

City of Forks
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session
City Council Chambers
May 26, 2020 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Soha led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Fletcher then called the meeting to order at 7:31 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 Soha, second Hillcar, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments were received.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held May 11, 2020 by Hillcar, second Weissenfels, motion carried.

2. Motion to approve payroll checks numbered 38244 through 38259 for \$66,309.53, claim checks numbered 38260 through 38284 and EFTs numbered 52020, 52420, and 5182020 for \$36,154.71, and manual claim checks numbered EFTs 4092020 and 4232020 for \$90.00 by Weissenfels, second Soha, motion carried.

3. Personnel Policy Revision – On Call Pay

Two paragraphs regarding On Call and Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator duties and pay for Public Works employees were proposed as additions to the Personnel Policy.

Motion to approve revision of the Personnel Policies to include section 4.9 regarding On Call and Waste Water Treatment Plant Operator work for Public Works employees as presented by Weissenfels, second Gingell, motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. The following reports were reviewed: 1st Quarter 2020 Building Permits and 1st Quarter 2020 Profit & Loss.

2. Resolution in Support of Local Law Enforcement Agencies for Protection of Constitutional Rights

Council Member Gingell requested this agenda item in order to have more discussion regarding a resolution in support of law enforcement. He will write a draft, but is looking for suggestions on wording. He stated that some of Governor Inslee's orders are

unconstitutional and that U.S. Attorney General William Barr has determined that several governors' orders were unconstitutional.

Council Member Weissenfels stated that the Washington State Supreme Court upheld Governor Inslee's orders as being constitutional. She feels that it would be too onerous to expect the police officers to determine which orders are constitutional and which are not.

Council Member Hillcar trusts Chief Rowley and his officers to use their prosecutorial discretion in a way that is peaceful and reasonable with a mind for education. He further stated that some prohibitions on church activities have been reversed, and resistance has caused the governor's lawyers to take another look into some matters.

Council Member Gingell will prepare a rough draft of the resolution for the next meeting.

3. Council Member Reports

Council Member Gingell reported that he underwent another brief quarantine period since the last council meeting.

Council Member Hillcar had an opportunity to camp on private property at Fort Crescent. He was surprised at the number of people with the same idea. He was glad to see people out recreating and life getting back to normal.

Council Member Weissenfels reminded everyone that Dr. Pat is able to conduct spay and neuter services again.

3. Staff Reports

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom is still going over the financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The moratorium on utility shut-offs for non-payment has led to an increase in delinquent water payments. A normal shut-off list is around 20 accounts, but today's list was 71 accounts including three mobile home parks and a couple of the hotels. [No water service was shut-off per the moratorium.] She and Attorney/Planner Fleck telephoned with mobile home park owners and an industry representative on May 18 regarding COVID-19 relief options available to them. They also discussed how business assistance through the CARES fund could be tailored to utilities.

She submitted the annual report to the state auditor before the May 31 deadline, and is now waiting for them to schedule the City's two-year audit.

Public Works Director Hampton reported that the public works crew has installed several new water services, and he and Mike Hirsch have inspected several construction projects. The well drilling is complete and construction on the well house should begin around June 5. He and Dan Wahlgren looked at a spreader truck for the Waste Water Treatment Plant at auction, but decided that it was too big for our use.

He reported that a letter was sent to the Department of Health stating that, with the mayor's approval, the City had discontinued adding fluoride to the water as of May 15, 2020 due to the age of the system and difficulty maintaining it. Whether or not fluoridation

will resume will be determined at a later date. The community will be informed of the suspension via the annual consumer confidence report. While on the trip to Everett to look at the spreader truck, he participated in a Peninsula Regional Transportation Planning Organization (PRTPO) zoom meeting. It is likely that all pending Olympic Discovery Trail (ODT) projects will be funded. Approval for funding of the \$450,000 project linking Forks to the ODT was due in great part to additional funding from the Lloyd Allen Trust.

Council Member Hillcar asked Chief Rowley what is happening with homeless encampments on the north side of the Calawah River at and near the proposed connection of the ODT with Forks. Chief Rowley said that Rayonier and other private property owners are trying to deal with encampments before they get too large, and the police department is assisting as much as possible in dealing with trespassers. The Inmate Recovery Team at Olympic Corrections Center will be doing some training in the area to discourage trespassers, and the county chain gang may come out to pick up the trash. Mayor Fletcher noted that there will be a timber sale there in the near future.

Police Chief Rowley stated his department is receiving several reports of fraudulent unemployment claims. He is currently working on hiring personnel. He also reported the arrest of John "Tony" Harris by the Olympic Peninsula Narcotics Enforcement Team on an outstanding warrant. Harris is being held on multiple drug charges, as well as a weapons charge.

Attorney/Planner Fleck has been participating in the Emergency Operations Center meetings. He has contacted the Arcora Foundation, which funds the Smile Mobile that comes out to Forks to provide dental service to a large portion of the population, regarding funds to improve the City's fluoridation system. The council should remember that the City re-affirmed the use of fluoride when it defended it as a utility function with the Supreme Court. He has also been dealing with Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and residential utility assistance, some of which could be applied to the utility bills of low-income households. Information regarding these forms of relief were discussed with the mobile home park owners. He also had a meeting regarding the DNR beneficiary coalition's lawsuit against the Department of Natural Resources.

He reported that the school board has approved a proposal for Forks High School to hold a drive-through graduation at 1:00 p.m. on June 13. The mayor and police chief have agreed that the City will provide traffic and crowd-control support for that event. He has also been involved in discussions of events and activities that might be held for the 4th of July.

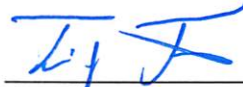
4. Mayor's Report

Mayor Fletcher participated in the distribution of 20,000 pounds of potatoes and 800 pounds of onions to the community. 7,500 pounds went to the Forks food bank, 5,000 pounds to the Quileute Tribe's food bank, 2,500 pounds to the Hoh Tribe's food bank, and 5,000 pounds to individuals from the community. He spoke briefly at the Memorial Day ceremony at the Forks Cemetery. He was pleased to hear that the Forks Community Hospital is in favor of opening up the community and that they have plenty of personal protective equipment to move to phase 2 of the state's reopening plan. He has also been

working with Representative Kilmer, as well as Dr. Unthank in her efforts to open Clallam County. He said that we need to get our community back to work. We've been very lucky, despite the huge influx of tourists whenever the sun comes out.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Soha, second Gingell, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.



Tim Fletcher, Mayor



Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer