

City of Forks
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session
City Council Chambers
October 11, 2021 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 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Council members present (meeting conducted via Zoom): Gilstrap, Gingell, Hillcar, Weissenfels, and Mayor Fletcher. Absent: Soha. Staff present: Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom, Attorney/Planner Fleck, and Public Works Director Hampton. Absent: Police Chief Rowley.

MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Member Gingell asked that discussion of a proclamation or resolution declaring the City a sanctuary for constitutional rights be added to the agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda as modified by Gilstrap, second Hillcar, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held September 27, 2021 by Gilstrap, second Gingell, motion carried.

2. Motion to approve payroll checks numbered 39906 through 39921 for \$108,810.54, claim checks numbered 39922 through 39962 and EFTs as included in the total amount of \$156,151.49, and travel check numbered 3602 for \$138.00 by Gingell, second Gilstrap, motion carried.

3. Ordinance 656 Adopting the Clallam County Shoreline Master Program

Attorney/Planner Fleck announced that after approximately eleven years and many discussions with the Department of Ecology, the City is finally ready to adopt the Clallam County Shoreline Master Program (SMP) as its own. Regular review of the SMP is required under a State statute. Following the regular schedule, the first review will be conducted in 2022, but as we have just adopted Clallam County's recently approved SMP, this review will be perfunctory. Adoption of the County's SMP as our own puts the City in full compliance with the Shoreline Management Act.

Motion to approve Ordinance 656 Adopting the Clallam County Shoreline Master Program by Hillcar, second Gilstrap, motion carried.

4. Shoreline Restoration Plan Adoption

The State's Shoreline Restoration Act requires the City to have a Shoreline Restoration Plan. Ours outlines existing conditions, restoration opportunities and ecological functions, and additional restoration tools.

Council Member Hillcar asked whether any part of section “2.3.1 Conservation Easements” allowed for the utilization of eminent domain. Attorney/Planner Fleck said that specific care had been taken to prevent any such possibility, even in the case of conservation efforts.

Motion to adopt the Shoreline Restoration Plan by Gingell, second Weissenfels, motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 3rd Quarter 2021 Reports

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom presented the third-quarter 2021 sales and lodging tax, and building permit reports. Sales tax revenue continues to break records, due in part to construction, but also to retail sales and destination-based sales tax. While lodging tax revenue was the lowest ever in the third quarter of 2020, it has been higher than ever for all of 2021 thus far.

The building permit report shows that the tremendous increase in construction of new single-family residences (11 new homes) we saw last year has continued into this year (9 new homes so far). Even if the hospital’s huge HVAC project is excluded, building permit revenue is right on par with last year’s.

1a. Resolution Declaring the City of Forks a Sanctuary for Constitutional Rights

Council Member Gingell read a draft of a proposed resolution declaring the City of Forks a sanctuary for constitutional rights. Council Member Weissenfels said she is completely and unequivocally opposed to any such resolution as she believes it completely oversteps the City’s role in such matters. Council Member Hillcar said that he is in favor of a proclamation declaring the City a sanctuary for constitutional rights with some subtle changes to the document Gingell presented. Council Member Gilstrap also voiced support of the resolution.

Mayor Fletcher said that time for a markup session (discussion item) would be set aside at the next Council meeting with the final document presented for Council approval at the following meeting.

2. Council Member Reports

There were no Council Member reports.

3. Staff Reports

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom informed the Council that she is currently putting together an application to the Clallam County Opportunity Fund for assistance with wastewater treatment facility improvements. If granted the funds, Council would then be asked to accept the grant. She also noted that the preliminary budget had been prepared for distribution to the Council and asked that members review it, note comments, and contact her with any questions they may have.

Public Works Director Hampton reported that his crew still has a number of new water services to install. The concrete walkway in front of City Hall is being replaced, and the

sidewalk near the corner of Calawah Way and Forks Avenue that was dug up to locate a sewer cleanout is being repaired. The sewer cleanout will be accessible after the sidewalk is repaired.

Attorney/Planner Fleck said he had recently attended the Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys conference held online. In addition to work on the ordinance adopting the County's SMP, there are a few land use issues he is trying to complete.

4. Mayor's Report

Mayor Fletcher would like the next Council meeting to be held in Council chambers. A Zoom option for the meeting will still be available for anyone uncomfortable with an in-person, indoor meeting. He reiterated his support for freedom of choice, and asked that people wear a mask indoors and in public places, social distance whenever possible, and respect each other's choices.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Gingell, second Gilstrap, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.


Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer



Tim Fletcher, Mayor