

City of Forks
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session
City Council Chambers
October 25, 2021 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Hillcar led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Fletcher then called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present in-person: Council Members Gilstrap, Soha, Hillcar, and Mayor Fletcher; Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom, Attorney/Planner Fleck, Police Chief Rowley, and Public Works Director Hampton. Present via Zoom: Council Members Gingell and Weissenfels.

MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Gilstrap, second Soha, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held October 11, 2021 by Gilstrap, second Hillcar, motion carried.

2. Motion to approve payroll checks numbered 39963 through 39976 for \$66,136.90, and claim checks numbered 39977 through 40004 and EFTs as included in the total amount of \$84,210.51 by Soha, second Hillcar, motion carried.

3. September 2021 Treasurer's Report

Motion to approve the September 2021 Treasurer's Report by Soha, second Gilstrap, motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

a. Recess for Informal Consideration as a Working Group

Council Member Gingell stated that he is putting forth a revised version of the proposed resolution. The new draft resolution was disseminated to Council for review.

The informal working group considered a motion by Hillcar and seconded by Gilstrap, that City staff be asked to prepare the resolution as presented, with corrections to any grammatical errors, which would then be put to the Council for action at the next Regular Meeting. The motion carried 4-0 with Weissenfels against.

The Regular Meeting reconvened with Mayor Fletcher, serving as the chairman of the informal working group, presenting the group's recommendation that City staff prepare an amended draft of the resolution for action at the next Regular Meeting.

2. Council Member Reports

Council Member Hillcar said that traffic continues to be an issue, and asked everyone to be careful on wet roads full of storm debris. He then asked Police Chief Rowley if there had been any particular slow-down in State Patrol and County response to traffic violations and accidents.

Council Member Weissenfels said that she attended the Clallam Transit System's board meeting last Wednesday. There is a new bus shelter on Calawah Way near Elk Creek, and Olympic National Park is going to start work on the logistics of a Hurricane Ridge bus route. They hope to have a pilot program ready for next spring, summer, and fall. They cannot accommodate skis and snowboards on the buses, so winter service will not be an option.

She also stated that she had come to the meeting to attend in person, but due to council members not wearing masks under the guise of eating and drinking, she returned home to participate via Zoom. Such behavior prevents her from participating as she would like, and asks Mayor Fletcher to address the issue.

2. Staff Reports

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom drew Council's attention to elected officials training being offered by the Association of Washington Cities. The seminar will be held online on December 4, and the City will pay the \$40 fee for any council member who wants to participate. This training satisfies the open public meetings and open government training required 90 days after election, and then once every four years while in office.

She then reported having participated in the October 14 meeting of the Clallam County Lodging Tax Advisory Committee, where she presented the City's lodging tax budget, and allocation process. Representatives from Port Angeles and Sequim had done similar presentations at previous meetings.

As Randy Lato has resigned his position as the City's representative in the North of Falcon process, she attended the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Recreational Halibut Meeting where discussion from the August 23 meeting, including the final 2021 catch summary, and proposals and analysis for the 2022 halibut season were reviewed and final recommendations discussed. Having a presence at these meetings is very important for ensuring local representation, especially when proposals that would not be beneficial to our area are presented, as with Westport's latest quota-sharing proposal. She will be listening in on another meeting to review the recommendations for the 2023–2024 management cycle.

She also reported having attended a State Auditor's Office webinar on increases in reporting requirements regarding leases. The goal of these increases is for municipalities to show their total liability with regard to leases. She and Rod will also be on Coffee with Colleen on Wednesday, where permitting and planning in the three cities will be discussed.

Public Works Director Hampton said that one of his crew has been out on leave since they had recently lost a family member. The funding submittal for the Bogachiel Way project engineering is still being looked over by Department of Transportation. He also said his crew has been busy making sure that ditches aren't overflowing from all the recent rain, well water levels are back up to normal, and the delivery date for the new generator has been pushed out to January.

Police Chief Rowley in addressing a question from Council Member Hillcar regarding staffing levels of other law enforcement agencies, reported that the Clallam County Sheriff's general policy right now is to avoid contact with the public as much as possible due to COVID-19. The State Patrol is extremely understaffed, and there is even concern that rural troopers may be pulled over to the I-5 corridor. Law enforcement is doing what it can, but unfortunately, larger investigations are taking priority.

He reported an uptick in child pornography and sexual assault cases on the West End. His department is helping with a number of these investigations and others, motor vehicle accidents, and violent confrontations that seem to be on the rise as well. He said he is still looking to fill a couple positions in the police department with one candidate going to the academy on November 15. However, with recent legislation and the general environment surrounding law enforcement, people simply don't want to become police officers, and those that do are not passing background checks.

Attorney/Planner Fleck reported the Department of Ecology was happy that we had adopted a Shoreline Mater Program. There is still a list of things we need to submit to them for review, and ultimately approval of our SMP. He also met with the consultants on the Quillayute Airport Master Plan Update, and has a draft of chapter one to read through. He stated that last week, he watched the moot court of the Superior Court's hearing of the beneficiaries' case in the Conservation Northwest *et al.* vs. Commissioner of Public Lands Hillary Franz *et al.* lawsuit. The Supreme Court's hearing of the suit can be viewed on TVW.

5. Mayor's Report

Mayor Fletcher said he would like to remind everyone that our forests are 100% renewable and recyclable.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Soha, second Gilstrap, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.



Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer



Tim Fletcher, Mayor