

City of Forks
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session
City Council Chambers
August 8, 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, Fleck, Attorney/Planner, and Hampton, Public Works Director (present via Zoom). Absent: Rowley, Police Chief.

MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Weissenfels, second Wood, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Bond of 321 D Street spoke of the situation at 380 Bogachiel Way, stating his dismay and anger at the City's and law enforcement's lack of action there.

Joan Evans of 355 Bogachiel Way said she wants to be informed of what's happening at 380 Bogachiel Way, that she is concerned about new faces she sees at that address, and then thanked Council for listening and City staff for what they are doing.

Colleen Leavitt of 381 Bogachiel Way said she takes care of her four-year-old granddaughter five days a week. She said that visitors to 380 Bogachiel Way try to engage with her granddaughter every day, and that she is also concerned about new faces there. She also said she wants to know if the activity there will ever be put to a stop.

Mark of 1451 Mullins thanked Council and Public Works Director Hampton for the new fog-line striping on Calawah Way, and apologized to Hampton for having misspoken in a previous public comment.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held July 25, 2022 by Gingell, second Wood, motion carried 4-0 with Gilstrap abstaining.

2. Motion to approve payroll checks numbered 40877 through 40892 in the amount of \$123,186.26, and claim checks numbered 40893 through 40913 and EFTs as in included in the total amount of \$78,892.44 by Weissenfels, second Gilstrap, motion carried.

3. June 2022 Treasurer's Report

Motion to approve the June 2022 Treasurer's Report by Soha, second Wood, motion approved.

4. E Street Reconstruction Funding Commitment Letter

Public Works Director Hampton reminded Council the City is applying for a Transportation Improvement Board grant through their Small City Arterial Program for the grinding, overlay, and new sidewalk for E Street. The City's match of the submitted engineer's estimate of \$549,480 will be \$27,474.

Motion to authorize the Mayor to commit to a 5% local match of \$27,474 for the 2023 E Street project by Soha, second Gingell, motion carried.

5. Set Public Hearing Date for 2023 to 2028 Street Plan

Motion to set a public hearing on August 22, 2022 regarding the City's intent to adopt the proposed Six Year Transportation Improvement Program 2023–2028 Street Plan by Wood, second Weissenfels, motion carried.

6. Wastewater Treatment Facility Engineering Firm Selection

Three companies responded to the City's second request for statements of qualifications for wastewater treatment facility improvements engineering services—Parametrix, BHC Consultants, and Wilson Engineering. Statements were scored by Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom, Public Works Director Hampton, Attorney/Planner Fleck, and Dan Wahlgren, with Parametrix receiving the highest score from all four evaluators.

Motion to award the Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements Engineering Contract to Parametrix by Wood, second Weissenfels, motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. RCAC Sewer System Rate Study

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom explained that the Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) has accepted the City's request for assistance with a sewer utilities rate analysis. Their services are free, but they are selective in the projects they take on, and require applicants to exhaust other avenues before they offer their services. The process is also labor intensive for City staff and regular reports to City Council are required. At the end of the analysis, a recommendation regarding rates will be made requiring a decision by City Council. Discussion regarding the current sewer rates and how they were determined ensued.

2. Council Member Reports

Council Member Weissenfels asked about a charge filed against the owner and resident of 380 Bogachiel Way. Attorney/Planner Fleck explained that a criminal nuisance charge had been filed for the garbage, but that complaints regarding the burning of garbage in the wood stove should be made to Olympic Region Clean Air Agency (ORCAA). He further explained that the City does not handle felony charges such as those associated with the alleged drug activity there. Mayor Fletcher noted that City law enforcement's hands have been tied by the state legislature, and that the City has done all it can. He said he wished there were more the City could do, but there simply isn't.

3. Staff Reports

Public Works Director Hampton reported his crew has been working with the asphalt trailer to patch potholes around town, and that work on ditches and culverts will begin soon.

Attorney/Planner Fleck said that work on the Quillayute Airport Master Plan is progressing. However, some issues with the proposed instrument approach have been raised, so the City will pay \$2,000 from the Quillayute Airport Fund for a document describing the proposed instrument approach, why it is needed, and address the issues raised. The document will help the City as it works with other agencies.

He then reported having participated in a meeting of planners for the two counties and four cities on the Olympic Peninsula where ordinances and licenses for vacation rentals were discussed, nominally as a way of increasing permanent housing in the area. He said he thought the problem was well beyond the increase in vacation rentals, and that information presented at a recent Building & Construction Trades Council meeting showed that building costs had increased by a total of \$70,000 to \$80,000 with requirements regarding energy efficiency added to building code with the past three updates. He also participated in the Housing Solutions Committee meeting where a presentation regarding housing costs as they relate to wages was made by Dr. Dan Underwood, an economist at Peninsula College who also works with the Port of Port Angeles and the Economic Development Council (EDC). The City also relies on his work in its dealings with the DNR. The presentation, included in Council notebooks, clarifies the high cost of housing and the inability of many to earn a living wage and therefore purchase a home. EDC's Colleen McAleer also gave a presentation, included in Council notebooks as well, on vacation rentals in the Peninsula's two counties and four cities. He ended by saying that while there are quite a few programs that deal with low-income housing, there aren't many looking at the housing difficulties lower-middle-income families face.

4. Mayor's Report

Mayor Fletcher continued the housing conversation started by Attorney/Planner Fleck with a focus on the extreme difficulties those living in the greater Forks area face. He said it is important that this discussion continue as it is a serious issue for the entire county, state, and beyond.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Soha, second Weissenfels, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.



Tim Fletcher, Mayor



Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer