

City of Forks
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session
City Council Chambers
June 27, 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, Gingell, Soha, Wood, Weissenfels, and Mayor Fletcher. Staff present: Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer and Rowley, Police Chief. Absent: Fleck, Attorney/Planner and Hampton, Public Works Director.

MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lissy Andros, Director Forks Chamber of Commerce said preparations for the Forks Old Fashioned 4th of July celebration are going well. She reported that a new event, the Sasquatch Skate Party, would be added to this year's activities and that the new barricades purchased by the Chamber of Commerce with grant monies for use by the City had arrived and would be deployed during the festivities to increase everyone's safety

ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held June 13, 2022 by Wood, second Weissenfels, motion carried.

2. Motion to approve payroll checks numbered 40732 through 40745 in the amount of \$76,580.28, and claim checks numbered 40746 through 40771 and EFTs as included in the total amount of \$48,331.67 by Soha, second Gingell, motion carried.

3. May 2022 Treasurer's Report

Motion to approve the May 2022 Treasurer's Report by Soha, second Gilstrap, motion carried.

4. Use of City Property for the Forks Old Fashioned 4th of July Celebration

The Forks Old Fashioned 4th of July Committee has requested the use of City property to include Tillicum Park and other properties as needed for 4th of July festivities.

Motion to grant the Forks Old Fashioned 4th of July Committee use of Tillicum Park and various City properties for the 4th of July festivities by Gilstrap, second Gingell, motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Council Member Reports

Council Member Weissenfels said that on a recent trip to Idaho, she noticed the city of Boise had permanently closed off sections of streets to vehicle traffic and dedicated those areas to pedestrian traffic with outdoor dining and shopping. She said she assumes the closures and outdoor activities began with COVID-19 restrictions, but that both the city and its businesses seem to have embraced it.

Council Member Wood reported having been approached by a member of the community complaining about the state of the ballfields at Tillicum Park. Mayor Fletcher and Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom explained that the weather this year had provided the public works crew very little opportunity to get them ready for the various summer softball tournaments, but that they would as soon as the weather cleared. In fact the crew was scheduled to begin work on the ballfields the same day this complaint was made.

Council Member Gilstrap said traffic is as bad as ever with drivers distracted by their cell phones and not following basic rules of the road.

2. Staff Reports

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom reminded Council that a leasehold excise tax audit seemed to reveal the City had overcharged a government entity leasehold excise tax, and that we would be receiving a refund check from the Department of Revenue. She said the check had arrived, but after further investigation she found that the government entity was in fact paying only rent and not leasehold excise tax, but it was coded as leasehold excise tax. So the refund of payments the City had made on behalf of the entity is the City's to keep.

She then drew Council's attention to the public works crew's schedule over the 4th of July weekend. She said most people don't understand that when a person takes a job with the City's Public Works Department, they can basically plan to work every 4th of July. She then reported road construction south of town to repair the portion washed out with the November 2021 flood event has begun.

Police Chief Rowley said his department has been busy dealing with traffic accidents, a tremendous number of tourists, many of whom speed through town, issues related to the heat, and thefts. He said Jolene Price and the cadet program will be hosting an archery tag tournament as part of 4th of July activities and encouraged community participation. All equipment is provided and sanitized according to COVID-19 guidelines.

3. Mayor's Report

Mayor Fletcher said he is looking forward to 4th of July activities, and that the flags along Forks Ave. and decorations around town look great. He hopes everyone is able to enjoy the festivities and has a wonderful time.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Gilstrap, second Gingell, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.



Juanita Weissenfels, Mayor Pro Tem



Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer