

City of Forks  
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session  
City Council Chambers  
November 14, 2016

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Monohon called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. Council Member Weissenfels led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Council members present: Preston, Brager, Ayers, Weissenfels and Mayor Monohon. Absent: Hillcar 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 Ayers, second Brager, motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ed Losby stated that he felt compelled to clarify issues he had brought up at previous meetings. It wasn't his intention to single-out wood burning as the only source of air pollution, as he realizes it can be done responsibly. Also, with respect to a soda tax, he feels it can stand on its own and doesn't need to be tied to anything else. The potential benefits that he expects are to provide a source of revenue for health and human services, to help curtail consumption of soda and to gain tax revenue from tourists passing through the community.

Dan Thomson stated he is the owner of the Vagabond building, Mexican store, Tacqueria, and adjacent parking lot. He feels he is being deprived the use of his property due to patrons of the Rainforest Arts Center (RAC) using his parking lot.

He was informed that renters of the RAC are made aware that the parking lot is not City property and that they can contact the owner regarding its use, in addition to the owner of the parking lot on Forks Avenue. It was suggested that he install signage on his lot to inform the public that it is private property.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Motion** to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held October 24, 2016 by Preston, second Weissenfels, motion carried 3-0 with Brager abstaining.

**2. Motion** to approve the manual claim checks numbered 33750 to 33751 for \$8,097.67, payroll checks numbered 33752 to 33767 for \$109,159.24 and claim checks numbered 33768 to 33807 for \$70,719.29 by Brager, second Preston, motion carried.

**3. 2017 Budget Hearing**

Mayor Monohon opened the 2017 Budget Hearing. No public comments were received. Mayor Monohon closed the 2017 Budget Hearing.

#### 4. Revenue Sources/Property Tax Hearing & Property Tax Resolution

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom read the expected 2017 revenues by category. She stated that a 1% increase in property tax is an increase on the amount of property tax levied last year, which would amount to \$3,437.29.

Mayor Monohon opened the Revenue Sources/Property Tax Hearing. Ed Losby inquired about the history of property tax adjustments. Mayor Monohon reviewed past Council action pertaining to property taxes since 2005. Mr. Losby reiterated his support for a soda tax as a source of revenue. Mayor Monohon closed the Revenue Sources/Property Tax Hearing.

Council Members discussed banked levy capacity. They also discussed the need to recruit and retain police officers, while ensuring the Police Department remains within its budget.

**Motion** to approve Resolution #457 with a 1% increase in the 2017 regular property tax levy by Preston, second Brager, motion carried 4-0.

#### 5. Artwork License between the City of Forks and Lions Gate Entertainment, Inc.

Attorney/Planner Fleck reviewed the license agreement. It is pertaining to use of depictions of the City of Forks sign by Lions Gate Entertainment. He noted that it has been revised from an exclusive license to a non-exclusive license.

**Motion** to approve the Artwork License between the City of Forks and Lions Gate Entertainment by Weissenfels, second Ayers, motion carried.

#### 6. Settlement of Lease with Willapa Bay Hardwoods, Inc.

Attorney/Planner Fleck reviewed the history of the lease with Willapa Bay for Lot 7 of the Industrial Park. They had operated an alder mill there until about 2009. Since that time, the mill equipment has remained on the lot. They currently owe \$12,655.46 on their lease. They are requesting to settle the lease by payment of \$10,000, transferring ownership of the Conex box onsite to the City, and for the City to provide a dumpster to assist in clean-up of the site.

**Motion** to approve settlement of the lease with Willapa Bay Hardwoods in lieu of \$10,000, one 40' Conex box, and provision of a dumpster for clean-up of the site by Ayers, second Preston, motion carried 3-1 with Weissenfels against.

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### 1. Council Member Reports

**Council Member Preston** attended the Clallam Transit System finance committee meeting last Wednesday.

**Council Member Ayers** commented on the City's low expenses for the LEOFF I retirees compared to retiree expenses for other entities in Clallam County.

**Council Member Weissenfels** attended the Homelessness Task Force Meeting on November 1<sup>st</sup>, which focused on health issues in Clallam County. She reported that high-rise housing is going to be built next to the Port Angeles High School and there is still a need for overnight shelters. She also attended the Clallam Transit System budget workshop, the Veterans Day ceremony and the Chamber of Commerce Wine & Cheese event.

## **2. Staff Reports**

**Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom** attended a Department of Revenue webinar regarding excise tax. She spoke with Sheriff Benedict regarding PenCom fees and their capital reserve balance. She reported that staff would be meeting with USDA again on November 16<sup>th</sup> regarding capital project financing and the State Auditor would be onsite beginning November 21<sup>st</sup>.

**Public Works Director Hampton** reported that the street sweeper is repaired and back in service. He attended the Department of Transportation meeting regarding the Elwha Bridge. He is in the process of developing a water meter testing program to identify and replace defective meters. Also, he reported the park bathrooms have been closed due to vandalism and the presence of drug paraphernalia.

**Police Administrator Bart** reported that the Assembly of God Church was recently burglarized and their van was stolen. He discussed the shooting incident in Beaver and stated that our officer was backing up the County personnel. That same night a drive-by shooting occurred near Merchant Road, which has been handed over to Clallam County. Forks PD also assisted with the child fatality case, which occurred in the County.

**Attorney/Planner Fleck** attended the Elwha Bridge meeting. The DOT stated that prior to the dam removal, they were informed the bridge was built on bedrock. They now believe the bridge was constructed on a cofferdam which was built on a bed of rocks. The bridge is 90 years old, but is not currently on any list for replacement. He also reported that indications from the Board of Natural Resources are that they will adopt the arrearage figure of 462 mmbf versus 702. The Port of Port Angeles is considering a resolution in support of the 702 mmbf figure. He also met with the FAA regarding capital projects for the Quillayute Airport and West End Thunder's request to extend the racing agreement at the Forks Airport. The request to have a logging show on Forks Airport property was denied. A meeting was also held between Phil Trask and Department of Fish & Wildlife regarding the steelhead catch rule, which is in place until 2018. Coho will continue to be a big issue if we don't have escapement numbers.

Council then reviewed the "rack card" distributed by Olympic National Park regarding the schedule for road maintenance around Lake Crescent.

## **3. Mayor's Report**

Mayor Monohon spoke at the Veterans Day ceremony and attended the Chamber of Commerce Wine & Cheese event. He stated that he has brought up the Elwha Bridge

issue and Rialto Road many times with congressional staff. He also voiced his frustration with the level of illegal drug use and crime in the community.

**4. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** to adjourn by Preston, second Ayers, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

  
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Bryon Monohon, Mayor

  
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Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer