

City of Forks
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session
City Council Chambers
January 10, 2022 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Council members present: Gingell, Gilstrap, Soha, Wood, Weissenfels (present via Zoom), and Mayor Fletcher. Staff present: Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer, Fleck, Attorney/Planner, Rowley, Police Chief (present via Zoom), and Hampton, Public Works Director.

MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lissy Andros, Director, Forks Chamber of Commerce reported that 2021 was the Visitor Center's third busiest year ever with just over 46,000 visitors. She also said that Forever Twilight in Forks Festival 2022 VIT tickets, the price of which was increased from \$325 to \$450 and the number of which was increased from 330 to 350, went on sale at 10:00 a.m. on January 1 and were completely sold out by 4:00 p.m. on January 2. Individual party tickets have also sold out. She then reported that the death of the Tree of Life at Kalaloch was reported in error, and that the tree still lives.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held December 27, 2021 by Soha, second Gingell, motion carried.

2. Motion to approve payroll checks numbered 40184 through 40199 in the amount of \$116,775.62, 13th period claim checks numbered 40183 and 40200 through 40226 in the amount of \$46,827.88, claim checks numbered 40227 through 40233 and EFTs as included in the total amount of \$14,721.63, and travel checks numbered 3604 through 3605 in the amount of \$97.72 by Soha, second Wood, motion carried.

3. Clallam Transit System (CTS) Board Appointments

The 2021 CTS Board appointees were Council Member Weissenfels and Mayor Fletcher with Council Member Gingell as the alternate.

Motion to appoint Council Member Weissenfels and Council Member Gingell to the CTS Board with no alternate by Gilstrap, second Soha, motion approved.

4. Peninsula Regional Transportation Planning Organization (PRTPO) Appointments

The 2021 PRTPO representatives were Council Member Hillcar with Public Works Director Hampton as alternate one and Council Member Gilstrap as alternate two.

Motion to appoint Council Member Wood with Public Works Director Paul Hampton as the alternate to the PRTPO by Gingell, second Gilstrap, motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Reports

The following reports were reviewed: 4th Quarter/YTD 2021 Sales Tax & Lodging Tax Receipts and 4th Quarter/YTD 2021 Building Permits.

2. Council Member Reports

There were no Council Member reports.

3. Staff Reports

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom reported the Clallam County Opportunity Fund Board recommended approval of the City's application to the Opportunity Fund for nearly \$2,400,000 for wastewater treatment plant improvements to the Clallam County Commissioners. The Commissioners will set a public hearing date of January 25 at their regular meeting tomorrow, and make their final decision on the application after the public hearing. The City will contribute \$1.23 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, so appropriated by Council with Resolution #496, to the improvements.

She then directed Council to the e-mail she distributed at the meeting regarding the President's "Major Disaster Declaration for the State of Washington" of January 5, 2022, which made it possible for municipalities and individuals to apply for FEMA assistance in response to the flooding that occurred on and around November 15, 2021. The City has an application in the works.

She ended by asking Council members to consider whether they might volunteer as the City's representative on the Clallam County Homelessness Taskforce, the appointment to which will be made at the next Regular Meeting.

Public Works Director Hampton reported that the 1M gallon water tank rehab project's two-year inspection had been completed. Some necessary minor repairs have been made. The tank will be refilled, tested, and put back into operation soon. He said that he was out sick for much of the snow and ice, but that the Public Works crew handled the plowing and sanding.

Police Chief Rowley reported a high number of vehicle accidents on the West End during the recent winter weather event, but that the Public Works crew was quick to respond to his requests for sand where needed. He also said there have been some structure fires recently, and asked that people use caution with their heating, including fireplaces and wood stoves, as well as space heaters. He then commended the first responders who have performed so well during the various weather events of late.

He also recognized the work of Forks Disaster Relief in assisting a family whose home had recently burned.

Attorney/Planner Fleck reported having attended the Department of Natural Resources Board of Natural Resources meeting last week. The Board has decided to consider an "old tree" policy, the basis for which was first introduced approximately one year ago. Originally, the proposal was for trees from 1965 and earlier to be considered "old trees" and protected. To date, nine permitted timber sales, two of which are in Clallam County, have been put on hold as a result of this issue. The fire districts in Joyce and Clallam Bay will likely be affected. He noted that at least some of the documents the Board seems to be using in their decision-making have not been made available to the public.

He then said he is working on a virtual town hall on the Quillayute Airport Master Plan to be held at the end of March. He and the consultant met with representatives from the FAA last week. The consultant is currently putting together materials for the approach application.

Finally, he noted that he continues to work on issues related to November flooding.

Council Member Gilstrap asked Attorney/Planner Fleck if he was aware of recent road closures by the Forest Service. He noted the Forest Service has said the closures will be for two years. Some discussion of the closures and possible effects, including firefighting abilities and emergency access ensued.

4. Mayor's Report

Mayor Fletcher said he was very proud of the way volunteers, led by Attorney/Planner Fleck and the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church stepped up to supply bulk and bottled water to some members of the community whose pipes had frozen during the unusually cold weather.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Gingell, second Soha, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.



Tim Fletcher, Mayor



Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer