

City of Forks  
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session  
City Council Chambers  
December 14, 2020 7:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Gilstrap 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, Gilstrap, Hillcar, Weissenfels, and Mayor Fletcher. Absent: Soha. 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**

There was no public comment.

**Executive Session** was called from 7:35 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. to discuss legal risks of current or proposed action.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Motion** to approve minutes of the Special Meeting held November 23, the Regular Meeting held November 23, and the Special Meeting held December 7, 2020 by Weissenfels, second Gilstrap, motion carried.

**2. Motion** to approve manual claim check numbered 38913 for \$5,885.94, payroll checks numbered 38914 through 38930 for \$112,100.53, claim checks numbered 38931 through 38974 and EFTs as included for \$139,958.91, and travel checks numbered 3589 through 3590 for \$106.00 by Gingell, second Gilstrap, motion carried 3-0 with Hillcar abstaining.

**3. November 2020 Treasurer's Report**

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

**4. 2021 Budget Ordinance #651**

Two proposals for the 2021 Budget Ordinance #651 were presented. Option A for \$5,297,003 includes \$6,000 from the lodging tax fund to cover rent at the Transit Center for a police outpost, option B for \$5,291,003 does not include this \$6,000.

**Motion** to approve Ordinance #651 Approving and Adopting the Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 for \$5,297,003 as presented in option A by Gingell, second Weissenfels, motion carried.

5. Authorization for Contracts with the Association of Washington Cities/Risk Management Service Agency (AWC/RMSA) and AON for 2021 City Insurance Coverage  
**Motion** to authorize the Mayor and staff to negotiate contracts with AWC/RMSA and AON for 2021 City insurance coverage by Hillcar, second Gilstrap, motion carried.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **1. Council Member Reports**

**Council Member Gingell** noted his surprise at the Department of Fish and Wildlife's decision to severely restrict steelhead fishing in coastal rivers.

**Council Member Weissenfels** reported that she will be attending a Clallam Transit Board meeting on Wednesday.

### **3. Staff Reports**

**Public Works Director Hampton** said that he received satisfactory results for Bac-T tests on the new well. Contractors are repairing a couple of bolts and should be pressure testing tomorrow. The electricians will be back later this week or next week, so the new well should be operational soon.

**Police Chief Rowley** asked drivers to slow down and be safe driving in cold, icy conditions.

**Attorney/Planner Fleck** reported that he's had a difficult couple of weeks dealing with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Mayor authorized City staff to retain the services of a highly qualified attorney to fight Fish and Wildlife's decision to severely restrict steelhead fishing on the Quillayute River system. The City is prepared to work with local fishing guides to seek a temporary restraining order against a complete river closure. While WDFW did not close the rivers completely, they have prohibited fishing from a floatation device and modified gear requirements. This despite the fact that the Quillayute River system's expected return is significantly higher than the escapement goal.

There are rumors that a wild fish organization may seek to have Washington steelhead listed under the Endangered Species Act in the third quarter of 2021. The Quileute Tribe has said that it will fight any such move against the Quillayute River system.

In response to a question from Chief Rowley, he also explained that start of the crab season would be delayed in parts of Marine Area 2 at least until the end of December due to high levels of domoic acid.

At the DNR Board of Natural Resources meeting of December 1, the Trust Lands Performance Assessment Update and Key Findings report was presented. The Commissioner of Public Lands considers the report affirmation of her plans to "modernize" the DNR, but the details of this "modernization" are a little frightening. He does feel, however, that our voice has been heard by some at least, as the DNR has made a point of stressing that they are going to have experts assess and address issues we've raised and propose changes or recommendations over the next year.



He also worked with Crystal Dingle, Mayor of Ocean Shores on another economic resiliency workshop hosted by the Washington Coast Marine Advisory Council. Tourism was the topic of this workshop held in November. Sixty people participated in the Zoom workshop.

**Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom** reported that the Business Assistance Program payouts have been submitted to the Department of Commerce. Those funds will be distributed to local businesses once we receive them. The next project she and Attorney/Planner Fleck will focus on is the Utility Assistance Program for individuals. Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, applied for by the City of Port Angeles and for which we are sub-recipients, will be used for this program.

#### **4. Mayor's Report**

Mayor Fletcher says that he's heard the decision by WDFW regarding steelhead fishing has had a significant impact on Airbnb and Vrbo reservations. He suggested that we keep an eye on the situation and possibly reach out to those affected to see if we or the Chamber of Commerce might be of any assistance. He thinks that our lodging tax fund will be greatly impacted over the next year.

#### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** to adjourn by Weissenfels, second Gilstrap, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

  
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Tim Fletcher, Mayor

  
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Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer