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

Councilmembers Viafore and Reynolds attended the meeting virtually.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT

A. Tacoma Public Utilities Rates Update Presentation

Regional Government Relations Manager Rosa McLeod provided an overview of Tacoma Public Utilities' proposed utility rate adjustments for the 2027-28 biennium. The proposal included annual increases of approximately 6.3% for residential power and 5.6% for residential water.

Ms. McLeod reported on current services offered, service territories, the budget process, factors impacting rates, efforts to control costs, and the budget and rates timeline.

Council discussions included the City's 30-year franchise agreement and non-compete fee formula.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Masko provided an update on a discrepancy in the City's Congressional Project Funding Award that has delayed the Alameda Avenue project between Emerson Street and Rosewood Lane. She reported that Congresswoman Strickland's office is working to secure a technical correction. City Manager Masko also reported on City Attorney Eide's departure and introduced Attorney Lisa Marshall, who will serve as interim City Attorney, pending Council appointment. She commented on an invitation for Councilmembers to attend a Veterans Day celebration, and reported on budget preparations and the automated traffic safety camera program.

DEPARTMENT HEAD COMMENTS

- Police Chief Celis provided a departmental update to include calls for service and plans to formalize after-action reviews. He commended officers for their recent work handling traffic stops involving firearms. Chief Celis also provided an update on radar and lidar equipment that is due for calibration.
- Finance Director Deskins provided an update on the State Auditor's upcoming audit and reported that staff continues to work on seasonal employee offboarding, audit preparations, and the budget.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

- Councilmember Wittner; no comment.
- Councilmember George thanked City Attorney Eide for her work.
- Councilmember Mauer-Smith thanked City Attorney Eide.
- Councilmember Barrentine thanked City Attorney Eide and commented on her positive attitude.
- Councilmember Viafore thanked City Attorney Eide.
- Councilmember Reynolds; no comment.

- Mayor Bufford shared information for the upcoming Haunted Trails event and thanked community members who participated in a recent coat and costume exchange. She thanked City Attorney Eide.

PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Bufford invited public comment. There were none provided.

COMMITTEE, COMMISSION, AND LIAISON REPORTS

A. Administration

Councilmember Mauer-Smith reported that staff is working on the budget and public records requests and will participate in the Great ShakeOut on October 15.

B. Built Environment, Planning, and Building

Councilmember Wittner shared an update on parking and drop-off at Whittier Elementary.

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 met regarding the performance of a public official and is assembling a recommendation for a salary package.

E. South Sound Housing Affordability Partners

Councilmember George reported that South Sound Housing Affordability Partners recently adopted its 2027 legislative agenda.

F. Other Reports

There were none.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Bufford requested the City Clerk read the Consent Calendar.

A. Approval of Check No. 225176 through 225264 in the amount of $268,838.43
Approval of Check No. 14654 through 14655 in the amount of $9,410.57
Approval of Check No. 14656 through 14663 in the amount of $9,742.47
Approval of payroll electronic funds transfer in the amount of $183,652.69

B. Approval of September 22, 2026, Regular Meeting minutes

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

The Motion Carried (7-0).

PUBLIC HEARING

There was no public hearing scheduled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Ordinance No. 1762: Creation of Automated Traffic Safety Camera Fund

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed ordinance and stated that it would establish a new special revenue fund for the City's automated traffic safety camera program. She explained that state law restricts how revenue generated from automated traffic safety cameras can be spent, and that establishing a new fund for this revenue will provide greater transparency and make it easier to track costs, demonstrate legal compliance, and meet reporting requirements. **Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adopt Ordinance No. 1762, establishing the Automated Traffic Safety Camera Fund as a special revenue fund; seconded by Councilmember Barrentine.** Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comment; none was provided. Mayor Bufford invited public comment; none was provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

B. Resolution No. 2040: Gunderson Law Amendment #2

City Manager Masko briefed the Council on the proposed resolution and noted that the City's municipal court services agreement with Ruston expires on December 31, 2026, reducing the prosecutor's workload. **Councilmember Mauer-Smith MOVED to adopt Resolution No. 2040, authorizing the City Manager to execute Amendment #2 to the Prosecutor Services Agreement with Gunderson Law Office PLLC for prosecutor services; seconded by Councilmember Barrentine.** Mayor Bufford invited Councilmember comments. The Council briefly discussed the transition plan with the City of Ruston. Mayor Bufford invited public comment; none was provided.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

CALL FOR FINAL COMMENTS

There were none.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Barrentine MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 P.M., seconded by Councilmember George.

The Motion Carried (7-0).

Nikki Bufford, Mayor

Arlette Burkhart, City Clerk