

City of Forks
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session
City Council Chambers
April 27, 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 at 7:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council members present (meeting conducted via Zoom): Gingell, Soha, Hillcar, Weissenfels, and Mayor Fletcher. Absent: Gilstrap. 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held April 13, 2020 by Weissenfels, second Soha, motion carried.

2. Motion to approve payroll checks numbered 38152 through 38165 for \$70,013.11 and claim checks numbered 38166 through 38198 for \$112,500.02 by Hillcar, second Weissenfels, motion carried.

3. Motion to approve the February 2020 Treasurer's Report by Hillcar, second Soha, motion carried.

4. Campbell Pit Emergency Well Bid Award

BKI has submitted their report on bids received for the Campbell Pit Emergency Well construction project. Olympic Peninsula Construction out of Port Ludlow offered the lowest responsive bid. They were within \$12,000 of the engineer's estimate.

Motion to authorize the mayor and staff to award the Campbell Pit Emergency Well construction project to Olympic Peninsula Construction, and execute the necessary documents by Weissenfels, second Gingell, motion carried 3-1 with Hillcar against.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. NOAA National Weather Service Building

Attorney/Planner Fleck stated that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration needs to rebuild its balloon house facility, which it currently leases from the City, because the current balloon-release system has been deemed unsafe. The rebuild will be completely at NOAA's expense, and will certainly improve the value of this piece of City property.

2. Council Member Reports

Council Member Soha stated that he has seen conflicting information about the coronavirus coming from state and federal officials. He feels that some of the restrictions being put in place by state governments are unconstitutional, and caution should be observed with their enforcement.

Council Member Hillcar commented that he questions the legality and effectiveness of the interstate contracts being put in place with regard to COVID-19.

Council Member Weissenfels remarked that she thinks Governor Inslee is taking his advice from scientists, and therefore basing his decisions on science. She agrees with his actions. She did, however, express great concern at the possibility of parks and beaches on the west end opening soon, even for day use. Our community has avoided any COVID-19 infection thus far, but there is every chance that tourists visiting our parks and beaches from around the state and country could bring the virus with them.

3. Staff Reports

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom reported that Roy and Carol Simons will be signing a lease for an airport hangar at Forks Municipal Airport and that she's had an inquiry from another potential lessee. She is exploring ways to bring in additional revenues and cut expenses through grant reimbursements and the re-evaluation of supply vendors, as well as conducting a surplus auction once the stay-at-home order is lifted. She thanked Chief Rowley for obtaining a jail contract with the Hoh Tribe.

Public Works Director Hampton stated that the new asphalt trailer has been delivered. He and his crew will be learning how to operate it in the next few weeks.

Police Chief Rowley assured council members that he and his officers are not overreaching in dealing with the Governor's Stay Home, Stay Safe order. They have been educating people in large gatherings, asking them to move along, but have not issued any citations. Our two new recruits will be returning to complete their academy training. They are scheduled for the Emergency Vehicle Operator Course (EVOC) later this week. Chief Rowley thanked Nerissa Davis for her assistance with PD front desk duties. Forks and Sequim gun vendors have expressed their appreciation with how much faster their paperwork is being processed. Council Member Weissenfels asked about meeting the new officers. Chief Rowley explained that an ice cream social was planned for May 1st, but with the emergency declaration it had to be postponed. He thanked Pastor Warren Johnson for his help in coordinating those events.

Attorney/Planner Fleck has been busy dealing with issues related to COVID-19. The installation of equipment by the groups that have leased space at City Hall for monitoring air traffic is progressing. He participated in a couple of meetings with the Clallam County Economic Development Council (EDC) this week, as well as a meeting with Congressman Kilmer regarding economic development allocations. The governor today announced there would be \$300,000,000 coming into the state for distribution to state, county, and local governments, but it is unclear how much the City will receive.

4. Mayor's Report

Mayor Fletcher noted that he has yet to hear from Governor Inslee's office regarding moves to restart the economy. He said that Representative Kilmer has done an excellent job listening to our concerns. He is also greatly concerned with a possible influx of tourists to the west end, but feels certain that no city, county, or state government has the resources to stop it. He recommends staying home as much as possible on the weekends.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Soha, second Gingell, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.



Tim Fletcher, Mayor



Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer