

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

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Figueroa 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 (virtual)
Councilmember Worthington	Excused
Councilmember McCluskey	Present
Councilmember Flemming	Excused
Councilmember Grassi	Present
Mayor Pro Tem Wood	Present
Mayor Figueroa	Present

Staff Present: City Manager Sugg, City Attorney Kaser, Public Works Director Ecklund, Police Chief Burke, Public Safety Director Hales, Public Works Operations Deputy Director Kelly-Sage, Administrative Services Director Petorak (virtual), and City Clerk Genetia.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Wood led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: By Mayor Pro Tem Wood, seconded by Councilmember McCluskey, to approve the agenda.

The motion carried.

5. PRESENTATIONS

Battle of the Badges Winner – Mr. Larry Bleich, Community Volunteer Leader of the American Red Cross, presented a trophy to Deputy Chief Mike Boltz of the West Pierce Fire and Rescue, the winner of the 2024 Battle of the Badges challenge.

Introduction of New Public Safety Officers – Police Chief Burke, noting the long process of passing a levy and the community's desire and support for public safety, introduced the City's new Public Safety officers. The City Council welcomed the new officers and expressed their gratitude and support for their commitment to public safety and the community's appreciation for their service.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS – The following individual provided public comment: Leanna Mason, Entertainment Masters

7. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: By Mayor Pro Tem Wood, seconded by Councilmember McCluskey, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A.** Approve the minutes of January 25, 2025 and February 3, 2025 Council meetings as submitted.
- B.** Receive and File: Payroll for periods ending 01/31/25 and 02/15/25; Claims dated 01/22/25, 01/30/25, 01/31/25, 02/07/25 and 02/14/25.

- C. Authorize the City Manager to purchase one (1) 2025 Ford F250 Pickup Truck in the amount of Sixty-Three Thousand Seven Hundred Ninety-Seven Dollars and Seventy-Four Cents (\$63,797.74), including tax.
- D. Authorize the City Manager to purchase one (1) steel vehicle storage building in the amount of One Hundred Seventy-One Thousand Fifty Dollars and Seventy-Eight Cents (\$171,050.78), including tax, and execute all the necessary documents.
- E. Authorize the City Manager to purchase one dry salt storage building in the amount of One Hundred Eighteen Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Three Dollars and Sixty-Nine Cents (\$118,543.69), including tax, and execute all the necessary documents.

The motion carried.

8. CITY MANAGER AND COUNCIL COMMENTS/REPORTS

City Manager Sugg provided an update on the 67th Avenue sewer extension project. He highlighted the on-going construction and emphasized the project's significance and the engineering crew's role in its successful implementation. The project is slated to be completed by summer.

Mayor Pro Tem Wood reported on a meeting he and Councilmember McCluskey had with a citizen interested in the Arts Commission and shared the positive feedback he received from the meeting. He attended the Asia Pacific Cultural Center's Lunar New Year celebration event, advocated for the City at the AWC City Action Days, and participated in the joint agency meeting with Pierce County Library and University Place School District. Lastly, he thanked staff for their work on the 67th Avenue sewer project.

Councilmember McCluskey reported her attendance at the Pierce County Regional Council general meeting, AWC City Action Days, and the National League of Cities' (NLC) Small Cities Council. She also reported that she, along with Councilmember Boykin, will be attending the NLC Congressional City Conference and the Small Cities Council meeting next week. In addition, she attended the meet and greet event at Day Island with the City's Community Outreach Officer Shears.

Councilmember Grassi attended the Economic Development Board meeting along with City staff and Councilmember Boykin. She expressed her excitement for the return of the Daddy Daughter Dance in University Place and encouraged the community to participate. Councilmember Grassi thanked Congresswoman Strickland and her staff for their hospitality during her Washington D.C. trip; she highlighted the speech by the State Auditor on city auditing issues and praised the Finance Department for their clean audit and recent award; and thanked the Public Works team for their efforts on the 67th Avenue project. Lastly, she mentioned an upcoming meeting hosted by Common Bridge to discuss homelessness.

Councilmember Boykin participated in the City Action Days and engaged in advocacy activities focusing on leveraging opportunities for the City. He attended an Eagle Scout ceremony for Jaleel Gamble to celebrate his achievements. Councilmember Boykin highlighted the significance of the award and the importance of community and leadership, noting the rarity and prestige of the Eagle Scout award, especially for an African American male during Black History Month.

Mayor Figueroa requested an update on the 67th Avenue and sewer projects, including budget and timeline information, and mentioned Congresswoman Strickland's interest in participating in a shovel opening ceremony. He asked staff to follow up on a citizen's request regarding a particular event to ensure its legality and proper presentation to Council for consideration. Given the decreasing federal and state funds for various projects, Mayor Figueroa emphasized the importance of advocating for continued funding from MPO's. Lastly, he asked for Councilmember Boykin's assistance in creating a recognition certificate for Jaleel Gamble to recognize his achievements as an Eagle Scout and the significance of this honor in the community.

STUDY SESSION

9. STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM 2025 UPDATE

Public Works Director Ecklund, along with NPDES Coordinator Smith, presented the 2025 updates to the City's Stormwater Management Program (SWMP). As a condition of the City's NPDES Municipal Stormwater Permit, the City is required to develop, implement, and annually update its Stormwater Management Program. The program lists the components that are required to be addressed and identifies the stormwater-related actions and activities that need to be conducted by the City to meet its requirements under the NPDES Municipal Stormwater permit. Director Ecklund outlined the key elements of the program and highlighted the changes for 2025 such as updated public comment dates, removal of non-required dependencies, and the addition of a new section on compliance with the underground injection control wells. These changes aim to streamline the program and ensure compliance with state requirements.

Director Ecklund stated that the program's proposed update has been posted on the City's website. The public comment period for the program update will run through March 17, 2025. A public hearing is scheduled for March 17, 2025 after which the updates to the City's Stormwater Management Program will be considered for adoption.

In response to Council comments, NPDES Coordinator Smith discussed the educational initiatives, including the natural yard care webinar series and general awareness program on pollutants. He highlighted the collaboration with the Pierce County Health Department and the positive impact of these initiatives on community behavior.

10. PARKS RESERVATION SYSTEM REPORT

Public Works Director Ecklund, along with Public Works Deputy Director Kelly-Sage, presented a study on picnic shelter and field rental, comparing the City's current practices with neighboring jurisdictions. Director Ecklund noted the differences in rental costs, permit requirements, and online reservation systems, identifying where the City could improve its practices to better serve the community. Staff sought feedback from Council on potential next steps, such as implementing an online reservation system, adjusting rental costs, and improving enforcement of park rules, emphasizing the need for a balanced approach that considers both community needs and resource constraints.

Councilmembers discussed the challenges of enforcing park rules and managing behavior, particularly with unpermitted events; the need for clear policies and effective enforcement to ensure compliance with park rules; the importance of clear signage to inform park users of the rules and consequences of non-compliance, suggesting that clear signage could help staff and law enforcement manage park behavior more effectively; the need for code revisions that could provide staff and law enforcement with the necessary tools to manage park behavior and ensure compliance with rules; and adequate staffing and resources to enforce park rules. Staff was directed to develop a policy for implementing damage deposits for park shelter rentals, including conditions for forfeiture; to explore a more cost-effective online reservation system and provide detailed pricing and user-friendliness comparisons; to engage the Park Commission to study and provide recommendations on the park shelter reservation system and related policies; to conduct a public survey to gather feedback on park shelter reservation preferences and issues; to develop and propose a code revision to enable fines for non-compliance with park shelter reservation rules; to design and install signage at park shelters outlining the reservation rules, time limits, and penalties for non-compliance; and to evaluate and propose a policy on the allowance of alcohol at park shelters, considering its impact on behavior and enforcement.

11. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. No other action was taken.

Submitted by,

Emy Genetia
City Clerk