

City of Forks  
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session  
City Council Chambers  
March 14, 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, Rowley, Police Chief, and Hampton, Public Works Director.

**MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Fletcher asked that the agenda be modified to include an Executive Session of ten minutes to discuss current or potential litigation.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lissy Andros, Director Forks Chamber of Commerce informed Council that in-person Chamber of Commerce meetings at Blakeslee's Bar and Grill would resume with the March 16 meeting. There will no longer be an online option for attending the meeting as Internet service is spotty at BBG. Tami Pokorny from Jefferson County Environmental Public Health will speak at the March 16 meeting about Hoh River projects the North Pacific Coast Marine Resources Committee is now working on. Clallam County Prosecutor Mark Nichols will speak at the next meeting. She also said the Chamber is reactivating the Events page on its website, and that it is a good calendar of local events.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Motion** to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held February 28, 2022 by Gilstrap, second Wood, motion carried.

**2. Motion** to approve manual claim checks numbered 40385 through 40386 in the amount of \$102,627.04, payroll checks numbered 40387 through 40402 in the amount of \$114,861.87, claim checks numbered 40403 through 40434 and EFTs as included in the total amount of \$46,791.97, and travel check 3607 in the amount of \$30.25 by Soha, second Weissenfels, motion carried.

**3. Ordinance #660 Adopting the 2018 Uniform Plumbing Code**

**Motion** to approve Ordinance #660 Adopting the 2018 Uniform Plumbing Code by Wood, second Gingell, motion carried.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **1. Council Member Reports**

**Council Member Wood** reported the American Legion had purchased and donated a ham radio repeater for Gunderson Mountain to be used by local ham radio operators. The cost of the repeater was approximately \$2,500 and will improve local emergency communications.

**Council Member Soha** said he had attended the Celebration of Life for Dean Hurn, and noticed Conner Nielson putting shakes on the new cover at the Ben Dome.

### **2. Staff Reports**

**Police Chief Rowley** reported that Fletcher-Wittenborn VFW Post 9106 had made a donation to be used for the emergency operations trailer. He said a ham radio had been purchased to complement the CB radio already in it, and that a thank-you letter will be sent.

**Attorney/Planner Fleck** said the DNR is considering the idea of expanding the trust lands transfer process to include State forest lands and County forest board trust lands. This process is normally used only with federal trust lands, and involves the legislature allocating money to the purchase of "under-performing" timber stands for conservation status. In the case of County lands, selection of "under-performing" stands for conservation status could be up to County commissioners and therefore somewhat arbitrary. This process would have huge impacts on efforts to create jobs in the County.

He then reported the State legislature had allocated \$10 million for the DNR to purchase new forest lands in five counties to offset lands that were given conservation status. However, the amount to be used in each county has not been specified. In Clallam County, County forest board trust lands were greatly impacted, and in Jefferson County, Federal forest lands were similarly impacted. He fears the DNR will not be able to compete with timber companies to purchase new lands. This is the result of Senator Van De Wege's and Representative Chapman's effort to increase forest lands.

### **3. Mayor's Report**

Mayor Fletcher reported having attended his first Homelessness Task Force meeting. He was surprised to find only two formerly homeless people on the Task Force. A number of other agencies, including tribal, make up the 26-member Task Force. He said he feels the Task Force is too large, but that he would like to see more formerly homeless people on it.


He then reported having attended celebrations of life for two members of our extended community, both well respected for their significant contributions to the community, Huey Simmons and Dean Hurn. Even as they marked sad events, both events were about community and bringing people together to share stories. He then offered his condolences to the families of both men.

Finally, he said the Hoh Tribe is looking for monies from the federal government for a rip rap job to save the lower village, which is being washed away by the Hoh River, and that he would like to support their efforts in some way.

4. **Executive Session** was called from 7:47 p.m. to 7:57 p.m. to discuss current or potential litigation. No action was taken.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** to adjourn by Soha, second Gingell, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.



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Tim Fletcher, Mayor



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Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer