

City of Forks
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session
City Council Chambers
July 12, 2021 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 7:37 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present in-person: Council Members Gingell, Soha, Hillcar, Weissenfels, and Mayor Fletcher, Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom, Attorney/Planner Fleck, and Public Works Director Hampton. Present via Zoom: Police Chief Rowley. Absent: Council Member Gilstrap.

MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve the agenda as presented by Hillcar, second Soha, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chamber of Commerce Director Lissy Andros reported that the new light pole banners would be delivered soon, work on the new roof at the Visitor Center is set to begin, and the Chamber of Commerce and Forever Twilight in Forks would be sponsoring a concert by Cherish Danae, a visitor to Forks from Texas, at the Rainforest Arts Center on Thursday.

Presentation by Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney Mark Nichols: Clallam County Mental Health Court

Clallam County Prosecuting Attorney Mark Nichols presented information on the proposed Clallam County Mental Health Court. He explained that mental health courts have been established to improve the response to individuals with serious mental illness involved in the criminal justice system. He stated the most compelling reason for mental health courts is that the traditional criminal justice system's approach to defendants with mental health disorders is proving to be ineffective. Clallam County Mental Health Court would be overseen by Clallam County District Court 1, would operate out of the Clallam County Courthouse in Port Angeles, and would be operational by the end of 2021. The court would be funded through unspent reserve funds from an existing one-tenth-of-one-percent sales and use tax authorized for chemical dependency and mental health treatment services and therapeutic courts (also referred to as the Hargrove Fund). Defendants passing through the mental health court would be required to follow treatment recommendations at one or more mental health facilities located primarily within Clallam County, but in some cases outside of the county. The proposed Clallam County Mental Health Court is supported by a variety of community stakeholders, including Clallam County's Law and Justice Council, Peninsula Behavioral Health, private sector treatment providers, and local governments. A critical step in launching the Clallam County Mental Health Court is hiring a qualified Mental Health Court Coordinator that offers a good combination of applicable education, experience, and common sense. Discussion of funding, how the mental health court would work, the agencies involved, qualifying conditions and behaviors, standard mental health court orders, and so on ensued.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held June 28, 2021 by Soha, second Weissenfels, motion carried.

2. Motion to approve payroll checks numbered 39623 through 39638 for \$112,990.24, and claim checks numbered 39639 through 39667 and EFTs as included in the total amount of \$107,982.69 by Soha, second Gingell, motion carried.

3. May 2021 Treasurer's Report

Motion to approve the May 2021 Treasurer's Report by Weissenfels, second Soha, motion carried.

4. Department of Health Campbell Pit Well Declaration of Covenant

Attorney/Planner Fleck explained that this Declaration of Covenant is a requirement of the Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services as part of the process for getting well #6 online. The covenant establishes a 100' protection zone around the well.

Motion to authorize the Mayor and staff to sign and file the Department of Health Campbell Pit Well Declaration of Covenant by Weissenfels, second Soha, motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 2nd Quarter 2021 Reports: Sales & Lodging Tax, Building Permits

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom reported that sales and lodging tax revenues for the second quarter of 2021 are unprecedented. She attributes the increase in sales tax to online retail shopping with destination-based sales tax. Lodging tax is rebounding considerably from virtually nothing received in June 2020. Year-to-date 2021 is 137% higher than 2020 and even 70% higher than pre-pandemic 2019. New construction is also at a high with permits for six new single-family residences having been issued in the second quarter of 2021, and eight for the year to date.

2. National Flood Insurance Program Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance

Revisions

Attorney/Planner Fleck explained that in 2019 the State adopted a new flood management model ordinance. The City recently received a call from the federal "compliance officer", for lack of a better term, asking if the City had adopted any of the changes yet. He will be spending some time on the changes once he is able to close-out some other projects, including the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP).

3. Shoreline Restoration Plan

Attorney/Planner Fleck said that the City must have a Shoreline Restoration Plan as part of the work being done to achieve compliance with the Shoreline Management Act and as part of the process involved in adopting the County's SMP. Our Plan was developed with the assistance of a consultant, and funded by a grant that ended in June and is now in the process of being closed out. This Plan will have to be adopted at some point.

4. Council Member Reports

Council Member Hillcar said he thinks the radar speed signs are effective, but he would like to see one moved to the area of the 30 MPH sign near Outfitters. He recently spoke to a representative of law enforcement from another agency who had all positive things to say about Forks Police Department and Chief Rowley.

5. Staff Reports

Public Works Director Hampton and his crew worked hard over the 4th of July celebration. There were a lot of repairs and maintenance work beforehand, but everything seems to have worked out. A few of the bathrooms are still out of order, but extra sanicans got us through the weekend. Well levels are still above caution levels. Issues with Clallam County Department of Health and Human Services continue to delay the full addition of well #6 to the water system, and work on the sidewalk project is progressing.

Police Chief Rowley reported being extremely frustrated with new legislation (HB 1310) that will go into effect on July 25. He feels the restrictions that will be placed on law enforcement are themselves far too excessive. He and Brian King, Chief Criminal Deputy with the Clallam County Sheriff's office, will be making a presentation on the changes to come at the next West End Business and Professional Association meeting, and he hopes to put together a public presentation that will answer questions that are sure to arise.

Attorney/Planner Fleck reported having been very active in putting together the Forks Old Fashioned 4th of July celebration. There were a number of challenges, but as a whole, the celebration was very successful. All requirements of the SMP grant have been met and the grant will be closed out next week. At the end of July the County is scheduled to take action on its adoption of the Shoreline Management Plan that the City will then adopt as its own. Work on the Airport Master Plan will begin in earnest in August. He then expressed his strong reservations about the proposed mental health court, and hopes that Forks and District Court II can take a wait-and-see approach to it. Additional discussion on the topic ensued.

6. Mayor's Report

Mayor Fletcher accepted the challenge of getting some "vintage" vehicles running prior to the 4th of July parade, and also reported that some "vintage" graffiti had been uncovered in the men's restroom at Tillicum Park. He expressed his appreciation to City staff and other volunteers for their hard work in achieving a successful 4th of July celebration.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Soha, second Gingell, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.



Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer



Tim Fletcher, Mayor