

**City of Durham**  
**CITY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**September 26, 2023**

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- A. OPEN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING.** Mayor Schirado opened the meeting at 7:30 PM.
- B. ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS.** *Councilors present:* Mayor Gery Schirado, Council President Keith Jehnke, Chuck Van Meter, and Joshua Drake  
*Councilors absent:* Leslie Gifford  
*Staff present:* City Administrator Linda Tate and Administrative Assistant Becky Morinishi  
*Visitors:* From Tualatin Police Department: Chief Greg Pickering; From Pride Disposal: Kristin Leichner, President; Eric Anderson, Controller.
- C. COUNCIL MINUTES.** Councilor Van Meter moved to approve the minutes from the July 25, 2023 City Council meeting. Councilor Drake seconded. The vote passed unanimously (3-0).  
**MO 92623-01**
- D.** Mayor Schirado read the **CALENDAR OF MEETINGS.**
- **Tuesday, October 3, 2023**, Regular Meeting of the Planning Commission at 7:30 PM - Cancelled
  - **Tuesday, October 24, 2023**, Regular Meeting of the City Council at 7:30 PM
- E. PUBLIC FORUM.** No members of the public were present.
- F. PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE.** Councilor Van Meter asked what the outcome was for the illegal tree cutting. City Administrator Tate responded that the homeowner was charged \$500 plus the \$25 application fee, which was paid by the landscaper, and a mitigation tree must be planted.
- G. PRESENTATION BY TUALATIN POLICE CHIEF PICKERING.** Chief Greg Pickering presented the 2023 Durham Police Services Annual Report. Chief Pickering said there have been several changes since last year's update. Community Services Officer, Mark Wadell, left Tualatin to serve as Junction City Police Chief. Sergeant Eric French was promoted to Durham Liaison. The Tualatin Police Department is in active recruitment and hiring mode. There are currently 6 officers in training and a new hire coming onboard November 1<sup>st</sup>. They are adding staff to better respond to the recent increase in property crimes (up 39% in the Portland metro area). There are also many new homes being built, so adding staff helps keep pace with the rise in population and traffic related issues.

Statistics for the first 9 months of the year indicate that trends are about the same in the City of Durham as they have been the last few years. Traffic-related incidents have gone up. This is most likely attributed to increased traffic in general, as well as construction pushing traffic into the Durham area. Pickering said that they have been writing more reports lately, but that is because they want to keep documentation of everything that is happening. Pickering noted that the Washington County District Attorney's Office is very strict and has a 93% prosecution rate, which is significantly higher than the prosecution rate in Portland. Thursday afternoons are the busiest time of the week for police calls in Durham.

Pickering updated the Council on how they are dealing with the Time, Place, and Manner ordinance in Tualatin. He spoke about Community Connect, a program that helps people experiencing homelessness, or at imminent risk of homelessness. Pickering encouraged Durham residents to continue calling the non-emergency line if they see anyone in the park after closing. Councilor Van Meter asked if Community Connect is a new program, how it is

funded, and if it is 24 hours. Pickering answered that it is a new program, the hours are Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm, and that it is funded through Washington County. Van Meter asked about the Metro tax money that was meant to build shelters. Pickering said the money is coming in and is being used to build the shelters, they are just not up and running yet. Van Meter asked about Durham's policy on camping in the park. Administrator Tate answered that the policy is that the park is closed from sunset to sunrise and nobody is allowed in the park during that time, but that people can be in the park during the day, as it is open to everyone.

Councilor Van Meter asked if people are being arrested and immediately released in Washington County. Pickering answered that a big issue in Washington County right now is staffing in the jail, so they currently have two pods closed. He added that people are still being arrested, going through the booking process, and being assigned a court date. Washington County is working hard to make sure that people are being held accountable. Councilor Jehnke asked what percentage property crime is up in Tualatin. Pickering answered that Tualatin is up by about 30%, but the number of violent crimes has plummeted and is very low. A large portion of the property crime happening is shoplifting. Vehicle theft is down and many of the instances of theft from vehicles are crimes of opportunity because doors are not locked. Jehnke asked if the stores at Bridgeport Village are doing much to help stop shoplifting. Pickering replied that the security team at Bridgeport Village does a great job. The Council thanked Pickering for the update.

- H. **RESOLUTION 661-23, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF DURHAM ADJUSTING SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL RATES FOR PRIDE DISPOSAL COMPANY.** Kristin Leichner, President of Pride Disposal Company, addressed the Council regarding a proposed rate increase beginning January, 2024. She noted that 10 years ago Pride and the City agreed to use Tigard's rate structure as a guide for Durham. A few months ago, the Tigard City Council voted on an 8% across the board rate increase based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI.) Councilor Van Meter asked if they see that continuing. Leichner responded that inflation has been going down, but some aspects of what drives Pride's costs have not gone down in the same way. She explained that Metro recently passed an 11.5% rate increase on disposal tip fees. She also noted that, because of the current job market, Pride has to pay competitive wages to attract and retain employees. Leichner said that their insurance rates have also increased. Leichner added they try hard to control the costs that are within their control.

Mayor Schirado asked for an update on Metro's drive to change the color of containers. Leichner responded that it is currently mandated that multi-family containers be color-coded and they had seven years to comply. They are currently two years into that seven years and in the process of updating those in all of their current service areas. Leichner said that these are generally easier changes because many of the receptacles are metal and can be painted, unlike the plastic receptacles which would have to be purchased. Metro has not yet passed a mandate for the rest of the receptacles to be color-coded, but it is in their 2030 Regional Waste Plan. Councilor Jehnke asked why color-coding is important to Metro. Leichner answered that it makes it easier to know which items go in which receptacles, but to throw out all of the plastic bins would be counter-productive because the plastic bins still have a lot of life left in them. Jehnke asked if there is anywhere taking recycling since China stopped purchasing it, to which Leichner responded that there is.

Councilor Van Meter moved to pass and adopt Resolution 661-23. Councilor Drake seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously (4-0).

**MO 92623-02**

**I. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT.**

- Update on In-N-Out – Nothing to report.

**J. FINANCIAL REPORTS.**

- Councilor Jehnke moved to approve payroll checks 660-665, vendor checks 17347-17380, and electronic fund transfers totaling \$13,805.86. Councilor Van Meter seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous (4-0).

**MO 92623-03**

**K. COUNCIL COMMENTS & MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATIONAL ITEMS.**

- Mayor Schirado informed the Council about HB 3071, which requires all elected officials to be mandatory reporters of suspected child abuse. He shared a link for the Councilors to take a 30-minute online training.

**L. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS CITY ADMINISTRATOR RECRUITMENT.** At 8:16 PM, Mayor Schirado closed the regular meeting of the City Council and opened an Executive Session to discuss the recruitment of the new City Administrator.

The regular meeting of the City Council reconvened at 8:45 PM.

**M. ADJOURN.** Mayor Schirado adjourned the regular meeting at 8:45 PM

**Approved:**

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**GERY SCHIRADO, MAYOR**

**Attest:**

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**LINDA TATE, CITY ADMINISTRATOR/RECORDER**