

CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND ROLL CALL

Mayor 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, Karen Mauer-Smith, Hunter T. George, and Joe Barrentine were present.

Councilmember Reynolds attended the meeting virtually.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT

A. Proclamation: Patriot Day

Councilmember George read the proclamation titled "Patriot Day" into the record. **Councilmember Wittner MOVED to authorize the Mayor's signature on the proclamation recognizing September 11, 2026, as Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance in recognition of the 25th anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks; seconded by Councilmember Mauer-Smith.** Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comment. Mayor Bufford reported that the City of University Place will hold its annual event commemorating September 11th. Mayor Bufford invited public comment; none were provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

There were no comments.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Police Chief Celis provided a report on calls for service, field training for the new Police Officers, fitness equipment purchased through a wellness grant, preparations for the start of schools and traffic impacts, and provided an update on a previously reported wallet theft.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Councilmember Viafore; no comment
- Councilmember Wittner; no comment
- Councilmember George; no comment.
- Councilmember Mauer-Smith; no comment.
- Councilmember Barrentine; no comment.
- Councilmember Reynolds; no comment.
- Mayor Bufford; no comment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Bufford invited public comment.

- Justin and Maddie Goh, 1108 Panorama Drive, expressed concerns regarding the length, communication, and costs associated with the building permit process for their residential remodel.
- Michelle Kokic, no address provided, expressed concerns and encouraged the City to review the permitting process.

The Council requested that additional information regarding the matter be brought back for review.

- Cameron Johnson, San Juan Avenue, thanked the Council, and the Public Works Department for the bicycle lane on Regents Boulevard.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Administration

Councilmember Mauer-Smith reported that staff is preparing materials for discussion on the public safety sales tax at the upcoming Study Session. City Manager Masko is working on the website project, automated traffic enforcement program, and follow-up materials from the Council Goals Workshop.

B. Built Environment, Planning, and Building

Councilmember Wittner encouraged Councilmembers to meet the City's new Associate Planner.

C. Finance and Information Technology

Councilmember Barrentine reported that Finance Director Deskins continues to work on the budget.

D. Pierce Transit

Councilmember Reynolds reported that the Pierce Transit Board is working on the upcoming ballot measure.

E. South Sound Housing Affordability Partners

Councilmember George reported that the South Sound Housing Affordability Partners adopted its legislative agenda, which included affordable housing funding and tax incentives, local implementation flexibility, and a pause on new housing mandates. He stated that he would provide Council with a summary of the legislative agenda.

F. Other Liaison Reports

There were no other reports.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Bufford requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar.

- A.** Approval of Check No. 225041 through 225120 in the amount of \$568,219.49
Approval of Check No. 14644 through 14645 in the amount of \$9,303.44
Approval of Check No. 14646 through 14655 in the amount of \$90,833.04
Approval of payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of \$207,567.56

- B.** Approval of August 17, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes

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

The Motion Carried (7-0).

PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:26 P.M., Mayor Bufford opened the public hearing, stating that the public hearing was to receive comments on the Critical Areas Ordinance Update. Planning Consultant Kim Gunderson reviewed the proposed Critical Areas Ordinance Update, including amendments required under the Growth Management Act and state agency guidance. Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comments.

Councilmember Viafore left the meeting at 7:41 P.M. and returned at 7:43 P.M.

Council discussions included wetlands, buffers, and pedestrian trails.

Mayor Bufford invited public testimony.

- Nancy Atwood, Farallone Avenue, asked for clarification on the FEMA flood zone map.

At 8:03 P.M., Mayor Bufford closed the public hearing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

Councilmember Viafore provided information regarding flooding near Leach Creek and improvements associated with the City of Tacoma's maintenance of the holding basin

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:06 P.M., Mayor Bufford reported that the Council would take a four-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).

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 Wittner MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 P.M., seconded by Councilmember Barrentine.

The Motion Carried (6-0).



Nikki Bufford, Mayor



Arlette Burkhart, City Clerk