

City of Forks
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session
City Council Chambers
March 28, 2022 7:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE, AND CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fletcher led the Pledge of Allegiance, 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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joan Evans and Colleen Leavitt, 355 Bogachiel Way and 381 Bogachiel Way respectively, spoke about the unending garbage problem at 380 Bogachiel Way that will only get worse, in terms of rats and smell, as temperatures rise. Ms. Evans also reported a disabled woman living in a truck parked there, and receiving no assistance from the residents of the trailer. Ms. Leavitt asked if there is any way to get the primary resident off the property, or if anyone had been able to get ahold of the property owner.

Shawn Lesko, 380 Bogachiel Way, stated the RV currently parked at 380 Bogachiel Way appears to be dumping its tanks in the woods.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held March 14, 2022 by Gingell, second Wood, motion carried.

2. Motion to approve payroll checks numbered 40435 through 40448 in the amount of \$72,386.73, and claim checks numbered 40449 through 40474 and EFTs as included in the total amount of \$71,609.36, and travel check 3607 in the amount of \$30.25 by Weissenfels, second Soha, motion carried.

3. Clallam County Housing Solutions Committee Appointments

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom referred Council to the press release and resolution regarding the County's new Housing Solutions Committee in their notebooks. This position need not be an elected official, but may be filled by a City employee. Attorney/Planner Fleck said that he would like to take on the position.

Motion to appoint Attorney/Planner Fleck to the Clallam County Housing Solutions Committee by Weissenfels, second Gilstrap, motion carried.

4. Resolution #504 Regarding Sustainable Timber Harvests from DNR Trust Lands

Attorney/Planner Fleck explained that a number of local governments are working to pass resolutions like this reiterating the importance of forested trust lands and voicing their support for continued and increased harvests, the revenue from which is so important to the communities they serve. It is important that the resolution be approved prior to the next Board of Natural Resources meeting. Council Member Gilstrap thanked Attorney/Planner Fleck for all the time and effort he puts into fighting for the City's rights regarding trust land harvests and revenue.

Motion to approve Resolution #504 regarding sustainable timber harvests from DNR trust lands by Wood, second Gingell, motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Quillayute Airport Master Plan Project Public Meeting

Attorney/Planner Fleck said the first public meeting for the Quillayute Airport Master Plan will be held virtually from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday night, at which the consultant will deliver a progress report on legal requirements, considerations, and what has been done thus far. There will be four more of these meetings before the project, fully funded by the federal government, is complete.

2. Council Member Reports

Council Member Weissenfels reported she and Council Member Gingell were the only two Clallam Transit Board members to make the last meeting, and possibly the one before that. She said CTS is planning to eliminate fares completely for children 18 and younger, and hopefully for college students between Forks and Port Angeles. The Hurricane Ridge Route will start on June 1 and most likely run through September 30, including all holidays. CTS is working with the Park to allow the bus to go to the front of the line at the entrance station. The shuttle in Forks will be phased out and replaced with a "micro transit" that works similar to ride share services. Finally, Weissenfels said that new routes would be introduced on September 11.

3. Staff Reports

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom reported that she, Attorney/Planner Fleck, and Public Works Director Hampton had an exploratory call with FEMA on March 16. She said they had come to the conclusion that FEMA's method is to overwhelm applicants with meetings, forms, requirements, and acronyms that discourage them from proceeding with their requests, and that the level of bureaucracy is mind-boggling. The recovery scoping meeting will be held on March 30.

She said that she, Attorney/Planner Fleck, and Public Works Director Hampton have also been working on Projects of Community Interest appropriations submissions to Representative Kilmer, and Senators Murray and Cantwell for funding for a new water tank on the north side of the Calawah River. She then said the three also had a meeting with the ONRC, which has provided the City with GIS services for around 20 years. The City feels it is time to transition to a company that provides GIS software and integrated work orders specifically for municipalities, rather than a custom-written program. She said

a request for proposals (RFP) would be issued, and that the City would continue to work with the ONRC for the transfer of data and map writing.

Public Works Director Hampton said he had attended the March 15 Peninsula Regional Transportation Planning Organization (PRTPO) meeting, and that construction on the Elwha Bridge would begin on June 28 or 29. He noted that Port Angeles had received \$20,000,000 in grant funds for broadband, which elicited a short discussion on the topic.

He then reported that two firms had responded to the request for qualifications (RFQ) for engineering of the Bogachiel Way Project. Those submissions were scored and references were verified. The City is now negotiating with the selected firm and working on fulfilling WSDOT requirements. He also said that he and Attorney/Planner Fleck had a meeting with Steve Gray regarding the Olympic Discovery Trail.

Council Member Weissenfels asked if the public works crew would be filling potholes around town now that it is completely staffed. Hampton said they were, and would continue to work on them, but that they are currently engaged in the replacement of some culverts and installation of new water services.

Police Chief Rowley reported that vehicle prowls are skyrocketing in the area. In addition, thefts of firearms are also increasing because people are leaving their firearms in both locked and unlocked vehicles.

He then said that new legislation is reversing some recent changes. For example, law enforcement is once again allowed to use 50-caliber and smaller shotguns and 37-caliber less-than-lethal devices. In addition, recent strengthening of laws regarding civil commitment pickup orders is being rolled back, allowing law enforcement to again pick up runaways and initiate involuntary holds, for example. However, Forks PD's current thinking is that the liabilities involved are too great and relies on designated crisis responders and West End Outreach to respond.

On a positive note, he said he will be attending Izaak Manuel's graduation from the Criminal Justice Training Center. Manuel will start his 90-day field training on Thursday, during which time he will actively participate in law enforcement activities with a certified training officer and be evaluated on a daily basis. He noted that Blaire Hill is currently at the academy and doing well.

Attorney/Planner Fleck reported on the various meetings he has attended recently. First was the Tuesday salmon recovery meeting of the Coastal Marine Advisory Council. He had a discussion with a person who lives near the Quillayute Airport regarding the City's planned timber harvests, the resolutions for which will be presented at the next Regular Meeting. He and Nerissa met with RMSA regarding the City's experience factor rating, which affects our L & I rates. They are looking for ways to lower our rates, which have increased due to a series of large claims over the past few years. He attended the quarterly DNR meeting where it was reported that the Olympic region is short of its regional annual goal for this fiscal year by approximately 50%. Junior taxing district target volume on the West End will be met, but nowhere else in the region. The DNR expects a similar shortage next year, due primarily (95%) to a shortage of junior foresters at the

regional office and only slightly (5%) to the “old tree” issue, which is a major issue (60–70%) in other parts of the region. Finally, he attended a trust land transfer meeting, which was very discouraging, he said, because people who know nothing about how trust lands operate will be making the necessary recommendations.

4. Mayor’s Report


Mayor Fletcher said he has noticed that with the lifting of COVID restrictions, people in the community seem to be refocusing their energies in both positive and negative ways.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Soha, second Gilstrap, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.



Tim Fletcher, Mayor



Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer