

City of Forks
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session
City Council Chambers
October 10, 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, Soha, Wood, Weissenfels, and Mayor Fletcher. Absent: Gilstrap. Staff present: Simons, Deputy Clerk, Fleck, Attorney/Planner, Rowley, Police Chief, and Hampton, Public Works Director. Absent: Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer.

MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lissy Andros, Director, Forks Chamber of Commerce reported the Visitor Information Center had a record-breaking number of visitors for the month of September (approx. 7,100 signed the guest book) and that she hired two new staff members today. She said she and Public Works Director Hampton had picked up the trailer paid for by a grant from Clallam County to haul the new barriers.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held September 26, 2022 by Wood, second Weissenfels, motion carried.

2. Motion to approve manual claim check numbered 14067 in the amount of \$1,274.00, payroll checks numbered 41068 through 41084 in the amount of \$118,496.40, claim checks numbered 41085 through 41120 and EFTs as in included in the total amount of \$72,365.64, and travel checks numbered 3613 through 3617 in the amount of \$1,506.00 by Soha, second Gingell, motion carried.

3. Set 2022 Budget Hearing Dates

Motion to set 2022 budget hearing dates as October 24, November 14, and December 5, 2022 with the possibility of changes in the subject matter of individual hearings by Wood, second Weissenfels, motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Council Member Reports

Council Member Weissenfels thanked Lissy Andros for arranging the forum between candidates for County Commissioner, District 3 at the October 5 Chamber of Commerce meeting. She then reported the Harvest Dinner was postponed by one day due to the power outage on the originally scheduled day, and that attendance was about 100 fewer than usual. The leftover food was distributed to the senior luncheon and Sarge's Place.

Council Member Wood reported American Legion Post 106 received a donation of \$25,000 from the estate of a former Lieutenant Colonel from Sequim. He said that would go toward painting and maintenance of the Scorpion in Tillicum Park.

Council Member Soha said he is unsure how to respond to people asking questions about the Quillayute Airport, namely how the master plan process is going, at what stage it is currently, and what sort of equipment will be installed for pilots.

2. Staff Reports

Public Works Director Hampton thanked Lissy Andros for applying for the grant that resulted in a trailer for hauling barricades. It will be very convenient for events like the 4th of July. He said crack-sealing is ongoing around town, and he is hoping another grant application to the Transportation Improvement Board for a separate project will be approved.

Police Chief Rowley reminded Council that people need to be contacting their legislators regarding laws implemented in response to the Blake Decision and the way in which law enforcement's hands have been tied. If changes are not made with the July 2023 legislative session, he said he foresees drug activity and the criminal behavior associated with it getting worse and law enforcement further restricted in their responses to such behavior.

He then reported a kidnapping had occurred just outside Forks city limits. He said the child was recovered unharmed and reminded everyone that bad things happen even in small communities.

Attorney/Planner Fleck informed Council that the new Peninsula College President, Suzy Ames, would be hosting a reception for the community on October 20 at noon at the Forks Campus. He then said he had been contacted by someone from Western Washington University regarding plans to offer educational opportunities in Clallam and Jefferson Counties.

He reported that the Mayor's request for an extension of the comment period that is part of the SEPA process associated with the state's plans to enter state trust lands into carbon offset markets from 14 days to 90 days had been denied. He said he attended the Board of Natural Resources meeting last Tuesday and was surprised at how the DNR thinks they can make decisions with no adherence to standard procedures or oversight, especially with regard to the economic impact of entering 10,000+ acres of harvestable trust lands into carbon offset markets.

He said he had actively participated in the Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys Fall Conference in Chelan and the Forest Resources Association Western Region Meeting in Coeur d'Alene.

In response to the questions presented by Council Member Soha, he reminded Council that the first three chapters of the Master Plan have been presented to the regional FAA office for review, that another public Zoom workshop will be held in November, and that

independent reviewers (from another FAA region) had raised some issues regarding conflict between the terrain and current FAA safety standards associated with the instrument approach. As for the equipment that will be at the airport, he said that would be identified as part of the completed Master Plan. He then said improvements to the hangar and a commercial septic system, to be paid for with money from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, will probably happen in 2024.

Council Member Wood asked if the Master Plan will also cover emergency backup power for emergency management purposes. Attorney/Planner Fleck said that if lights were to be installed, that is something that would need to be discussed. He also said one group has been arguing for twenty years for the installation of a solar-based LED lighting system, and that he would be sure that backup power is part of plans and efforts over the next few years.

3. Mayor's Report

Mayor Fletcher reported he had also attended the County Commissioner, District 3 candidates' forum, which he thought clearly showed the differences in candidate knowledge of the West End and its issues. He then said Silver Star/Medal of Honor recipient Earl Plumlee had visited Forks and the surrounding area, and that the garrison flag had flown Friday morning through Monday evening in his honor.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Soha, second Gingell, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.



Ginger Simons, Deputy Clerk



Tim Fletcher, Mayor