

**CITY OF UNIVERSITY PLACE
MINUTES
Regular Meeting of the City Council
Monday, April 7, 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
Councilmember Worthington	Present
Councilmember McCluskey	Present
Councilmember Flemming	Excused
Councilmember Grassi	Present (virtual)
Mayor Pro Tem Wood	Present
Mayor Figueroa	Present

Staff Present: City Manager Sugg, City Attorney Kaser, Public Works Director Ecklund, Police Chief Burke, Administrative Services Director Petorak (virtual), Community Events & Contracts Manager Holloway, 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 Worthington, to approve the agenda.

The motion carried.

5. PRESENTATIONS

Arbor Day and Parks Appreciation Day Proclamations – Mayor Figueroa presented two proclamations to Public Works Director Ecklund to recognize and support Saturday, April 19, 2025, as Arbor Day and Parks Appreciation Day in University Place. Director Ecklund announced that a tree planting event will be held at Colegate Park in honor of Arbor Day, further supporting the City's urban forestry program and community involvement in environmental conservation.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

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 the March 17, 2025 Council meeting as submitted.
- B.** Receive and File: Payroll for period ending 03/15/25; and Claims dated 03/14/25 and 03/31/25.
- C.** Authorize the City Manager to execute the consultant agreement and all the necessary contract documents for the Creekside Park Master Plan with SCJ Alliance in the amount of \$193,590.00.
- D.** Authorize the City Manager to execute the contract and all the necessary documents for the Public Works Secondary Containment Structure with Puget Paving and Construction in the amount of \$71,256.72.

The motion carried.

COUNCIL CONSIDERATION

8. 36TH STREET AND GRANDVIEW DRIVE ROUNDABOUT BID AWARD

Staff Report – Public Works Director Ecklund presented the result of the bid opening for the 36th Street West and Grandview Drive West Roundabout project. Out of the seven bids received, RW Scott Construction submitted the lowest responsive, responsible bid in the amount of \$1,266,348.03 for all schedules. The project includes two schedules: Schedule A for the construction of the roundabout and associated roadway improvements, and Schedule B for the replacement of the existing asbestos concrete water main with ductile iron piping. Schedule A of the project is funded through a \$764,152.00 State Transportation Improvement Board grant with the remaining funded locally in the amount of \$229,780.00. Schedule B of the project is funded by Tacoma Public Utilities. Director Ecklund mentioned that the project bids came in over budget, but the City was able to secure an additional \$100,000 from the Transportation Improvement Board to complete the funding.

Public Comment – None.

Council Consideration – **MOTION:** By Mayor Pro Tem Wood, seconded by Councilmember Worthington, to Authorize the City Manager to award the 36th Street West and Grandview Drive West Roundabout project to RW Scott Construction in the amount of \$993,932.00 for Schedule A and \$272,416.03 for Schedule B for a total of \$1,266,348.03 and execute all necessary contract documents.

The motion carried.

9. CITY MANAGER AND COUNCIL COMMENTS/REPORTS

City Manager Sugg highlighted the significance of the 36th Street West roundabout project and mentioned that the City is currently working on 20 other projects. He also shared that State Representative Leavitt informed the City of a \$494,000 allocation in the House budget proposal for the Curran Orchard Park improvements.

Councilmember Grassi thanked the Public Works team for their hard work and the citizens for their patience with the ongoing construction projects around the City. She highlighted the success of the “Coffee with the Chief” event, mentioned the Hero Day event at Chambers Bay School, and expressed excitement for the upcoming Parks Appreciation Day and the ribbon-cutting event for Essential Pantry. In addition, she congratulated the Daffodil Princess from Curtis High School for representing the City.

Councilmember Boykin congratulated the Public Works team for their hard work in securing grant opportunities for the 36th Street and Grandview Drive Roundabout project. He attended the Washington Economic Development Association conference and shared his thoughts on the importance of economic development and the support from local representatives.

Mayor Pro Tem Wood reported that the Pierce County Climate Change Commission is considering restructuring to become more action-oriented, moving away from its current focus on education and grant awareness. He mentioned that the commission may request future funding from the City to support its new direction. Mayor Pro Tem Wood also attended a roundtable discussion with Pierce County Executive Mello, District 4 Councilmember Ayala and other representatives where he shared the collaborative success of the 44th Street project with Fircrest and expressed concerns about state-level decisions, particularly the motion to remove parking requirements from local control.

Councilmember Worthington testified before the Senate on House Bill 1133 which deals with the placement of Level 3 sex offenders in communities. He also attended the Pierce County Opioid Abatement Council meeting and emphasized the need to prioritize funding opportunities using the funds and requested scheduling a meeting to discuss this matter. Lastly, he congratulated Public Works Director Ecklund and his team on receiving an additional \$100,000 from the Transportation Improvement Board.

Councilmember McCluskey echoed Councilmember Worthington's comment regarding the Public Works team's efforts and good work. She acknowledged Representative Leavitt for her efforts in helping the City with funding, and thanked U.P. Refuse for coming forward and partnering with the City for the Parks Appreciation Day. Councilmember McCluskey reported that she and Councilmember Grassi toured the YMCA construction site for its new facility. Lastly, she reported on the Pierce County Regional Council meeting, mentioning discussions on UGA swaps, high-speed rail feasibility, and the need for City contributions.

Mayor Figueroa requested that the City Manager schedule a time in the agenda for a discussion on opioid abatement funding and for state representatives to discuss legislation impacting the City.

STUDY SESSION

10. 30TH BIRTHDAY BASH PRESENTATION

City Manager Sugg, along with Community Events & Contracts Manager Holloway, presented the proposed plans for the City's 30th birthday celebration scheduled for August 23, 2025, from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Cirque Park. The event will include attractions such as bands, a beer garden, food courts, community groups, an outdoor market, a balloon glow show, and activities for kids and teens. Back of the house details were provided including event parking, shuttle service, rentals, facilities, security, custodial, promotion and marketing. City Manager Sugg outlined the estimated costs for the event, totaling \$246,500, and requested Council approval for the budget.

Discussion followed regarding the event budget, some suggesting sponsorships and cost-saving measures, including use of volunteers and cutting down/eliminating the Movie in the Park event; marketing strategy, including the possibility of using drones to capture footage of the event for promotional and security purposes; and talking points to explain the value and benefits of the 30th birthday celebration to the public. Concerns were addressed relating to ensuring adequate restroom facilities and the availability of medical tent or first aid station at the event. After long consideration, Council accepted the budget for the 30th Birthday celebration with focus on finding sponsorships and reducing costs where possible.

11. COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE AMENDMENTS – Tabled to the 04/21/25 Council Meeting.

12. ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m. No other action was taken.

Submitted by,

Emy Genetia
City Clerk