

City of Forks
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session
City Council Chambers
September 26, 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: Gingell, Soha, Wood, Weissenfels, and Mayor Fletcher. Absent: Gilstrap. Staff present: Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer, Fleck, Attorney/Planner, Rowley, Police Chief, and Hampton, Public Works Director.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lissy Andros, Director, Chamber of Commerce said Chamber meetings will resume on September 28. The focus of the first meeting will be the Clallam County Budget and Road Show. She also reminded Council that Chamber of Commerce meetings will be held on first and third Wednesdays October through May and begin at 11:30 a.m. to give a little more time for presentations, Q & As, and networking. She then reported that a candidate forum between Bill Peach and Mike French, candidates for County Commissioner, District 3 (west), would be held at the October 5 meeting, and another between candidates for Clallam County Sheriff at the October 19 meeting.

She then reported that this year's Forever Twilight in Forks Festival was a huge success. People began arriving for the Festival on Tuesday, and there was great participation in all events. The major issue was the weather with strong winds, high temperatures, and even wildfire smoke for much of the Festival. This year's guests were Billy Burke and Maggie Grace. She said Burke commented on the friendly and welcoming community. A new low-key Twilight event will be held in March 2023 and next year's Festival, for which many are already making their reservations, will be held September 14–17.

PROCLAMATION

Minnie Whalen (present via Zoom) from the Clallam Resilience Project and Troy Gale, West End Branch Manager for North Olympic Library System (NOLS), attended the meeting. Whalen expressed her appreciation to the Mayor and Council for recognizing Resilience Awareness Month again this year, and then informed Council of meetings and events related to resilience, the science of thriving, and community flourishing across generations and cultures that would be offered throughout the month of October by the Clallam Resilience Project. Gale said NOLS had put together 300 resilience kits with items that can be used to increase resilience and will be available at all branches beginning October 1. The library system is also offering other programs to build and ensure resilience throughout the lifespan.

Clerk/Treasurer Grafstrom and Mayor Fletcher read the proclamation designating October 2022 as the third annual Resilience Awareness Month in Forks, urging all residents to learn about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and to create a community conversant in resilience strategies.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held August 22, 2022 by Wood, second Gingell, motion carried.

(Meeting of September 12, 2022 cancelled due to lack of quorum.)

2. Motion to approve manual claim checks numbered 40962 through 40967 in the amount of \$80,367.92, payroll checks numbered 40968 through 40983 in the amount of \$120,026.87, claim checks numbered 40984 through 41026 and EFTs as included in the total amount of \$150,674.49, reissued (stale dated) check numbered 41027 in the amount of \$0, payroll checks numbered 41028 through 41041 in the amount of \$77,846.80, and claim checks numbered 41042 through 41066 and EFTs as included in total amount of \$54,202.49 by Weissenfels, second Gingell, motion carried.

3. July & August 2022 Treasurer's Reports

Motion to approve the July and August 2022 Treasurer's Reports by Weissenfels, second Wood, motion approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Council Member Reports

Council Member Gingell said he missed the last meeting because he was elk hunting.

Council Member Soha reported the Lions Club delivered close to 100 cords of firewood to those in need as far out as the Mary Clark Road on Saturday.

Council Member Wood said he would be asking, as a member, the American Legion to donate time and money to painting the Scorpion at Tillicum Park, as the City became responsible for its maintenance when it took over custody from the VFW.

Council Member Weissenfels attended the Clallam Transit System board meeting and reported that the micro transit service will begin in Forks on December 11. It will be accessible via the Pingo app. She then said the new Gillig buses are now operating in Forks, and Clallam Transit is looking for operators. Applications are available from their website.

She said the City needs to consider giving police and corrections officers bonuses in an effort to acquire and keep officers.

2. Staff Reports

Clerk Treasurer Grafstrom said she has been busy getting ready for budget time and working with Parametrics, the firm selected to do the engineering for wastewater treatment plant improvements.

Public Works Director Hampton said he has also been busy, along with Audrey and Dan Wahlgren, working with Parametrix, and that he continues to work with FEMA on funding for flood repairs. He said his crew has not been able to keep up with normal requests (i.e. new water service installs, pothole repairs, replacing street lights) due to prepping for storm season and possible flooding.

Police Chief Rowley reported that he is now doing field training with the new police hire and recent academy graduate, Blaire Hill.

Attorney/Planner Fleck said he attended the second meeting of an advisory group on trust land transfer of which he is a member, as well as a meeting with Lumen regarding telecommunications, at which he met the local government representative. He then said he'd been a speaker at a multi-state American Forest Resource Council (AFRC) emerging leaders conference in Olympia. He spoke about coalitions and working with local governments, and why both are important.

He reported that work on the Quillayute Airport Master Plan continues. Another public Zoom workshop will be held in late October or early November. An issue regarding the hills north of the airport has come up with regard to the proposed instrument approach. He said he is working with the consultant and a congressional staffer to resolve this issue and a few others. Chapters 1–3 of the Plan have been presented to the regional FAA office.

Finally, he reported having attended the Spencer Forest Products open house, and that he will be traveling for conferences over the next two weeks.

3. Mayor's Report

Mayor Fletcher reported having attended the AWC Mayor's Exchange in Richland, and finding it very informational and an excellent opportunity for networking. He said there were about 50 attendees from towns and cities of all sizes, and all are dealing with the same three issues—housing, crime, and drugs. There was a lot of discussion about the state's legislature and governor on the ability to address these issues. He said he introduced our lodging tax increase and the pros and cons of increased tourism. One mayor of a small city told him they were able to support an additional police officer with revenue generated by traffic cameras capturing violations. Mayor Fletcher said he would like to discuss the legalities and feasibility of installing one camera at the stop light and one at each end of town with City staff. He said smart growth was also a topic of discussion and he sees potential for our community, especially with two new mills coming in and hopefully creating as many as 100 new jobs.

He then informed Council that they would see a letter signed by him in the next edition of the Forks Forum. The letter is to the official in charge of the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review associated with DNR plans to enter state trust lands into carbon offset markets. He said the City has serious concerns about this and its effects on rural communities. Therefore, the letter requests that the current 14-day comment period be extended to 90 days so that all concerned have adequate time to submit comments.

4. ADJOURNMENT

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



Tim Fletcher, Mayor



Audrey Grafstrom, Clerk/Treasurer