

City of Forks  
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session  
City Council Chambers  
December 9, 2019 7:30 p.m.

**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.

**MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Council Member Brager requested the addition of an action item to assess the council's interest in reviewing a public safety sales tax in 2020.

**Motion** to modify the agenda with the addition of an action item by Brager, second Weissenfels, motion carried.

**Motion** to approve the agenda as modified by Soha, second Preston, motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were received.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Motion** to approve minutes of the Special Meeting held November 12, 2019, the Special Meeting held November 25, 2019, and the Regular Meeting held November 25, 2019 by Soha, second Preston, motion carried.

**2. Motion** to approve manual checks 37626 through 37627 for \$11,034.84, payroll checks 37628 through 37645 for \$108,889.95, claim checks 37646 through 37675 and EFT 1219 for \$79,460.35, and travel checks 3556 through 3563, with the exception of voided travel check 3559, for \$1,698.16 by Weissenfels, second Preston, motion carried.

**3. 2020 Budget**

**a. Council Member Brager's Budget Approval Proposal**

Council Member Brager recommends that the budgeting method used by the City be switched from fund level budgeting to department level budgeting. He feels that department level budgeting would give the five members of the City Council more control over the budget by requiring council's approval for any changes at the department level.

Attorney/Planner Fleck explained that changing the budgeting method at this late date is not practical for the 2020 budget. If Council did decide to make such a change, discussion of the various details should begin no later than August.

**Motion** to utilize department level budgeting for the 2020 budget by Brager, no second, motion failed.

b. Ordinance #644 2020 Budget

**Motion** to approve Ordinance #644 2020 Budget in the amount of \$5,547,910 by Preston, second Soha, motion carried 4-1 with Brager against.

**4. Resolution #481 Intent Pursuant to HB 1406 Retainage of State Sales & Use Tax for Affordable Housing**

Attorney/Planner Fleck explained this resolution is to retain a portion of state sales tax that the City could then use for affordable housing and housing assistance. Monies received could be handled as pass-through funds similar to lodging tax. Resolution #481 fulfills the first requirement, which is to express the City's intent to retain a portion of sales and use tax. The second step, to be implemented sometime in the next six months, is to adopt an ordinance stating that we will retain a portion of those taxes. The intent statement must be issued by a certain date in January or we lose the opportunity all together. Port Angeles, Sequim, and Clallam County have already stated their intent to retain tax monies.

Council Member Hillcar noted concerns regarding the staff time required to take advantage of this opportunity.

**Motion** to adopt Resolution #481 Intent Pursuant to HB 1406 Retainage of State Sales & Use Tax for Affordable Housing by Weissenfels, second Preston, motion carried 4-1 with Hillcar against.

Attorney/Planner Fleck feels there is a way to take advantage of this opportunity with a minimum of time and effort by staff if the monies passed through to another agency.

**5. Public Safety Sales Tax**

**Motion** to assess the council's interest in reviewing the public safety sales tax option in 2020 by Brager, second Preston, motion carried 4-1 with Hillcar against.

[Council Member Brager excused himself from the meeting at 8:23 p.m.]

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**1. Council Member Reports**

**Council Member Preston** stated that this is his last council meeting, and expressed his appreciation to everyone. He won't be at the next meeting.

**Council Member Soha** will be away for the next meeting, but will be available by phone if needed. He attended Festival of Trees and Cherish Our Children over the weekend.

**Council Member Hillcar** thanked the staff, council members, and especially Council Member Brager for their work on the budget.

**Council Member Weissenfels** attended Santa's breakfast at the Congregational Church and provided piano music at the Festival of Trees at the Rainforest Arts Center.

## **2. Staff Reports**

**Public Works Director Hampton** and his crew got the Christmas tree up and decorated.

**Police Chief Rowley** participated in the little league all-star football game. He was impressed with the high level of football played. He noted that there have been several tragedies in our community recently. He has hired two new police officers who will begin their 5 ½-month training at the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission in Burien on December 18. He explained that there is now legislation to prevent the poaching of candidates from the academy.

**Attorney/Planner Fleck** attended the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) quarterly meeting to discuss their sales program. He then attended the Board of Natural Resources meeting. The Peninsula Daily News and Seattle Times will be running impacts stories that will counter the press release issued by the Commissioner of Public Lands. One high-ranking official has described the impact of the DNR's decision regarding marbled murrelet conservation "the \$35- to \$40-million tax on rural Washington". Over the weekend he served as an auctioneer for Cherish Our Children, helping to raise more than \$12,500, and also for Festival of Trees.

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

Mayor Fletcher attended Cherish Our Children and Breakfast with Santa, and judged trees for Festival of Trees. He also participated in the Twinkle Light Parade. Dilley & Solomon had one log truck in the parade. He'd like to see more participation.

**4. Executive Session** was called from 8:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. to discuss litigation. No action was taken.

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** to adjourn by Soha, second Preston, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



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Tim Fletcher, Mayor

  
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Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer