

City of Forks  
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session  
City Council Chambers  
February 23, 2026 7:30 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND CALL TO ORDER**

0:04 Mayor Fletcher led the Pledge of Allegiance and then called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

0:20 **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mayor Fletcher called for a moment of silence to remember former Forks City Council Member Juanita Weissenfels.

0:48 **ROLL CALL**

Council members present: Patel, Soha, Gingell [present via Zoom], Pearson, and Mayor Fletcher. Absent: Kimball. Staff present: DePew, Clerk/Treasurer, Fleck, Attorney/Planner, and Rowley, Police Chief. Absent: Hampton, Public Works Director.

**MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1:11 Police Chief Rowley asked that the proposed transfer of an employee from the Jail to the Police Department be added as Action Item 5.

1:57 **Motion** to approve the agenda as modified by Soha, second Patel, motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

2:49 Stephanie Akin, Recovery Navigator with Reflections Counseling Services Group's R.E.A.L program asked for City support for an upcoming funding opportunity as the Group faces severe cuts in funding.

5:03 Sarah Huling said she has concerns about Reflections based on her own experience with them, and recommended the Council find out more before providing any official support for such programs.

6:10 Lissy Andros, Director, Forks Chamber of Commerce read from a prepared letter about the lodging tax application and grant process.

11:28 Arian Goodson, owner of Bear Creek Builders and Marble and Oak spoke about his bids for the ceiling insulation project at the Forks Industrial Park and the RAC floor refinishing project.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Expenditures**

15:30 **Motion** to approve manual check 45407 in the amount of \$1,000.00, payroll checks 45408 through 45424 in the amount of \$82,665.88, and claim checks

45425 through 45459 and EFTs as included in the total amount of \$119,869.45 by Patel, second Soha, motion carried.

## **2. Halie Fletcher RAC License Renewal**

16:26 **Motion** to approve renewal of Halie Fletcher's license for a penny-stamping machine in the covered area outside the RAC by Soha, second Patel, motion carried 3–1 with Gingell abstaining.

## **3. Reflections Counseling Services R.E.A.L. Program Support Letter**

17:01 Attorney/Planner Fleck explained ways in which the R.E.A.L. Program has shown its ability to help those with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders.

21:16 Chief Rowley added input regarding his own experiences with the program.

22:23 **Motion** to authorize the Mayor and City staff to draft a letter of support for Reflections Counseling Services Group's R.E.A.L. Program's application for funding by Soha, second Patel, motion carried.

## **4. Planning Commission Appointment**

23:40 Mayor Fletcher introduced letters of interest in the vacant seats on the Planning Commission received from Dean Decker and Rob Nelson.

24:07 **Motion** to appoint Dean Decker and Rob Nelson to the vacant Planning Commission seats by Pearson, second Gingell, motion carried.

## **5. Employee Transfer to PD**

25:13 Chief Rowley asked to move a corrections officer to the police department in anticipation of losing one police officer. He said doing so would increase PD spending by approximately \$9,000, and leave one vacancy in corrections staffing, which would be filled if one of the current police officers does leave.

27:17 **Motion** to approve the transfer of one corrections officers from the Jail to the Police Department by Soha, second Patel, motion carried.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **1. Park Board Minutes**

27:41 Council reviewed minutes from the February 12, 2026 Park Board meeting.

### **2. Council Member Reports**

30:08 **Council Member Soha** expressed his concern regarding the closure of Sarge's Veteran Support and how past donations to the non-profit, some of which are physical objects, will be handled and continue to be used in the manner they were intended.

32:44 **Council Member Pearson** said she shared Soha's concern. She then said she thinks there needs to be more outreach to those suffering from co-occurring diagnoses. She reported having attended an open house to meet and get to know Jake Seegers, who is running for county commissioner, and said she would like an opportunity for the community to ask questions and demand some representation. Finally, she reported having attended the last Park Board meeting.

35:32 **Council Member Gingell** said he shares some of the same concerns that Arian Goodson talked about in his public comment, and asked if there was a way to collect more information before decisions are made.

### **3. Staff Reports**

36:55 **Clerk/Treasurer DePew** said the exit meeting for the 2023-2024 State Audit will likely be during the first week of March. She then reported work on the sewer rate study has resumed, and work on the E Street water line is nearing completion, with a water outage for connection planned for Saturday to minimize disruption to hospital services.

38:00 **Police Chief Rowley** said two officers attended training on the Reid interrogation method, and that one officer will attend training on forensic interviewing next week. He then provided some information on the future of Sarge's Veteran Support and organizations that provide support for the homeless.

41:38 Pearson asked if the Transit Center is always open when temperatures reach freezing level. Chief Rowley said it is, unless damage or vandalism occurs, which results in immediate closure.

42:17 **Attorney/Planner Fleck** reported having participated in grant-writing training with Nick Dias; issues with the RAISE grant for planning extension of the Olympic Discovery Trail into Forks; meeting with the FAA's acting regional director and his staff regarding the Quillayute Runway Project and FAA funding for repairs to the terminal hangar building; and meeting with CityData AI regarding a misunderstanding with the original contract.

### **4. Mayor's Report**

48:47 Mayor Fletcher said the Transit Center opens when temperatures drop below freezing, and that there are local organizations who receive funding for warming and cooling stations, as well as a large number of churches. Despite this, the City is the only organization that opens any sort of warming station. "Shame on them." He also reported having attended the AWC's Mayors Exchange where he networked with other mayors of small communities, and said he is looking forward to implementing some changes based on information he acquired at the Exchange. He then directed Council to a letter in their notebooks responding to a request for repair of a pothole and explained the matter.

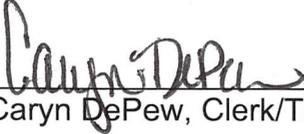
### **5. ADJOURNMENT**

50:50 **Motion** to adjourn by Soha, second Patel, Mayor Fletcher called for further discussion.

51:11 Pearson asked how she should respond to complaints regarding the water department and administrative fees. Mayor Fletcher told her the matter would be included in the agenda for the next Regular Meeting.

51:50 Council voted on the motion, the motion carried.

51:58 Meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

  
Caryn DePew, Clerk/Treasurer

  
Tim Fletcher, Mayor