

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND CALL TO ORDER

Police Chief Rowley led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Fletcher then called the meeting to order at 7:30 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

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom requested that award of the Signal Peak timber sale be added to the agenda as action item #7.

Motion to approve the agenda with modification as requested by Hillcar, second Weissenfels, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom read comments from Nedra Reed, Mark and Pat Soderlind, Dennis Bradshaw, President, Washington State Dental Association, and the staff of Bogachiel Clinic in favor of fluoridation, and from Mary Dilley, Heidi Oberfranc, Sasha Folkner, Denver Noe, Molly Erickson, and Tasha McElravy against fluoridation of the City's water system.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held October 12, 2020 by Weissenfels, second Soha, motion carried.

2. Motion to approve payroll checks numbered 38775 through 38789 for \$65,862.57, and claim checks 38790 through 38824 and EFTs as included for \$61,688.84 by Soha, second Hillcar, motion carried.

3. September 2020 Treasurer's Report

Motion to approve the September 2020 Treasurer's Report by Hillcar, second Weissenfels, motion carried.

4. Set 2021 Budget Hearing Dates

Motion to set 2021 budget hearing dates as November 9, November 23, and December 7, 2020 by Weissenfels, second Gingell, motion carried.

5. Ordinance #649 Regarding Exemption for Building Permits

Motion to approve Ordinance #649 Regarding Exemption for Building Permits by Soha, second Gingell, motion carried.

6. Fluoridation of the City Water System

Council Member Weissenfels is undecided on the subject. She has been made aware of a variety of alternatives to water fluoridation, but remains concerned about the ability of children from low-income families to get the fluoride they need. Council Members Gingell and Soha stated that their research has shown that ingestion is not nearly as effective as the topical application of fluoride, and that there really is no study that shows definitively that fluoridation absolutely strengthens tooth enamel. However, we do unknowingly ingest a lot of naturally occurring fluoride through our food and drinks, including measurable levels in the City water supply. Possible positive effects do not seem to outweigh proven negative effects. Council Member Hillcar pointed out that countries that do not fluoridate their water have shown the same improvements in dental health as countries that do and concluded there are other avenues for fluoride treatment.

Motion to discontinue fluoridation of the City's water system by Gingell, second Hillcar, motion carried 3-0 with Weissenfels abstaining.

7. Signal Peak Timber Sale

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom reported that the bid opening for the Signal Peak timber sale was held at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 23. Pacific Forest Management has been managing the bid documents. One bid in the amount of \$104,569.95 was received from Port Angeles Hardwood, and Pacific Forest Management has recommended that the City accept the bid.

Council Member Hillcar questioned the cost of Rayonier's road permit. Attorney/Planner Fleck explained that this sale will require use of a new portion of road that Rayonier built for a harvest to take place late next year. It will be used for the City's sale before even Rayonier uses it.

Motion to award the Signal Peak timber sale to Port Angeles Hardwood in the amount of \$104,569.95 by Weissenfels, second Soha, motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 3rd Quarter 2020 YTD Reports

a. Revenue & Expenditures

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom reviewed the revenue & expenditures report.

Council Member Hillcar thanked the department heads for their efforts at efficiency. He is concerned by the drop in revenue from prisoner board, and hopes that the amount budgeted for 2021 might be reconsidered and perhaps revised downward.

b. Building Permits

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom reviewed the building permits report.

2. Council Member Reports

Council Member Gingell reported that one of the ER doctors that regularly flies in has asked him if the City could get an FAA grant for the installation of low-maintenance, GPS-based landing instrumentation at Quillayute Airport that would also allow for emergency fixed-wing evacuations in conditions that prevent helicopters from flying.

He reported hearing good things about the broadband Internet service provided by the Starlink low Earth orbit constellation of satellites that is currently in beta testing by the Hoh Tribe.

Council Member Soha reported that he teleconferenced with Zach Jones of the Quileute Tribal Council about conditions in La Push. The Tribe hopes to enter Phase III next month. They're looking forward to opening up, but continue to be cautious. Prep work on the new tribal school has begun, and a lot of work has been done at the resort. He hopes to talk with the rest of the Council soon.

Council Member Weissenfels attended a Clallam Transit Board Meeting last Wednesday. A comprehensive operational analysis will be performed. The \$100,000 six-month study should show them how to improve their service and increase ridership. CTS recently acquired several new buses. Paratransit is fueled solely by propane, and hydrogen-electric seems to be the next big fuel/power source in public transit.

3. Staff Reports

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom participated in the hour-long RMSA annual meeting via Zoom, earning the City a \$500 loss-prevention grant. She also watched the parliamentary training held for the Port Angeles City Council Meeting October 13. On October 14 she attended a community forum with State Senate incumbent Kevin Van De Wege and hopeful Connie Beauvais hosted by the Chamber of Commerce. She also helped to facilitate the community broadband meeting, and hosted the bid opening for the Signal Peak timber sale. She further reported that the City Public Works crew has taken on the light pole aspect of the sports court project. They removed the old poles that had to be relocated due to the court footprint.

Public Works Director Hampton reported that the pump motor for well five has been repaired. His crew is still working to connect well six to the water main with the hope of completing the connection this week. They are also outfitting the new pickups for use in the field.

Police Chief Rowley stated that he appreciated Council Member Hillcar's praise of his department, and further thanked the officers for their hard work in ensuring that all shifts are covered.

Attorney/Planner Fleck has been attending sessions of the city attorney's conference—live when possible and viewing recordings when necessary. He also participated in the local community broadband discussion. There will be another for residents of the Port Angeles/Sequim area later this week. Approximately 22 people actively participated with another ten or so watching the live stream on YouTube. The meeting fulfilled one of the requirements of the State grant.

4. Mayor's Report

Mayor Fletcher also participated in the community broadband discussion. There was intelligent discussion of the needs on the West End. He fully supports the efforts and will do whatever he can to get increased bandwidth to the West End. He is also supportive of Jefferson Transit's efforts to acquire monies to upgrade their bus service here on the West End.

5. Executive Session was called from 8:55 p.m. to 9:25 p.m. regarding legal risks of current or proposed action.

An announcement was made to the public that executive session would be extended until 9:35.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Soha, second Gingell, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.



Tim Fletcher, Mayor



Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer