

City of Forks
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session
City Council Chambers
May 9, 2022 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Council members present: Gilstrap, Soha, Wood, Weissenfels, and Mayor Fletcher. Absent: Gingell. 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 Gilstrap, second Soha, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held April 25, 2022 by Soha, second Wood, motion carried.

2. Motion to approve payroll checks numbered 40587 through 40602 in the amount of \$126,380.83, claim checks numbered 40603 through 40631 and EFTs as included in the total amount of \$68,073.32, and travel check numbered 3609 in the amount of \$297.25 by Weissenfels, second Gilstrap, motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 1st Quarter 2022 Jail Statistics

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom presented the 1st quarter 2022 jail statistics. She pointed out the tremendous increase in the number of inmates with mental health issues compared to the same period last year. Chief Rowley said he feels this is a reflection of new legislation. Discussion ensued.

2. Council Member Reports

Council Member Weissenfels asked about the quantity of stick-built low-income housing available in Forks as it applies to the situation with the Rainforest Estates mobile home park. Attorney/Planner Fleck said they all have waiting lists. She then asked if there is anything the City can do to assist the current residents in finding new housing. Mayor Fletcher said that Forks is suffering from a general housing shortage, not just for low-income families, and that the issue is not unique to Forks.

She then commented that since the monthly Treasurer's Reports show increases in sales and lodging tax revenue, the City might consider implementing bonuses for its police

officers once financial obligations have been met. She said she would like to see the officers recognized for their hard work, dedication, and long hours.

Council Member Soha reported the tower at the old radio station, property that he now owns, will be coming down sometime in the next few months as a proposed deal with T-Mobile to mount an antenna for their cellular network on the tower fell through.

3. Staff Reports

Public Works Director Hampton reported having purchased a new vacuum trailer that will be helpful with excavations and cleaning out catch basins. He said the sweeper truck is in need of expensive repairs, and that he is considering renting one twice a year—in the spring when sanding is finished and before the 4th of July, and sharing time and cost with Quileute Public Works because sweepers are so expensive to purchase and maintain. He also reported the City is waiting for an agreement from the engineer for the Bogachiel Overlay Project.

Police Chief Rowley recognized Sergeant Ponton for his outstanding life-saving efforts, including CPR using an AED, at a 3:30 a.m. call on April 18 at which he was the lead officer. He and Deputy Hoban were able to keep the man alive until the ambulance and EMTs arrived. According to all reports, had their CPR skills not been as good as they are, the man certainly would not have survived.

He then recommended people make their opinions regarding drug possession legislation and its effects on the community and law enforcement known to their legislators before the current law expires in July 2023, completely decriminalizing drug possession in the State of Washington. He said things have not improved since the Blake decision. The amount of drugs in the community, the number of overdoses, and the risk to police officers dealing with drug users have all increased. Discussion of the various issues and practical application of current law ensued.

Attorney/Planner Fleck directed Council to their notebooks and two letters to Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz regarding her proposed withdrawal of more than 10,000 acres of State trust lands from forest-management activities for carbon mitigation. These letters were sent in April, and he and others testified at the last Board of Natural Resources meeting about concerns regarding how that was done and announced.

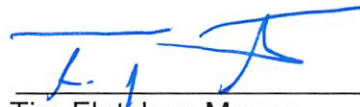
He then reported having attended a meeting of the Housing Solutions Committee to which he was appointed. Many of the issues associated with holding the meetings, including selection of a chair and co-chair, meeting schedule, and public meeting requirements were covered. He said the Committee is comprised of such a wide variety of people looking at housing for different groups that it will be interesting to see how the Committee deals with housing for median-income families.

4. Mayor's Report

Mayor Fletcher said he hopes to be part of the group that tries to find solutions for our housing issues.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Soha, second Gilstrap, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.



Tim Fletcher, Mayor



Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer