

City of Forks
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session
City Council Chambers
May 26, 2026

Part 1 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND CALL TO ORDER**

0:01 Mayor Fletcher led the Pledge of Allegiance and then called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

0:21 **ROLL CALL**

Council members present: Patel, Kimball, Soha, Gingell [arrived at 7:33 p.m.], Pearson, and Mayor Fletcher. Staff present: DePew, Clerk/Treasurer, Archer, Interim Attorney [present via Zoom], and Hampton, Public Works Director. Absent: Fleck, Attorney/Planner and Rowley, Police Chief.

MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

0:41 **Motion** to approve the agenda as presented by Soha, second Patel, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1:16 Lissy Andros, Executive Director Forks Chamber of Commerce, reported a busy kickoff to the summer season.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Council Meeting Minutes

1:51 **Motion** to approve minutes from the May 11, 2026 Regular Meeting by Patel, second Kimball, motion carried.

2. Expenditures

2:18 **Motion** to approve manual checks 45736 through 45754 in the amount of \$30,893.00, payroll checks 45737 through 45753 in the amount of \$84,606.68, and claim checks 45755 through 45786 and EFTs as included in the total amount of \$184,025.88, by Patel, second Kimball, motion carried.

3. Opportunity Zones Letter of Support

3:09 Colleen McAleer, Clallam County EDC Executive Director, presented information regarding the Emerald Coast Opportunity Zone, the EDC's application for census tracts in and around the City of Forks for inclusion in the Opportunity Zone, and their request for a letter of support for that application.

8:01 **Motion** to authorize staff to submit a letter of support for the Emerald Coast Opportunity Zone application to Governor Bob Ferguson by Gingell, second Soha, motion carried.

4. March 2026 Treasurer's Report

9:36 **Motion** to approve the March 2026 Treasurer's Report by Gingell, second Patel, motion carried.

5. Planning Commission Recommendations—Public Hearings

10:00 Mayor Fletcher introduced the public hearings to follow.

11:51 Interim Attorney Archer explained the proceedings to follow.

A. Ruble Rezone

14:51 Interim Attorney Archer asked Council questions to ensure the appearance of fairness.

16:26 Pearson said she has had contact with interested parties in the Ruble Rezone, and thinks it best she recuse herself from a vote on this matter.

17:33 Pearson exited Council chambers.

18:04 Mayor Fletcher explained the Rubles' request for the rezoning of their property, which the Planning Commission recommended approving.

19:02 Amy Ruble explained her position with the rezoning request.

19:53 Soha expressed concern about road maintenance.

20:21 Interim Attorney Archer explained the rezone is only the first step in any future development, and that issues concerning roads would be addressed later.

22:34 Mayor Fletcher asked if anyone present would like to comment on the proposed Ruble Rezone request. There was no public comment.

22:50 Mayor Fletcher asked if Council needed additional time to consider or deliberate on the rezone request. Council declined.

23:37 Interim Attorney Archer informed Council an ordinance approving the Ruble Rezone will be presented for action at the next Regular Meeting.

23:58 Pearson resumed her place in Council chambers.

B. Rezone Forks Airport

24:01 Mayor Fletcher explained the rezone request for the main portion of the Forks Municipal Airport, which the Planning Commission recommended approving.

- 25:05 Interim Attorney Archer directed Council to Attorney/Planner Fleck's staff report on the matter in their notebooks and invited questions. Council had no questions.
- 25:27 Mayor Fletcher asked if anyone present would like to comment on the proposed Ruble Rezone request. There was no public comment.
- 25:25 Mayor Fletcher asked if Council needed additional time to consider or deliberate on the rezone request. Council declined.
- 26:07 **Motion** to direct the Mayor and staff to prepare an ordinance approving the Applicant's request by Patel, second Soha, motion carried.
- C. Amend FMC 17.10.315 Definition of 'Mini-Storage Facility'
- 26:34 Mayor Fletcher explained the proposed change to the zoning code, which the Planning Commission recommended approving.
- 27:15 Mayor Fletcher invited the applicant, Patrick Anderson, to speak to his request.
- 27:22 Patrick Anderson explained his request, which would allow an array of shipping containers to serve as a 'mini-storage facility'.
- 28:32 Mayor Fletcher asked if Council had any questions for Mr. Anderson. Council had no questions.
- 28:44 Mayor Fletcher asked if anyone present would like to comment on the proposed change to the zoning code.
- 28:56 Lissy Andros said she is against the change to the zoning code because it could make Forks unattractive if empty lots become filled with shipping containers.
- 30:17 Pursuant to RCW 42.30.140(2), Mayor Fletcher asked if Council needed additional time to consider or discuss the proposed change in Executive or Closed Session.
- 30:54 Soha said he doesn't think the City's appearance will be negatively affected by the proposed change to the zoning code because not many properties are zoned for a mini-storage facility.
- 31:56 Mayor Fletcher said City Council had finished its deliberation on these items.
- 6. Ordinance No. 688: Zoning Definition Amendment**
- 32:02 **Motion** to approve Ordinance No. 688 amending the definition of 'mini-storage facility' under FMC 17.10.315 by Soha, second Kimball, motion carried 3-2 with Patel and Pearson against.

32:52 **Executive Session**

Mayor Fletcher said Council will break into Executive Session for 15 minutes to discuss the legal risks of a proposed action when public discussion could have adverse legal or financial consequences for the City.

33:09 Mayor Fletcher said the Executive Session would begin at 8:05 p.m. and end at 8:20 p.m., and asked the public to exit Council chambers.

Part 2

0:00 Mayor Fletcher resumed the Regular Meeting to extend the Executive Session for 10 minutes to begin at 8:22 p.m. and end at 8:32 p.m.

Part 3

0:35 Mayor Fletcher resumed the Regular Meeting at 8:32 p.m.

7. Hoh Indian Tribe Intergovernmental Agreement

0:51 **Motion** to table this item until the June 8, 2026 Regular Meeting by Soha, second Patel, motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Council Member Reports

1:11 **Council Member Patel** reported having spoken with Police Chief Rowley about the speeding through town, and suggested a more gradual speed reduction on either end of town.

3:55 **Council Member Kimball** agreed with Patel and said something needs to be done before there is a terrible accident.

4:14 **Council Member Soha** reminded Council the subject has been brought up in the past and that any change in speed limit requires approval from WSDOT. He said he would like to add more visible indicators that a speed limit reduction is coming as vehicles come into town. Mayor Fletcher commented that he has asked local businesses to sponsor radar signs for both ends of town, but has had no response.

6:48 **Council Member Pearson** reported having spoken with someone concerned about pedestrians in town, and asked about repainting crosswalks and using cameras to ticket speeders. Mayor Fletcher said crosswalks are painted in the summer and the City “missed that boat”, legally speaking, regarding traffic cameras. She then explained her recent post on social media regarding the Narcan dispenser at the Transit Center.

2. Staff Reports

12:08 **Public Works Director Hampton** reported that bids on the E Street project have been opened, and he should have something for Council at the next Regular Meeting. He also said he attended the Transportation Improvement Board


meeting, where, among other things, complaints about chip-seal projects funded by TIB grants and creation of a district that could generate tax revenue for communities experiencing high tourism rates were discussed.

3. Mayor's Report


15:44 Mayor Fletcher spoke about conversations with other mayors regarding TIB chip-seal projects, and said he would like staff and Council to be genuine, and not use AI, when dealing with City matters and the public.

4. ADJOURNMENT

17:35 **Motion** to adjourn by Soha, second Gingell, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.



Tim Fletcher, Mayor



Caryn DePew, Clerk/Treasurer