

**CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE
MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the City Council
Monday, February 3, 2025**

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Wood called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken by the City Clerk as follows:

Councilmember Boykin	Present
Councilmember Worthington	Present
Councilmember McCluskey	Present
Councilmember Flemming	Present
Councilmember Grassi	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Wood	Present
Mayor Figueroa	Excused

Staff Present: City Manager Sugg, City Attorney Kaser, Public Works Director Ecklund, and City Clerk Genetia.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Grassi led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: By Councilmember Worthington, seconded by Councilmember Flemming, to approve the agenda.

The motion carried.

5. PRESENTATION – On behalf of the City Council, Mayor Pro Tem Wood welcomed Pierce County Councilmember Rosie Ayala of District 4, representing the City of University Place. Councilmember Ayala thanked the Council for the opportunity to engage and introduce herself. She acknowledged the importance of partnership and offered an invitation to meet on a one-on-one basis. She shared her philosophy, work priorities and committees/boards that she serves on.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: By Councilmember Worthington, seconded by Councilmember Flemming, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A.** Approve the minutes of the 01/21/25 Council meeting as submitted.
- B.** Receive and File: Claims dated 01-09-25 and 01/15/25.
- C.** Receive and File: Committees and Representatives' Assignments 2025.
- D.** Approve the cancellation of the February 18, 2025 Regular Council meeting.
- E.** Authorize the purchase of easements in the amount of \$65,430.00 from Edward Hakjun Park and Mary Soon Ae Park, over a portion of parcel #6468000020 for the 67th Phase I project and authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents.
- F.** Authorize the City Manager to purchase two (2) 2025 Ford Escape Plug-In Hybrid electric vehicles in the amount of \$87,526.50, including tax.

- G. Adopt a Resolution designating an applicant agent for the purposes of obtaining and administering certain state and federal financial assistance under the FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant. **(RESOLUTION NO. 1065)**
- H. Authorize the City Manager to award a Small Public Works Contract to Air Systems Engineering, Inc. for the installation of an HVAC Air Make-up and Exhaust Fan System in the amount of \$55,532.24, including tax, and execute all the necessary contract documents.

The motion carried.

8. CITY MANAGER AND COUNCIL COMMENTS/REPORTS

City Manager Sugg confirmed that the City's 30th Birthday Bash will be celebrated on August 23. He also informed Council that a full and detailed report on this event will be forthcoming.

Councilmember Boykin shared his perspective on Council's retreat, especially the conversation with Pierce County Executive Mello and the firsthand exchange with Pierce County staff. He reported his attendance at the Tacoma-Pierce County's annual Horizons Economic Forecast and his participation in the Milgard School of Business.

Councilmember McCluskey shared her take-aways from the Council retreat. She reported that she met with citizens with regards to arts and event planning to gather some of their ideas and grassroots support for sustainability of arts in the community.

Councilmember Worthington remarked on the retreat and the valuable discussion with Pierce County Executive Mello and his staff. He also reported his participation in a committee meeting regarding the private pond facility.

Councilmember Flemming expressed his appreciation to Pierce County Executive Mello's presence at Council's retreat, his commitment to partnership and problem solving some of the issues that have both affected the County and the City.

Councilmember Grassi echoed the sentiments on the retreat. She thanked the City's Public Works team for their extra efforts in keeping the City streets safe. She also thanked the residents who participated in Congresswoman Strickland's valentine's project.

Mayor Pro Tem Wood also thanked Pierce County Executive Mello for his presence and participation/engagement at the retreat. He thanked the Public Works team for keeping the City roads clear and safe.

STUDY SESSION

9. LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL: ARTS ADVISORY COMMISSION

Mayor Pro Tem Wood and Councilmember McCluskey presented their legislative proposal directing the City Manager and staff to research the community, financial and staff impacts of establishing an Arts Advisory Commission (AAC), and to provide a report back to Council by the first week of September 2025.

Councilmember McCluskey stated that when the City was incorporated, there was interest in creating a sense of place, not only the sense of belonging but also to bring joy and smiles to people, to bring beautification and appreciation of things other than the hard infrastructure of the City. There was a group of citizens, including the former Councilmember Klosowski, who started a discussion of forming an art commission. The citizen grassroot, UP for Art, was formalized and the City Council decided not to form an arts commission and instead asked the group to take the lead role in art placement and to also drive the arts and culture in the community. She indicated that UP for Art has been a viable and enthusiastic group who engaged local and regional artists to demonstrate their art in different media forms, promoted art in the City's open spaces, and cataloged existing arts within the City. Councilmember McCluskey indicated that

UP for Art was in the process of dissolving, however, a group of five individuals has formed a new board to continue its work.

Mayor Pro Tem Wood touched on the possibilities the City could look at in forms of paintings, sculptures, talent showcases, chalk art, etc. The legislative history of the City's art policy started with Resolution 332 that adopted an art policy and authorized the City Manager to establish procedures to implement the Plan (the policy focused on the approval process for the acquisition of art such as statues, paintings, photographs, etc.); Resolution 545 which created a partnership for public art between the City and UP for Art and authorized the UP for Art to administer the University Place Public Art Plan; and Resolution 546 that established the University Place Public Art Plan that provided a Public Art Vision and Goals, a program framework (priorities, responsibilities, funding strategies, etc.), a three-year action plan (thru 2010), and an inventory of existing art. He indicated that the City's adjacent communities that have an Arts Commission include Pierce County, Tacoma, Lakewood, Auburn, Puyallup (Arts & Culture Commission), Gig Harbor, Buckley (Citizen Advisory Commission), and Fife (Public Arts Commission). Councilmember McCluskey talked about the many economic and non-economic benefits art can bring to the City including job creation in art and art related industries, tax revenue, tourism, revitalize neighborhoods, potential for state and federal grants for the arts, increase in property values, increase in foot traffic for brick-and-mortar businesses, new business growth, partnership with regional and community non-profits, infrastructure and development funds, cultivate culture, empathy, education and communication, increase community interest and enjoyment, and provide history and sense of place. Mayor Pro Tem Wood conveyed the intent and the desired outcome of the legislative proposal and offered potential goals of an UP Arts Commission for staff to consider as part of its direction.

Council members provided comment/feedback regarding interest in encouraging the incorporation of art in new business construction, unintended consequences on budget, youth involvement, and expanding the arts and culture concept and options.

10. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. No other action was taken.

Submitted by,

Emy Genetia
City Clerk