

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

Mayor Pro Tempore Brett L. Wittner 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, Karen Mauer-Smith, Hunter T. George and Joe Barrentine were present.

Councilmember Reynolds attended the meeting virtually.

Mayor Nikki Bufford was absent and excused.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT

There was no report provided.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Masko reported on the new Deputy City Clerk/Human Resources Specialist start date, the Associate Planner recruitment, the Police Sergeant recruitment process, and the issue with the August Town Topics edition. She requested feedback from the Council on the new City website template options. Councilmember Viafore requested that the website template links be resent.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Parks and Recreation Director Grover reported on the Derby Days event, the Fircrest Swim Team's championship win, and the upcoming Movie in the Park event.
- Public Works Director Bemis reported on items to include the Regents Boulevard paving schedule and Well House No. 4 operations. Councilmember Viafore expressed concern regarding motorists entering the turn lane near Columbia Bank too early. There was a brief discussion on traffic safety measures with the removal of the traffic island on Regents Boulevard and Mildred Street. Director Bemis stated that he would provide a conceptual design and location for the City's new entryway sign.
- Acting Police Chief Gollinger reported on the National Night Out event to include the air quality, cancellation of fireworks, and the skydivers event. He also provided a departmental update, including calls for service, Officer Sood's field training, and the upcoming training simulator opportunity.
- City Manager Masko announced that the City of Fircrest Night at the Tacoma Rainiers will be held on September 9, 2026, and tickets were available for purchase.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Councilmember Viafore requested an update regarding the restitution for City damage on the Emerson Street traffic island. There was a brief discussion on the status of the citation, cost estimates, replacement tree, and signage. Public Works Director Bemis reported that a contract amendment for repairs would be presented to Council at the August 25, 2026, meeting.
- Councilmember Reynolds; no comment.
- Councilmember George thanked staff for their efforts on recent community events, the arborist report, and recognized the Public Works staff for their customer service.
- Councilmember Mauer-Smith gave kudos to staff on the summer events and congratulated the Fircrest Swim Team on its championship.
- Councilmember Barrentine thanked staff and volunteers for their support of community events.
- Mayor Pro Tempore Wittner expressed appreciation for staff and the successful summer events.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tempore Wittner invited public comment. There were none provided.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Administration

There was no report.

B. Built Environment, Planning, and Building

Mayor Pro Tempore Wittner reported on the Planning Commissioner interviews and challenges with CodePros regarding permit processing delays.

C. Finance and Information Technology

Councilmember Barrentine reported that Finance Director Deskins continues to work on the budget and preparation of the second quarter financial report.

D. Pierce Transit

Councilmember Reynolds reported that the Pierce Transit Board received an update regarding their financial health and met in closed session regarding the Executive Director's performance and compensation.

E. South Sound Housing Affordability Partners

Mayor Pro Tempore Wittner reported that he attended the most recent meeting as the alternate. The South Sound Housing Affordability Partners hosted the Tacoma Housing Authority, which presented on its Section 8 housing program.

F. Other Liaison Reports

There were no other reports.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Pro Tempore Wittner requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar.

A. Approval of Check No. 224894 through No. 224971 in the amount of \$938,076.23

Approval of Check No. 14633 through No. 14634 in the amount of \$9,676.23

Approval of Check No. 14635 through No. 14642 in the amount of \$85,483.14

Approval of payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$214,093.43

B. Setting special budget meetings on October 5, 12, and 19, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. for the sole purpose of reviewing the 2027 preliminary budget at Fircrest City Hall

C. Setting a special meeting on August 17, 2026, at 3:00 P.M. for the Council Goals Workshop at Fircrest City Hall

D. Approval of July 20, 2026, Study Session meeting minutes

Approval of July 28, 2026, Regular meeting minutes

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

Councilmember Viafore requested that setting the August 17, 2026, Special City Council meeting be removed from the Consent Calendar.

The Motion Carried as amended (6-0).

Councilmember Viafore **MOVED** to set a Special City Council Meeting on August 17, 2026, at 3:00 P.M. for the Council Goals Workshop at Fircrest City Hall and to cancel the previously scheduled 6:00 P.M. Study Session; seconded by Councilmember Barrentine. Mayor Pro Tempore Wittner invited Councilmember comments. Councilmember Reynolds stated that she provided advance notice that she was unavailable on that date, and that she would attend the portion of the workshop for which she was available. Mayor Pro Tempore Wittner invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (6-0).

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public hearing scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Works Truck Crane Replacement

Public Works Director Bemis briefed the Council on the proposed purchase and installation of a replacement truck-mounted service crane for the Public Works 2008 crane compressor truck. Councilmember Mauer-Smith **MOVED** to authorize the purchase and installation of a replacement service crane for the Public Works crane compressor truck in the amount not to exceed \$31,939.31, including tax, utilizing Equipment Rental and Replacement (ER&R) Fund reserves; seconded by Councilmember Barrentine. Mayor Pro Tempore Wittner invited Councilmember comments. Council discussions included the life cycle of the replacement crane, the ability to transfer the crane to another vehicle, future ER&R funding needs, the appropriate funding source, and current equipment. Mayor Pro Tempore Wittner invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (6-0).

B. 2nd Quarter Financial Report

Finance Director Deskins presented the City's 2nd Quarter Financial Report for 2026. She reported that the City collected approximately \$8.96 million in total revenues across all funds, which represented 55% of the adopted budget. She highlighted increases in tax revenue, charges for services, licenses and permits, and fines and forfeitures. Citywide expenditures totaled approximately \$8.5 million, or 52% of the annual budget. Lastly, she reviewed departmental expenditures, salaries and benefits, donations, and utility fund expenditures.

There was a brief discussion on the recent voter approval of the EMS levy renewal.

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

There were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Mayor Pro Tempore Wittner canceled the Executive Session. There were no objections from Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Barrentine MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 P.M., seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.

The Motion Carried (6-0).


Brett L. Wittner, Mayor Pro Tempore


Arlette Burkhardt, City Clerk