

City of Forks
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session
City Council Chambers
April 13, 2020 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fletcher led the Pledge of Allegiance then called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL

Council members present (meeting conducted via Zoom): Gilstrap, Gingell, Soha (joined meeting at 7:42 p.m.), Hillcar, Weissenfels, and Mayor Fletcher. Staff present: Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer, Fleck, Attorney/Planner, Rowley, Police Chief, and Hampton, Public Works Director

MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Weissenfels, second Hillcar, motion carried 4-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held March 23, 2020 by Gilstrap, second Gingell, motion carried 4-0.

2. Motion to approve manual claim checks numbered 38087 and 38088 for \$18,003.56, payroll checks numbered 38089 through 38105 for \$113,849.00, and claim checks numbered 38106 through 38151 for \$117,976.12 by Weissenfels, second Hillcar, motion carried 4-0.

3. Electronic Home Monitoring Contract with Attenti US, Inc.

Police Chief Rowley explained the home monitoring program which would be an additional source of income for the jail. The city would charge eligible offenders \$15 per day to participate and pay a fee of approximately \$3.68 per offender per day to Attenti US.

Motion to authorize the mayor and staff to execute the electronic home monitoring contract with Attenti US, Inc. by Soha, second Hillcar, motion carried 5-0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. The first quarter 2020 Sales & Lodging Tax Report was reviewed.

2. Council Member Reports

Council Member Gilstrap noted that recreational areas have been closed but that he still sees cars parked along the highway. People are now making a conscious effort to walk around barriers to get to these areas.

Council Member Gingell completed a period of quarantine after possible exposure to COVID-19. He hopes the city might take a stand on allowing the drive-in church service to continue.

Council Member Soha has been learning about Small Business Administration loans, but noted there is not much available for small businesses.

Council Member Hillcar is concerned about the alliances our governor is attempting to build with other states around programs such as GPS tracking through cell phones.

Council Member Weissenfels stated that she has seen reports regarding Sweden's lack of social distancing thus far, but that now their death rates are higher per capita than any other country. She thinks we all need to be following the governor's Stay Home Stay Healthy order closely.

3. Staff Reports

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom reported on the extensive impact measures taken in response to the COVID-19 pandemic will have on city revenues. She stated that 2020 will be a challenging budget year and that we need to explore additional revenue streams such as electronic home monitoring, as well as reducing expenditures.

Public Works Director Hampton reported that his crew has been working modified hours to maintain the viability of his crew for operation of the water system. They are reading meters this week.

Police Chief Rowley has been dealing with changes in front office staffing and appreciates the help provided by Nerissa Davis. He is optimistic about the electronic home monitoring system's ability to provide the city with some much-needed revenue. He also reported that our two new recruits may be returning to complete their academy training in May.

Attorney/Planner Fleck has been working primarily on issues related to COVID-19, including negotiating agreements with other entities for emergency shelters. He directed council members to the declaration in their packets regarding suspension of printing legal notices in the city's journal of record. The Forks Forum was our journal of record, but has ceased publication. The Peninsula Daily News is not a viable replacement as it has a limited circulation in Forks of only about 100 (less than 5%). The declaration lists alternative means of publishing legal notices.

4. Mayor's Report

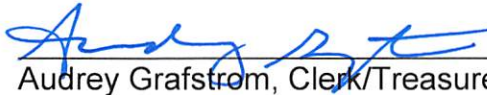
Mayor Fletcher thanked personnel who have been staffing the emergency operations center—Rod, Mike, Nerissa, and Bill Paul. He commended them on the excellent job they are doing in preparing for what we hope won't happen. They have worked to obtain personal protective equipment for our first responders. He spoke with Olympic National Park administration last Friday to urge additional closure measures and the Department of Transportation provided highway signage to that effect. He commended the community for doing their part in following the Stay Home Stay Healthy order.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Soha, second Weissenfels, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.



Tim Fletcher, Mayor



Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer