

City of Forks
Council Meeting Minutes Special Session
City Council Chambers
November 24, 2025 5:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

0:11 Mayor Fletcher called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

3:34 Council members present: Wood, Soha, Coleman [arrived at 5:32 p.m.], and Mayor Fletcher. Absent: Patel and Gingell. Staff present: DePew, Clerk/Treasurer, Fleck, Attorney/Planner, Rowley, Police Chief, and Hampton, Public Works Director Hampton.

3:50 **2026 City Budget Workshop**

2026 Lodging Tax Applications

4:15 Attorney/Planner Fleck explained the City's request for \$20,000 in lodging tax revenue to pursue a study on anonymized aggregated geolocation/geospatial data collection, as well as how such data could be used.

12:32 Michelle Canale spoke on behalf of the Peninsula Trails Coalition's request for \$12,750 in lodging tax revenue to pay for the creation of two maps of the Olympic Discovery Trail.

14:49 Sue Shane spoke on behalf of the Rainforest Council for the Arts regarding the events it holds, and their request for \$6,300 in lodging tax.

18:30 Kenneth Turner spoke on behalf of the Raincon Committee regarding their request for \$2,500 in lodging tax revenue for their "comic and nerd culture" event, as well as plans to expand and hold multiple events throughout the year.

25:55 Sue Shane asked if data from the proposed geolocation/geospatial data collection system introduced by Attorney/Planner Fleck would be available for other events. Mayor Fletcher said the data would be available to anyone who asks.

25:50 Connie Sallee spoke on behalf of the Piecemakers Quilt Club regarding their request for \$15,000 in lodging tax revenue to be spent on advertising for their annual quilt show held during Rainfest.

20:34 Corey Pearson spoke on behalf of the Whiskey Women & Wood event regarding their request for \$8,750 in lodging tax revenue.

34:25 Bryon Monohon, joined by museum president Tom Rosmond, spoke about Forks Timber Museum activities and its growing popularity in support of their request for \$40,000 on lodging tax revenue.

37:18 William Habel spoke on behalf of Clallam County Public Works' request for \$40,000 in lodging tax revenue for extension of the Olympic Discovery Trail to Forks, particularly costs associated with the Calawah River bridge.

40:33 Lissy Andros, Director Forks Chamber of Commerce, presented her application for \$170,000 in lodging tax revenue for the Visitor Information Center.

50:09 Soha said the planned cost of a back-up generator at the Visitor Information Center is excessive.

52:05 Andros explained the Forever Twilight in Forks Festival and her request for \$50,000 in lodging tax revenue for that event.

55:45 Soha said spending \$140,000 on two special guests is extreme, and with such expenses, the event should pay for itself. Andros replied she has no control over those costs, and that the special guests are a huge draw for the Festival.

58:18 Andros went on to present her request for \$36,000 in lodging tax revenue for the Forever Twilight in Forks Collection, noting the additional parking has been a welcome addition for the entire town.

1:01:47 Soha asked about the number of visitors to the Collection. Andros said there were 29,366 visitors through the end of October.

2025 Budget Revisions

1:05:31 Clerk/Treasurer DePew introduced the latest changes to the preliminary budget.

1:06:18 Wood asked why estimated 2025 property tax revenue was lower than 2024 revenue. Clerk/Treasurer DePew explained it was due to differences in the split between funds.

1:06:55 Clerk/Treasurer DePew continued with her explanation of changes to the preliminary budget.

1:08:29 Public Works Director Hampton said he had photos of the issues with the Russell Rd bridge identified with an inspection by WSDOT. Discussion ensued.

1:09:59 Clerk/Treasurer DePew noted there will be a 3% raise for all City staff, and that the CPI has increased by 11% since the last such wage increase in 2023.

Water and Sewer Rate Discussion

1:10:16 Clerk/Treasurer DePew proposed a 10% increase in sewer rates, which would bring in an additional \$50,000 for sewer operations and capital replacement.

1:11:12 Public Works Director Hampton talked about growing sewer system costs and the lack of funding opportunities available to the City due to the low sewer rates. He

said there is emergency funding he will look into for the recently broken screw press but isn't certain the situation will be considered an emergency. Discussion ensued.

1:18:19 Public Works Director Hampton explained work that needs to be done on the water system, costs, and again, the fact that there are few funding opportunities due to low water rates. He also talked about the comparatively low wages paid to Public Works employees and the difficulty in hiring and keeping those employees.

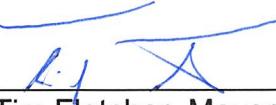
1:25:27 Clerk/Treasurer DePew talked about the 2.7% CPI increase for 2026 for leases and what a 2.7% plus 10% increase in sewer rates would look like, the sewer rate study, and briefly introduced other changes to, and aspects of, the preliminary budget, about which there were brief discussions.

ADJOURNMENT

1:31:00 Mayor Fletcher closed the budget workshop at 7:01 p.m.



Caryn DePew, Clerk/Treasurer



Tim Fletcher, Mayor