

City of Forks
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session
City Council Chambers
July 13, 2026

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND CALL TO ORDER

0:00 Mayor Fletcher led the Pledge of Allegiance and then called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

0:20 **ROLL CALL**

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

MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

0:39 **Motion** to approve the agenda as presented by Soha, second Patel, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1:24 Rob Nelson, President West End Thunder, said races would be held at the weekend, and thanked City staff for making the races possible.

1:53 Jessi Olson read from a prepared request for the gate at the Tillicum Park ballfields to be unlocked and that she would like crosswalk signals to be installed at all crosswalks on Forks and Spartan Avenues.

5:00 Deborah Gaydeski reminded Council they were elected by the community to serve the community, and then said the speeding and jay walking in town is out of control, making streets unsafe, especially for pedestrians, and that she wants people to be held accountable.

9:16 Lissy Andros, Executive Director Forks Chamber of Commerce, said she has seen some of the most aggressive, intentionally dangerous behavior and driving ever at the stoplight, and that she has begun recording this behavior. She then read from a prepared statement regarding a Chamber of Commerce donation of \$3,667 for the purchase and installation of a radar feedback sign at the south end of Forks Avenue. Finally, she informed those present the July 25 Movie in the Park has been changed to Jurassic Park, and said the Public Works crew did a great job with barriers for Moonlight Madness.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Council Meeting Minutes

13:51 **Motion** to approve minutes from the June 22, 2026 Regular Meeting by Soha, second Pearson, motion carried.

2. Expenditures

14:09 **Motion** to approve manual check 45895 in the amount of \$11,550.64, manual check 45961 in the amount of \$440.00, payroll checks 45896 through 45915 in the amount of \$156,932.57, claim checks 45917 through 45960 and EFTs as included in the total amount of \$109,825.17, and travel checks 3786 through 3794 in the amount of \$494.00 by Patel, second Pearson.

15:07 Pearson asked about the increase in sanitation costs. Clerk/Treasurer DePew said they were due to the 4th of July celebration and the addition of portable toilets at the ballfields.

15:23 Motion carried.

3. Six-Year Street Plan 2027-2032

A. Public Hearing

15:47 Mayor Fletcher opened the public hearing at 7:46 p.m.

16:05 Lissy Andros said she would like stop signs installed at Merchant Rd and Calawah Way and Bogachiel Way and Forks Ave, and that she hopes to see the speed limit at both ends of town reduced to 30 MPH.

17:11 Mayor Fletcher closed the public hearing at 7:47 p.m.

B. Resolution No. 539

17:48 **Motion** to approve Resolution No. 539 implementing the 2027-2032 Six-year Street Plan by Soha, second Patel.

17:56 Pearson asked Public Works Director Hampton about the Russel Rd and Trillium Ave Pavement Overlay Projects, which he explained. The absence of people who have been complaining about streets at the public hearing was noted by both Pearson and Hampton.

20:50 Soha explained, for those present, that the Street Plan does not apply to Forks Ave/Hwy 101, which falls under the purview of WSDOT, so does not address requests for crosswalks and speed reductions on that road. He then suggested a petition for these things be created and sent to WSDOT.

22:18 Motion carried.

4. Set MDNS Appeal Hearing for August 10, 2026

22:41 Attorney/Planner Fleck explained an appeal of the SEPA decision regarding the application for a Special Use Permit for 31 Sitka by Olympic Coast Rentals, LLC had been received.

23:01 **Motion** to set the MDNS appeal hearing for August 10, 2026 by Soha, second Patel, motion carried.

5. Set PROS Plan Public Hearing for August 10, 2026

23:17 Attorney/Planner Fleck provided procedural and other information regarding the PROS Plan.

24:33 **Motion** to set the public hearing on the PROS plan for August 10, 2026 by Soha, second Patel, motion carried.

6. Set Revised Zoning Code Public Hearing for August 10, 2026

24:42 Attorney/Planner Fleck provided procedural and other information regarding the revision of the zoning code.

26:10 **Motion** to set the public hearing on revisions to the zoning code for August 10, 2026 by Soha, second Patel, motion carried.

7. April 2026 Treasurer's Report

26:56 **Motion** to approve the April 2026 Treasurer's Report by Soha, second Patel, motion carried.

8. Acceptance Approval for Chamber of Commerce Donation

27:25 **Motion** to accept the \$3,667 donation from the Forks Chamber of Commerce for a radar feedback sign to be installed at the south end of town by Soha, second Patel, motion carried.

9. Approval of Riverside Sublease

28:01 Attorney/Planner Fleck explained the proposed sublease of an area of the Industrial Park currently leased to Riverside Forest Products USA Inc. by Riverside to the Port of Port Angeles, which would then lease it to SG Salvage until the end of the year.

29:20 **Motion** to allow Riverside to sublease a portion of the Industrial Park, currently leased by them to the Port of Port Angeles by Soha, second Pearson, motion carried.

10. Water Department Excavator Purchase Approval

29:47 Soha asked about the excavator. Public Works Director Hampton provided some details.

30:30 **Motion** to approve the purchase of a used excavator for \$58,000 by Soha, second Patel.

30:38 Pearson noted the excavator is probably worth around \$100,000. Some discussion ensued.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 2027 Lodging Tax Process

31:41 Clerk/Treasurer DePew directed Council to the Application for Lodging Tax Funds in their notebooks, and said there have been requests to better inform the

community and Council about the process, as well as the way lodging tax applications are considered at budget time. She said she would like some suggestions for making the process work better. Discussion ensued.

2. Small Works Contracting Ordinance No. 694 Draft

36:33 Attorney/Planner Fleck explained the proposed ordinance, which would amend Forks Municipal Code Chapter 2.80 and the City's procurement process utilizing a small-works roster system. Discussion ensued.

3. Park Board Meeting Minutes for May 14, June 11, and July 9, 2026

Council reviewed minutes from the three Park Board meetings.

4. Reports

• Council Member Reports

43:22 **Council Member Patel** said he agrees with the comments on the traffic situation in town recently, and offered to match the Chamber of Commerce donation for a radar feedback sign as a member of the community, not a Council member.

44:24 **Council Member Soha** said the City and community need to continue to "make noise" regarding requests to WSDOT for speed reductions coming into town. He then noted the unexpected passing of Lyn Soloman.

45:49 **Council Member Pearson** told those present that Council appreciates hearing from the community regarding issues that matter to them. She also noted the passing of Lyn Soloman and Donny Engeseth, both of whom she described as great men in the logging industry, as well as young local serviceman Joseph Franklin. Finally, she said proceeds from this year's Whiskey, Women, & Wood will go to Cassie Contreras, who has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

• Staff Reports

48:37 **Clerk/Treasurer DePew** said the solar speed signs will arrive by Friday and be mounted by the Public Works crew. She then said she thought crosswalk signs might qualify for payment with lodging tax funds. Some discussion ensued.

50:30 **Public Works Director Hampton** referring to a suggestion by Jessi Olson for an electronic lock on the ballfield gate, he said electronic locks are effective but expensive and then explained the locking of the gate at the Tillicum Park ballfields is due to the garbage and even human excrement that has been found on the ballfields and the vandalism that has occurred there. He also encouraged the community to contact WSDOT regarding issues associated with Forks Ave/Hwy 101, and noted community safety is always a priority with the Street Plan.

54:58 **Police Chief Rowley** said he agrees there is a lot of speeding near and in the City, but doesn't think ticketing speeders is very effective. Rather, he said he thinks better informing those coming into town of speed changes would be more effective. He then thanked West End Thunder for providing shuttles from the

Whiskey, Women, & Wood event, and explained the information he needs from those making complaints about police officers and/or staff.

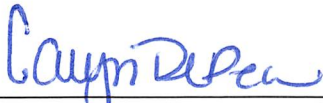
1:00:38 **Attorney/Planner Fleck** reported America's Rural Future will be holding a field hearing in mid-August in Port Angeles and Forks regarding opportunities and challenges with working with federal systems, and that there will be work on the Hoh River Bridge, to begin as early as July 14, that will reduce traffic to one lane with weight restrictions likely to follow the work. He said input from the community could go a long way in getting the bridge replaced one day.

1:05:16 • Mayor's Report

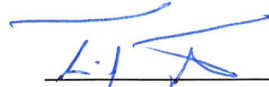
Mayor Fletcher said he will be working on some updates to verbiage in the Municipal Code, some of which hasn't been changed since 1946. He then reported the radar feedback signs will be coming online soon, and that signage on Forks Ave and definitely the traffic signal and crosswalk signals need to be updated. Some discussion ensued. Finally, he informed Council the town of Brookhaven, Connecticut had presented the City with a basket of their local goods, and that he would like to send something similar in return.

5. ADJOURNMENT

1:09:02 **Motion** to adjourn by Soha, second Patel, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.



Caryn DePew, Clerk/Treasurer



Tim Fletcher, Mayor