

City of Forks  
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session  
City Council Chambers  
April 10, 2017

**CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Pro Tem Hillcar called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Council Member Ayers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Council members present: Brager, Ayers, Hillcar [Mayor Pro Tem], and Weissenfels. Absent: Preston and Mayor Monohon. Staff present: Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer, Fleck, Attorney/Planner Absent: Bart, Police Administrator and Hampton, Public Works Director.

**MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Pro Tem Hillcar stated that an executive session is needed for approximately five minutes to discuss potential litigation.

**Motion** to approve the agenda with modifications as stated, by Weissenfels, second Ayers, motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Bill Rohde expressed his concerns with the status of the Forks Police Department. He is not in favor of eliminating the police department and relying on the Clallam County Sheriff's Department for law enforcement due to increased response times. He advocated hiring a chief from within the department, examining other areas of the city budget and the possibility of raising taxes.

Nedra Reed urged Council to begin the process to hire a uniformed police chief and resist efforts to both close the jail and contract law enforcement to the Clallam County Sheriff. She cited the process for an officer to transport, await booking and return to duty, which would leave the community at risk for several hours with each arrest. She noted the value of jail trustee work to the City, which can be the equivalent of four full-time employees. She stated that in the past, the police chief was tasked with recruiting inmates from other municipalities to fill excess beds.

Phil Reed recommended that a full-time uniformed police chief be hired and that contracting law enforcement or closing the jail not be considered. He helped design the current Forks jail, which has operated well for over 40 years. He asserted that Clallam County would not be able to house our inmates at a lower cost than the City.

Lissy Andros, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director commended Officer Solberg for his work regarding a suspicious vehicle at the Visitor Center late at night.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Motion** to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held March 27, 2017 by Ayers, second Weissenfels, motion carried.

**2. Motion** to approve the manual checks numbered 34268 through 34269 for \$957.14, payroll checks numbered 34270 through 34285 for \$112,398.05 and claim checks numbered 34286 through 34310 for \$28,321.95 by Brager, second Weissenfels, motion carried.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **1. Hiring of a Uniformed Police Chief**

Council Member Ayers distributed Consumer Price Index information published March 15, 2017. He noted that the overall trend is higher than what was used in his presentation regarding law enforcement and corrections cost projections. He reported that Clallam County personnel want to wait for a decision by the City prior to providing additional cost estimates. He also stated that the hiring of a police chief is the Mayor's decision.

Discussion ensued regarding previous police department staffing levels, inmate labor, whether or not the chief should be an "at will" position, and responsibilities of the different branches of government.

### **2. Council Member Reports**

**Council Member Brager** said they had some guests at Miller Tree Inn who are Twilight fans and are police officers from Spain. They were in Forks on their honeymoon and were very happy that Rick Bart was able to stop by and talk with them.

**Council Member Ayers** reported having a number of discussions with Clallam County. The County would prefer to quote one price for multiple services. They would provide detective services at no extra charge.

**Council Member Weissenfels** attended the Homelessness Task Force meeting last Tuesday. She stated that Wendy Clark-Getzin has submitted her resignation as Clallam Transit General Manager. She also inquired about the dilapidated building at the Quillayute Airport. It is slated for surplus and demolition.

### **3. Staff Reports**

**Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom** reported on tasks undertaken in the previous two weeks. Those included work on records requests, annual census forms, the USDA application, RMSA member standards, the Rainforest Arts Center lease, and month-end reconciliation. The annual airport tenants meeting was held just prior to this council meeting. Staff members (Holly Clark, Ginger Simons and Caryn DePew) have also been working to complete records requests. In addition, 400 notices were mailed to sewer system customers regarding smoke testing to occur in the next few months.

**Attorney/Planner Fleck** facilitated a meeting with Phil Trask on March 30<sup>th</sup> regarding steelhead guide licenses. Another meeting was held March 31<sup>st</sup> on steelhead science needs. Follow-up meetings will be held in June. Last week he testified before the Board of Natural Resources in Olympia on arrearage issues. The BNR received over 4,300 comments on the marbled murrelet strategy and over 1,300 comments regarding their harvest calculation. The environmental caucus submitted their own alternative for the marbled murrelet, which calls for reducing the land base by 64%. The BNR is on year three without a harvest calculation, which may trigger litigation if it were to continue into 2018.

**4. Mayor's Report**

Mayor Pro Tem Hillcar stated that he was able to observe personnel from the Airforce conduct survivalist training in the area and that it was very impressive.

**5. Executive Session** was called at 8:40 p.m. until 8:45 p.m. to discuss potential litigation. Mayor Pro Tem Hillcar called the meeting back to order at 8:45 p.m. No action was taken.

**6. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** to adjourn by Ayers, second Weissenfels, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

  
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John Hillcar, Mayor Pro Tem

  
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Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer