

City of Forks
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session
Online Meeting
February 22, 2021 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 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council members present (meeting conducted via Zoom): Gilstrap, Gingell, Soha, 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

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom requested that an executive session of 10 minutes to consult with legal counsel regarding litigation be added to the agenda. Council Member Soha requested that issues pertaining to his liaison position with the Quileute Tribe be added as a discussion item.

Motion to approve the agenda with modifications as stated by Gingell, second Gilstrap, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held February 8, 2021 by Gilstrap, second Weissenfels, motion carried.

2. Motion to approve manual check numbered 39188 for \$139,800.17, payroll checks numbered 39189 through 39202 for \$68,297.74, and claim checks numbered 39203 through 39230 and EFTs as included in the total amount of \$104,348.94 by Soha, second Gilstrap, motion carried.

3. January 2021 Treasurer's Report

Motion to approve the January 2021 Treasurer's Report by Gingell, second Hillcar, motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Youth Task Force

Mayor Fletcher is looking for ideas to keep the youth in our community busy and entertained, and not riding their motorcycles and ATVs recklessly and illegally on public streets.

Chief Rowley explained that he and his officers tried to be understanding and generous in their handling of the situation, especially in light of the many restrictions on daily life and activities implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. They allowed kids to cross public roads to get from one trail to another, and to use the shoulders of public roads to get to riding trails. However, some of the kids started to take advantage of that generosity and began riding recklessly on the road, putting themselves and other motorists in danger. As a result, he has cracked down on such behavior, first with stern lectures and threats of impounding motorcycles and ATVs, and reporting behavior to parents, and most recently with threats of citing parents for allowing them to ride on the road.

Council Member Weissenfels reported that one of the people who had once complained to her about the behavior recently informed her that it seemed to have stopped completely.

2. Wastewater Treatment Facility

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom explained the materials included in the packet, which were excerpts from the Wastewater Comprehensive Plan. She said that many of the suggested funding mechanisms listed in the Plan won't work for the City for one reason or another. One that we do qualify for is a Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) planning grant that could be used for a rate study and a capital improvement plan.

Attorney/Planner Fleck said that with COVID-19 and the new administration, the federal government is looking at developing an infrastructure bill aimed at improvements to roads, sewer and water systems, bridges, etc. In a meeting with Mary Jane Robins from Representative Kilmer's office, the Mayor and staff identified improvements to the wastewater treatment plant as the City's top priority amongst necessary infrastructure projects. We need to pursue this type of funding because our rates are not able to fund a loan to make the multi-million dollar improvements needed. He also explained that any expansion of the system to include neighborhoods like Thomas Addition, Ford Park, Mansfield Addition, and Terra Eden/Sherwood Forest would likely cost those residents into the tens of thousands of dollars.

Public Works Director Hampton said that the improvements listed on Table 7-13 in packet materials would probably allow for a slight expansion of the sewer district, but that a CERB planning grant would be needed to map out the improvements for adding one or more entire neighborhoods. Further discussion of the sewer system, its upgrade, and expansion ensued.

Mayor Fletcher encouraged Council Members to visit the wastewater treatment plant to familiarize themselves with the system, and to talk with department heads to get a grasp on their individual wants, needs, and priorities.

3. Quileute Tribal Properties in City Limits

Council Member Soha, serving in his role as City liaison to the Quileute Tribe, said that the Tribe wants to discuss their plans for the Ki'tla Center property on the La Push Road. Attorney/Planner Fleck noted that this discussion has come up in the past, but action has

never progressed beyond initial discussions. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tribe had indicated their interest in initiating the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) fee trust process for that property. They would like to have a meeting between the Tribal Council and the City Council to discuss plans and options.

4. Council Member Reports

Council Member Soha thanked Chief Rowley and his officers for their handling of a difficult matter recently.

Council Member Hillcar commented on the Washington State Senate's continuing efforts to implement a pay-per-mile fuel tax. He thinks such a tax would be far more burdensome to those of us who live in rural communities and depend on the highways to access necessary resources. He would like the Council to send a letter to our local representatives clarifying our strong opposition to any such tax.

Council Member Weissenfels reported that Friends of Forks Animals has spayed/neutered nearly 100 animals this month. The group spayed/neutered a total of 74 animals throughout all of last year.

5. Staff Reports

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom congratulated Attorney/Planner Fleck for being recipient of the Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award for 2020 for his many volunteer activities benefitting the West End.

Police Chief Rowley encouraged Council Members to look into House Bill 1499, which would decriminalize possession of personal amounts of controlled substances. He participated in another successful COVID-19 vaccination clinic again this past weekend.

Attorney/Planner Fleck also participated in the most recent COVID-19 vaccination clinic. Roughly 115 vaccines were administered per hour for a total of 1,270 vaccinations. He reported the completion of the fourth and final economic sustainability workshop sponsored by the Washington Coastal Marine Advisory Council. He will be working with Mayor Dingler of Ocean Shores and some others on coming up with a list of recommendations to be presented to the legislature for work to be performed in 2022. A well-balanced economic system that supports seasonal highs and lows with a good combination of full-time jobs that support families and part-time or temporary seasonal jobs is a priority for Pacific Coast communities.

6. Mayor's Report

Mayor Fletcher is happy to be working with the Clallam Transit Board again, and to be working more closely with the tribes. Our community is gradually moving past its COVID depression. He said it's nice to be discussing matters related to the future and the growth of our community again.

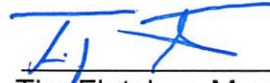
7. Executive Session was called from 8:47 p.m. to 8:57 p.m. to consult with legal counsel regarding litigation.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Gilstrap, second Soha, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.



Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer



Tim Fletcher, Mayor