

City of Forks
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session
City Council Chambers
October 26, 2015

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Monohon called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Public Works Director Hampton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council members present: Breidenbach, Brager, McGinley, Hillcar, Weissenfels and Mayor Monohon. Staff present: Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer, Fleck, Attorney/Planner, Bart, Police Administrator and Hampton, Public Works Director.

MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Weissenfels, second Brager, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held October 12, 2015 by Hillcar, second Weissenfels, motion carried 4-0 with Brager abstaining.

2. Motion to approve the payroll checks numbered 32319 to 32336 for \$62,892.24 and claim checks numbered 32337 to 32366 for \$42,531.02 by Brager, second Weissenfels, motion carried.

3. Motion to approve the September Treasurer's Report by Breidenbach, second Brager, motion carried.

4. Appointment to Clallam County Homelessness Task Force

Mayor Monohon explained that the Homelessness Task Force has one position for representation of the three cities in the County. The City of Forks is next in the rotation to appoint a representative for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2016.

Motion to appoint Council Member Weissenfels as the City representative to the Clallam County Homelessness Task Force by Brager, second Hillcar, motion carried.

5. City Letter Regarding North Coastal Steelhead Recommendations

Mayor Monohon thanked Bob Kratzer for serving on the Steelhead/Cutthroat Policy Advisory Board.

Attorney/Planner Fleck reviewed the letter to the Washington State Fish and Wildlife Commission regarding recommendations for steelhead management. Some points made pertained to the lack of enforcement of current regulations, compromises made for fly fishermen, the lack of business owner involvement and that interim rules typically become permanent rules. Council was asked for recommendations on whether or not to adopt the letter.

Jim Mansfield commented that the fish need to be saved. He stated that bait is too effective and suggested that tribes could issue licenses in return for pulling their nets.

Council Member Breidenbach spoke about the high mortality rate with bait, citing various studies. He stated that in the past restrictions were placed on rivers above Highway 101 bridges after March 15th. He advocated for limiting bait.

Council Member Brager questioned whether or not escapement goals have been met. The Quillayute system has met escapement levels, the Hoh has not.

Council Member Hillcar asked about season changes and suggested shortened seasons on the upper reaches to limit the number of encounters.

Bob Kratzer pointed out that one group, fly fishermen won't have to change any methods if these recommendations are passed. He stated that the limitations placed on bait would have a significant economic impact on our community. He felt the recommendations should encourage more deliberation and compromise for all anglers.

Jeff McGinley commented that forest landowners need to have input, since conservation efforts may impact landowners. He stated there needs to be a commitment to enforcement and education before adding more layers of regulations.

Council Member Brager proposed that additional debate occur before taking a position on the use of bait.

Motion to approve the City of Forks letter to the Washington State Fish and Wildlife Commission regarding adopting recommendations for steelhead management including the limiting of bait after February 15th to all rivers except the Quillayute River by Breidenbach, second Weissenfels, motion carried 3-2 with Brager and McGinley against.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Code Review

Chapter 15.05 was reviewed.

2. Council Member Reports

Council Member Breidenbach attended the Evening Talk at ONRC last Friday, "Beaver Relocation – A Novel Adaptation Tool". The speaker explained how relocation of beavers to headwater riparian systems could impact weather patterns.

Council Member Brager announced that the “Twin Mandolin Slingsers” are returning to the Rainforest Arts Center (RAC) for a concert on November 6th and 7th. He also had a copy of Charlene Herselman’s master’s thesis entitled, “From Logging Capital to Tourism Phenomenon: The Impact of Literary Tourism on Forks, Washington, United States of America”. Ms. Herselman is from South Africa.

Council Member McGinley participated in a legislative tour last week regarding the DNR Community Forestry Program. She also welcomed a new grandchild.

Council Member Hillcar asked about the possibility of reversing the burn ban within the City limits. The ban is a regulation under state law which is applied to all Urban Growth Areas and would require a state legislative change to reverse it. He discussed the Olympic National Park’s delinquent rent for the Transit Center and suggested that the space could be better utilized as a Police Department outpost.

Council Member Weissenfels attended the Clallam Transit System meeting last week. She questioned why the RAC retail space has not been rented and was told that the City has received inquiries, but that it will be actively advertised since those inquiries have not progressed. She has also heard from residents concerned that downtown is dying and from those who would like trees on Main Street.

3. Staff Reports

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom just returned from a two-week trip to Asia. She thanked Deputy Clerk Simons for filling in at the last Council meeting and stated that the next meeting on November 9th includes a budget workshop at 5:30.

Public Works Director Hampton’s first day with the City was October 21st. He will be assuming building inspector duties and is exploring the certifications needed in addition to water and wastewater certifications. He has been working alongside the crew. Today he helped with water shutoffs and he’ll assist with meter reading for November. Water levels are better, but still not high enough. Another reading will be taken on Wednesday at which time, the emergency restrictions put in place September 11th may be lifted.

Police Administrator Bart reported that an officer assisted with removing a deer from inside a PUD enclosure. He also reported that Officer Ponton has accepted a position with Jefferson County.

Attorney/Planner Fleck reported that several meetings have taken place regarding the long term Marbled Murrelet strategy, which if put into place, could prohibit any volume from the Olympic Experimental State Forest. He will be meeting with the American Forest Resource Council to discuss sustainability in relation to the DNR arrearage. Robinson Noble has presented information regarding their ground water assessment, but the biggest question will be how to fund their proposals. They will make a presentation at the budget workshop on November 23rd. He reported that a panel discussion on cross laminated timber will be held in Port Angeles at the Little Theater on December 2nd at 6:30 which will be broadcast at the local Peninsula College site. He also reported

participating in an active shooter drill at Peninsula College. Finally, he reported that Commissioner McEntire is leading an effort to have a discussion on infrastructure and capital facility plans which would be compiled and ranked by the Economic Development Council.

4. Mayor's Report

Mayor Monohon attended the Olympic Trails Coalition meeting regarding the Olympic Discovery Trail and discussed West End routes. He sat on a panel at the ONRC to provide area information to the College of the Environment. He also attended the Clallam Transit System meeting and the Board of Health meeting last week.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Breidenbach, second McGinley, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.



Bryon Monohon, Mayor



Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer