The Motion Carried (5-0).

PUBLIC HEARING

A. To receive comments on the City's 6-Year Comprehensive Transportation Improvement Program

At 8:19 P.M., Mayor Bufford opened the public hearing. Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the City's 6-Year Comprehensive Transportation Improvement Program and stated that

the public hearing was to receive comments on it. Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comments.

Council discussions included Rainier Drive correction, concerns regarding project number 7 and its right-of-way limitations, and scheduling a pedestrian safety committee soon. Mayor Bufford invited public testimony; none were provided.

Councilmember George left the meeting at 8:27 P.M. and returned at 8:30 P.M.

At 8:28 P.M., Mayor Bufford closed the public hearing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Ordinance No. 1757: Forge Fiber 37 Franchise Agreement – Adoption

City Manager Masko provided an overview of the proposed ordinance for a ten-year non-exclusive franchise agreement with Forge Fiber 37 LLC to construct, operate, and maintain a fiber optics telecommunications network within the City's right-of-way. **Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1757, authorizing the City Manager to execute a ten-year franchise agreement with Forged Fiber 37, LLC; seconded by Mayor Bufford.** Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comments. There was a brief discussion on the intended use of the franchise, service within Fircrest and through the City, and future franchise agreements. Forge Fiber 37 LLC representative Sunny Ausink stated that it intends to serve Fircrest residents and provide service through the City within the next two years. Mayor Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (5-0).

B. Ordinance No. 1758: Ezee Fiber Franchise Agreement – Adoption

City Manager Masko provided an overview of the proposed ordinance for a ten-year non-exclusive franchise agreement with Ezee Fiber Washington Assets LLC to construct, operate, and maintain a fiber optics telecommunications network within the City's right-of-way. **Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1758, authorizing the City Manager to execute a ten-year franchise agreement with Ezee Fiber Washington Assets, LLC; seconded by Councilmember George.** Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comments; none were provided. Mayor Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (5-0).

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution No. 2030: Recognizing Civil Service Commissioner John Bechtholt

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and highlighted Commissioner Bechtholt's connection to Fircrest, community involvement, and impact. **Councilmember Wittner MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 2030, recognizing Civil Service Commissioner John Bechtholt; seconded by Councilmember George.** Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comments. The Council expressed its condolences to the Bechtholt family. Mayor Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (5-0).

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

There were none.

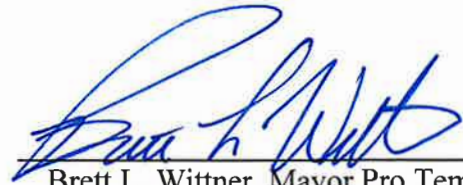
EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember George MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 P.M., seconded by Councilmember Wittner.

The Motion Carried (5-0).


Brett L. Wittner, Mayor Pro Tempore


Arlette Burkhardt, City Clerk