

City of Forks
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session
City Council Chambers
July 25, 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: Gingell (arrived 7:33 p.m.), Soha, Wood, Weissenfels, and Mayor Fletcher. Absent: Gilstrap. 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 Wood, second Soha, motion carried 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave (no last name given) spoke as a member of the community saying he is concerned about the increased rent at the Rainforest Estates mobile home park that could lead to greater homelessness, and hopes the City will work with him in finding a solution to the housing problem.

Mark (no last name given), who lives on Two Cousins Road and rides a bicycle complained about fog line striping issues on the corner of Calawah Way near Newton's mill. He would like to see the fog line adjusted and grass encroaching on the shoulder of the road removed to increase the space available to bicycles and pedestrians.

Lissy Andros, Director Forks Chamber of Commerce reported that traffic in front of the Visitor Center is crazy with people speeding, motorcyclists popping wheelies, and so on. She then said the City continues to receive huge numbers of tourists, and that the Forever Twilight in Forks Collection received a record 182 visitors over a four-hour span the previous Sunday. She also reported planning for the Forever Twilight in Forks Festival is going well and that this year's special guest will be Billy Burke, who played Chief Charlie Swan.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held July 11, 2022 by Soha, second Wood, motion carried.

2. Motion to approve payroll checks numbered 40825 through 40838 in the amount of \$86,102.33, manual check numbered 40839 in the amount of \$4,137.15, and claim checks numbered 40840 through 40876 and EFTs as included in the total amount of \$76,150.61 by Weissenfels, second Gingell, motion carried.

3. Crack Seal Project Contract Award

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom introduced the Project Bid Checklist. She said all due diligence had been completed except for verifying Simple Solutions' references, which she is currently working on.

Motion to award the Crack Seal Project Contract to Simple Solutions with the lowest bid at \$115,222.70, pending successful verification of references, by Wood, second Weissenfels, motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Reports

The 2nd Quarter 2022 Jail Statistics report was reviewed. Chief Rowley said current daily Jail populations are still lower than they were before COVID, but that they have increased significantly since the beginning of the 3rd quarter with a maximum population of 36 one day. He also said that with Jail staffing at a minimum, the high number of inmates with mental health issues is causing additional stress to the already taxed Jail staff.

2. Conservation NW Supreme Court Decision

Attorney/Planner Fleck said the 9-0 decision by the Supreme Court was a victory for timber trust beneficiaries, completely refuting a 22-year argument by Peter Goldman and the Washington Forest Law Center that State trust lands are for the benefit of all people, and do not have specific obligations to beneficiaries. It also confirmed the DNR must generate revenue while meeting legal obligations with regard to environmental laws. He said it will be interesting to see how DNR responds to the decision.

3. Council Member Reports

Council Member Weissenfels reported having visited Tillicum Park while Bicycle Rides Northwest was in town, and chatting with some of the participants. She said they were very happy with the whole setup, and that Forks residents had been very welcoming, helpful, and friendly. She then reported having toured the new Clallam Transit buses at the last Clallam Transit Board Meeting. She said the new Strait Shot bus was particularly impressive with a restroom and space for six bicycles and luggage.

4. Staff Reports

Public Works Director Hampton responded to Mark's public comment. He said he speaks to Mark every year about Calawah Way, and that Mark had told him the road looked great this year. He said the City's sweeper is broken, so he will try to rent one around July 4 every year, and that the grass will be cleared when the ditches are cleaned. He then said he is unable to "move" the fog line. He doesn't have the means to remove the old line, so the result would be two lines. Fog lines are painted by WSDOT.

Police Chief Rowley said he had seen Mark scraping the road with a flat shovel on the Newton's Mill side of Calawah Way.

He then reported that speeding in town is ridiculous. The radar signs are somewhat effective, but difficult to move and keep charged. He said positioning an officer on the

streets with the worst speeding is also effective, but with low staffing, they are often pulled away to respond to calls and the speeding resumes.

Attorney/Planner Fleck reported that Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal has written a letter (included in Council packets) to Common School Trust revenue partners proposing that the legislature work to keep revenue from timber harvests in the rural communities that generate them so they can be put toward the construction of new schools and facilities. He then directed Council's attention to two letters to the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners asking that DNR keep timber harvests on state forest transfer lands in East Jefferson County as those harvests are crucial to local taxing districts. The letters also ask that DNR commit to involving local fire commissioners in future discussions about the management of these lands.

He then said the public works crew worked with Tim Carradine to construct a Wi-Fi hotspot in Tillicum Park when Bicycle Rides Northwest was in town. Carradine reported 260 log-ins at one time. Senior students and parents handled their luggage in exchange for nearly \$1,000 in tips.

Finally, he reported having walked flood drainages the City has been working on since the November 2021 flood event with two experts. He also said there was a meeting with FEMA on July 22 and another coming up on July 28 where the City expects to get the go-ahead on some repairs and improvements.

Mayor Fletcher

Mayor Fletcher reported having visited with the Bicycle Rides Northwest participants and was impressed with all the amenities provided, and the efficiency of their setup and tear down. He also directed those who asked about a local swimming hole to the A Road.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Soha, second Gingell, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



Tim Fletcher, Mayor



Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer