PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND CALL TO ORDER
Council Member Preston led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Fletcher then called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL
Council members present: Preston, Brager, Soha, Hillcar, Weissenfels, and Mayor Fletcher. Staff present: Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer, Hampton, Public Works Director, Rowley, Police Chief, Fleck, Attorney/Planner [arrived at 7:43 p.m.]

MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Preston, second Hillcar, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Randy Lato, the City’s representative on the Pacific Fisheries Management Council reported on the recently proposed halibut season. Halibut fishing will again be permitted in our area every Tuesday and Saturday in the months of May and June, with the exception of Memorial Day Weekend when it will be Friday and Sunday, until the quota is met. He brought two descending devices used to return rockfish to the bottom. He noted that the survival rate beyond 400 ft., where local fisherman fish for halibut, is not very good, but studies show that results are quite good above 400 ft. Only the Columbia River salmon return met Department of Fish and Wildlife forecasts. He would like to get more salmon anglers in the area. He says the fish may be there, but there aren't enough fishermen to find them.

Council Member Weissenfels doesn't feel that increasing the number of fishermen sounds ecologically sound. If the orca are starving due to a lack of fish, why would we want to catch more? Lato responded that completely eliminating ocean sport fishing would only result in an increase in salmon of 5%, which is very small incentive for giving up the economic benefits to fishing communities. The primary problem is the lack of hatcheries producing the salmon.

As for rivers, the Quillayute System has been closed, and the Hoh, Clearwater, and Queets rivers will either go to single-fish retention or be closed on Saturday, November 16.

Melene Bourm has been on the Board of the Economic Development Council (EDC) for about two years. She introduced Colleen McAleer, who has served as Director since last spring.

Colleen McAleer understands the EDC has not had a strong relationship with the City of Forks over the past few years. The Department of Commerce (DoC) has a permanent contract with the EDC to serve as the DoC's partner on the ground in Clallam County. The EDC reports to the DoC quarterly regarding agencies partnering with them.
has been told by the DoC that the lack of cooperation throughout the county and between the County and the EDC negatively affects grant applications and such. Therefore, she is trying to build stronger relationships with various organizations and agencies throughout Clallam County. Since being appointed Director in May, the EDC has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Jefferson County EDC, which allows the two to do more together, including possibly joining together to form a 501(c)(3) to get more funding; and finalized a grant for $10,000 from Thread Fund and one for $75,000 with Jamestown Capital for Emerald Coast Opportunity Zone work. She has made nine trips to the West End to meet with small business owners and be sure they know of the resources and people available to them. She hopes that the City will consider entering into a contract that is reasonable and viable for the City with the EDC.

[Attorney/Planner Fleck arrived at 7:43 p.m.]

Council Member Hillcar noted that previous relationships with the EDC have been convoluted at best. He remains reluctant to enter into a contract because the City has yet to see any benefit to such a contract. He inquired about the EDC assisting the City with finding a tenant for the Interfor site at the Industrial Park when that lease expires in three years.

McAleer said that the EDC would love to help Forks find a tenant for that property. She knows of a company that recycles tires and could create 150 jobs. She’s ready to give communities on the West End priority when it comes to new opportunities.

Mayor Fletcher asked about assistance with infrastructure such as rural broadband. McAleer explained the various ways she and the EDC are working to get broadband to the West End. The EDC is part of the newly formed North Olympic Legislative Alliance (NOLA) created to lobby on behalf of the North Olympic Peninsula. A lobbyist will be hired for the 2020 legislative session.

**ACTION ITEMS**

1. **Motion** to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held October 28, 2019 by Weissenfels, second Preston, motion carried.

2. **Motion** to approve payroll checks 37522 through 37539 for $107,789.81, claim checks 37540 through 37578 and EFT 110619 for $51,732.98, and travel checks 3545 through 3555 for $1,328.98 by Hillcar, second Brager, motion carried.

3. **2020 Budget Hearing**

   Mayor Fletcher opened the 2020 Budget Hearing. No public comments were received. Mayor Fletcher closed the 2020 Budget Hearing.

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

   Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom read expected 2020 revenues by category, and referred to the property tax levy adjustments comparison and two proposed resolutions in Council packets.
Council Member Hillcar supports a 0% increase, as does Council Member Soha. Council Member Preston added that there is always some project that comes up, and the Council spends hours discussing how to pay for it only to have the discussion halted when raising property taxes is suggested. Council Member Brager might support such an increase if the revenue were intended for a specific project or use, but not just to have it go to the general fund.

Mayor Fletcher opened the revenue sources/property tax hearing. As a property owner in the City of Forks Lissy Andros supports no increase in property taxes. Jeff Gingell feels that the money would be better spent by the property owners. Mayor Fletcher closed the revenue sources/property tax hearing.

**Motion** to approve Resolution #478 with a 0% increase in the 2020 regular property tax levy by Hillcar, second Preston, motion carried 4-1 with Weissenfels against.

5. **Public Hearing for 2020 to 2026 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP)**

   Attorney/Planner Fleck explained funding resources for the projects listed. Some projects are dependent upon successful grant applications.

   Mayor Fletcher opened the 2020 to 2026 CIP hearing. Lissy Andros asked if there are any plans for services at the Forks Airport. Attorney/Planner Fleck stated there are currently no plans for improvements at the Forks Airport. Mayor Fletcher closed the 2020 to 2026 CIP hearing.

6. **Interlocal Agreement for Rural Broadband Planning Grant and Rural Broadband Feasibility Study**

   Attorney/Planner Fleck has been working with the Port of Port Angeles and the North Olympic Development Council on rural broadband planning. They have received a Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) grant that must be matched. The City of Forks has been asked if it could contribute to this match in exchange for a seat at the table.

   **Motion** to authorize the mayor and staff to enter into the Interlocal Agreement for the Rural Broadband Planning Grant and Feasibility Study, by Soha, second Preston, motion carried.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. **Council Member Reports**

   Council Member Brager would like to discuss a public safety sales tax at a future meeting as a way of funding law enforcement and corrections. We could impose up to .1%, depending upon the amount levied by Clallam County, of which the City would get 80%. He would like to see it as an action item at the next meeting because it must be put on the ballot for a general or primary election, and there are deadlines to be observed.
Council Member Soha noted that November is testicular and prostate cancer awareness month. He participated with the Mayor in raising and lowering the garrison flag on Veterans Day.

Council Member Hillcar relayed a message from Heidi Anderson, Chief Nursing Officer at Forks Community Hospital. She is extremely pleased with the cooperation and help the hospital receives from the Forks Police Department in dealing with some really dangerous people and keeping an eye on the staff late at night.

Council Member Weissenfels has been raking leaves every three days. She's raked up 36 30-gallon trash bags. She also attended the Veterans Day ceremony.

2. Staff Reports
Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom will be on vacation from November 15 to 22. She thanked Council for its patience and understanding as she deals with some health issues, and warned them that there would probably be some last-minute additions to the packets for the next meeting.

Public Works Director Hampton attended the Inter-Agency Winter Preparation Meeting for Clallam and Jefferson Counties hosted by the Washington State Department of Transportation. The Elwha bridge project was discussed. Engineering will begin in 2020 and construction in 2021.

Police Chief Rowley has three candidates for one jail and two police department openings. A large number of officers in the area (potential lateral hires) have expressed interest in working for Forks Police Department. The culture at Forks PD has improved greatly. The only obstacle is the cut in salary they would see by such a move.

Attorney/Planner Fleck attended the Board of Natural Resources meeting last Tuesday, November 5, and testified in two sections. Matt Comisky of the American Forest Resource Council (AFRC) has been looking into the impact of the marbled murrelet strategy on the Clallam Bay block for the past two years. The Department of Resources' official number is 14%, but other calculations based on tree age class put that number at 47%. He will be attending a Solutions Table meeting this Thursday, November 14. The Board’s preferred alternative was originally a variation of the current Alternative D, but a proposal was handed out at a recent Solutions Table recommending that the Board adopt, as a matter of policy, Alternative G. This would add another 32,000 or 34,000 acres above the current preferred alternative for conservation, which would severely impact junior taxing districts.

He attended the Veterans Day event, which was attended by approximately 40 people.

3. Mayor’s Report
Mayor Fletcher was invited to attend a ceremony recognizing veterans at U.S. Coast Guard Station Port Angeles on Ediz Hook. However, the veteran attending with him missed two road closure signs, and they got as far as Lake Crescent before turning
around and coming home. He helped to raise the garrison flag, which flew from sunrise to sunset on Veterans Day.

Council Member Hillcar expressed his gratitude to the community for the assistance provided to Trooper Alan Nelson. The GoFundMe account set up for him is now over $25,000.

4. **Closed Session** was called from 8:43 p.m. to 8:58 p.m. to consider the position to be taken in collective bargaining.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**
   
   Motion to adjourn by Hillcar, second Preston, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

   [Signature]

   Tim Fletcher, Mayor

   [Signature]

   Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer