

City of Forks
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session
City Council Chambers
May 24, 2021 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fletcher led the Pledge of Allegiance. He then called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lissy Andros, Forks Chamber of Commerce Executive Director informed Council that the Chamber of Commerce and Timber Museum had received approximately \$40,000 and \$80,000, respectively, in grant monies that will be put toward a new roof for the Visitor Center and a new website for Chamber, as well as a new roof and other improvements at the Museum. In addition, the Forks Old Fashioned 4th of July Committee received \$20,000 from a COVID-19 related fund.

Council Member Hillcar noted that he had been asked whether the Chamber of Commerce would invite any of the Clallam County Fair vendors to Forks for the 4th of July. Andros said that was something to consider.

ACTION ITEMS

1. **Motion** to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held May 10, 2021 by Soha, second Weissenfels, motion carried.

2. **Motion** to approve payroll checks numbered 39470 through 39483 for \$65,104.78, and claim checks numbered 39484 through 39517 and EFTs as included in the total amount of \$136,328.85 by Weissenfels, second Hillcar, motion carried.

3. **Pearson Annexation**

Attorney/Planner Fleck received a 10% petition requesting commencement of annexation proceedings for parcel 132809430200 owned by Corey Pearson. There is no indebtedness associated with this parcel.

Motion to accept the proposed Pearson annexation and adopt the proposed zoning by Weissenfels, second Soha, motion carried.

4. **Soha Annexation**

Motion to set tonight as the meeting date between parties involved in the Soha Annexation by Gingell, second Hillcar, motion carried 3-0 with Soha abstaining.

Attorney/Planner Fleck received a 10% petition requesting the commencement of annexation proceedings for parcels 132808430675 and 132808430700 owned by Robert Soha. There is no indebtedness associated with these parcels.

Motion to accept the proposed Soha annexation and adopt the proposed zoning by Hillcar, second Gingell, motion carried 3-0 with Soha abstaining.

5. Set Public Hearing Date for Adoption of Shoreline Management Plan (SMP)

Attorney/Planner Fleck reminded Council that they had voted to adopt Resolution 497 reaffirming the City's intent to adopt as its own the Clallam County Shoreline Master Program Update. He recently spoke with County and Department of Ecology representatives who indicated that the County would complete adoption of its Shoreline Master Program Update by the end of July. As such, the City is required to hold a public meeting and then adopt the applicable ordinance.

Motion to set a public hearing on June 28, 2021 for the City's intent to adopt the County's SMP as its own by Hillcar, second Weissenfels, motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Council Member Reports

Council Member Hillcar described conditions along the highway as "Thunder Dome" with the speeding and even people passing on the shoulder. There have been incidents with flaggers, and yet he is surprised that there haven't been more accidents. In his many years as a truck driver, he has never seen such chaos.

Council Member Weissenfels reported attending the Clallam Transit System (CTS) meeting on Wednesday, and volunteering at the Quillayute Valley Scholarship Auction. She also noted that one resident who had been very much opposed to the switch to main meter reading for the mobile home parks recently told her that the switch has actually helped him a lot. Several of her friends who own B & Bs have told her that the tourist customers have become increasingly rude and demanding.

2. Staff Reports

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom reported finishing and submitting the annual report last Friday. She also e-mailed the report to Council members. She hopes to have the April and May Treasurer's Report at the next meeting.

The contractor for the sports court reports having run into issues related to the weather, but based on a schedule they recently submitted, they should certainly be able to honor the June 30 deadline so that the official opening planned for the 4th of July weekend can go ahead. Former District Court II Judge John Doherty is working with a group in Port Angeles to hold a demonstration pickleball tournament at the courts over the 4th of July weekend, and David Hurn has some activities planned for kids at the basketball court.

Public Works Director Hampton said his crew would be testing the new well this week, and the bid opening for the Spartan Avenue to Blackberry Avenue sidewalk project is also this week. The crew continues to work on a number of new water services.

Police Chief Rowley reported that Daniel Cruz, the newest corrections officer, graduated from the academy last Friday and is now a full-time officer at the Forks Jail.

Attorney/Planner Fleck directed Council to the “Eye on (Water) Supply” document in their packets. He has spoken with the Department of Ecology about conditions with our water table. They expect a drought watch for our part of the state to go into effect at the end of the week. In addition, no large amounts of rain are projected for the rest of the month. He also participated in some SMP meetings to finalize remaining details, and attended the Chamber of Commerce meeting at which Clallam County Prosecutor Mark Nichols spoke, suggesting that District Court II have a mental health court. All the necessary documents for the FAA grant of approximately \$450,000 for the Quillayute Airport Master Plan update were submitted on Friday. The majority of the funds will go toward development of a GPS approach for the airport.


Council Member Hillcar asked if there was any progress in the trust lands lawsuits to which the City is a party. Attorney/Planner Fleck said that the hearing scheduled for today in Whatcom County was postponed four weeks. There have been some discussions about expectations for the DNR in these lawsuits. The Supreme Court case will be in the fall.

3. Mayor’s Report

Mayor Fletcher also attended the CTS meeting, where there was an internal discussion of electric vs. hydrogen power. CTS seems to be leaning toward hydrogen busses. There appears to have been a significant amount of progress with hydrogen fueling stations of late. He also attended the West End Business and Professional Association meeting as well as the Chamber of Commerce meeting. He encouraged Council to attend at least one of each during their term to get an idea of the workings of our business community.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Gingell, second Soha, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer



Tim Fletcher, Mayor