

**CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL**

Mayor Nikki Bufford called the study session to order at 6:00 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmembers David M. Viafore, Shannon Reynolds, Brett L. Wittner, Karen Mauer-Smith, and Joe Barrentine were present.

Councilmember Hunter T. George was excused at roll call due to technical issues.

**AGENDA MODIFICATIONS**

There were none.

Councilmember Hunter T. George joined the meeting at 6:01 P.M. and attended virtually.

**PHOTO ENFORCEMENT DISCUSSION**

City Manager Masko provided an overview of the updated traffic study and requested Council feedback regarding the locations and number of automated traffic safety cameras. She highlighted that the City's photo enforcement ordinance had already been adopted and selecting camera locations was the remaining step before implementation. NovoaGlobal representative, Heidi Traverso presented the updated traffic study data, reviewed recent changes to Washington State law, and discussed eligibility requirements for school and park zone enforcement. Ms. Traverso highlighted that the highest speeding violations occurred near Thelma Gilmur Park, Columbia Avenue, Whittier Elementary School, and other locations throughout the City. There was a brief discussion on the addition of future traffic cameras on Orchard Street should it become an eligible school zone.

Council discussions included the updated traffic study, potential camera locations, implementation strategies, court and police department workload, pedestrian safety, and program costs. There was a Council consensus to deploy cameras on Emerson Drive by Thelma Gilmur Park in both directions, and on Columbia Avenue, and to authorize up to six camera systems for future expansion. City Manager Masko stated that the contract would be presented at the July 28, 2026, regular meeting.

**HOLIDAY TREE DISCUSSION**

City Manager Masko reintroduced the Holiday Tree discussion and requested Council feedback on this year's holiday display. She highlighted the condition of the City's holiday tree at Alice Peers Park and presented options to include purchasing a temporary artificial holiday tree while staff develops a solution.

Council discussions included purchasing a temporary artificial holiday tree, planting a permanent holiday tree, relocating the holiday tree celebration to another location, modifying decorations on the tree, and exploring alternative lighting. There was a brief discussion on maintaining the City's holiday tree tradition and avoiding a temporary artificial tree.

There was a Council consensus to review the arborist report on the existing tree, including recommendations on the holiday tree's current condition and whether continued holiday decorations are contributing to its decline, and there was discussion on obtaining an updated report.

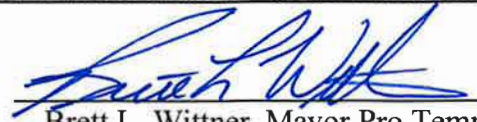
**ADJOURNMENT**

**Councilmember Reynolds MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 P.M., seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.**

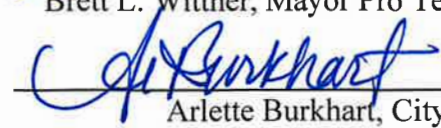
**The Motion Carried (7-0).**

JULY 20, 2026

FIRCREST CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – STUDY SESSION 2

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Brett L. Wittner, Mayor Pro Tempore

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Arlette Burkhardt", written over a horizontal line.

Arlette Burkhardt, City Clerk