

City of Forks
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session
City Council Chambers
August 24, 2026

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.

0:26 **ROLL CALL**

Council members present: Patel, Kimball [watching via Zoom, not voting], Soha, Gingell, Pearson, and Mayor Fletcher. Staff present: DePew, Clerk/Treasurer, Fleck, Attorney/Planner, and Rowley, Police Chief.

MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1:04 **Motion** to approve the agenda as presented by Patel, second Gingell, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

2:32 Stephanie Akin with Reflections Counseling Services Group thanked the Mayor and staff for the International Overdose Awareness Day proclamation, and invited the Mayor and Council to a public event to be held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on August 31 at the city pier in Port Angeles.

3:39 Lissy Andros, Director Forks Chamber of Commerce, reported a very successful, season-ending Movie in the Park. As a member of the community, she asked whether the City Council could require those selling firewood to post a sign informing people that a fire ban is in effect.

PROCLAMATION

5:55 Mayor Fletcher read his proclamation designating August 31, 2026 as International Overdose Awareness Day in the City of Forks.

PRESENTATION

8:00 Kevin Hossom with the non-profit Rural Community Assistance Corporation presented his financial analysis of the wastewater system with a focus on capital improvements, and recommended an additional 10% increase in sewer rates in 2027.

21:24 Pearson asked how rate increases would be applied with his recommendation, and if the rate increase would cover loan payments. Hossom referred her to his analysis. Discussion ensued.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Expenditures

- 34:36 **Motion** to approve manual checks 46132 through 46133 in the amount of \$118,844.35, payroll checks 46077 through 46093 in the amount of \$89,590.95, and claim checks 46094 through 46131 and EFTs as included in the total amount of \$128,147.05 by Patel, second Gingell, motion carried.

2. Tillicum Park Movie Night Authorization

- 35:29 Attorney/Planner Fleck introduced a request for after-hours activity in the park.
- 36:01 **Motion** to approve after-hours use of Tillicum Park by Soha, second Gingell, motion carried.

3. Resolution No. 540: PROS Plan

- 36:20 Attorney/Planner Fleck introduced the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan resolution and reviewed activities associated with the PROS Plan to date.
- 38:19 **Motion** to approve the Resolution No. 540, Adopting the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan by Gingell, second Patel, motion carried.

4. Ordinance No. 696: Title 17 Code Amendment

- 38:40 Attorney/Planner Fleck presented changes to Title 17 of the Forks Municipal Code, as mandated by the State, and the proposed ordinance adopting the changes. Discussion ensued.
- 48:05 **Motion** to add "...or County-approved septic system" at the end of "(7) ADUs are not permitted on lots that are not connected to and served by public water and sewer." under "17.57.040 Bulk Standards/ADU Regulations" or removing "(7)" by Pearson, second Gingell, motion failed.
- 52:02 **Motion** to change "(6)" to "All water, sewer, and County-approved septic system charges..." and add "...or County-approved septic system" at the end of "(7)" by Pearson, second Gingell, motion carried 3–1 with Soha against.
- 53:20 **Motion** to adopt Ordinance No. 696, Title 17 Code Amendment with the changes indicated with the previous motion by Pearson, second Gingell, motion carried 3–1 with Soha against.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. 2027–2032 CIP

- 53:51 Attorney/Planner Fleck reported on the progress of the 2027–2032 Capital Improvement Plan, and asked Council be sure to review it and get questions answered before it is scheduled for adoption at the September 14 Regular Meeting.

2. RAC Rental Rates

55:29 Clerk/Treasurer DePew said rental rates for the Rainforest Arts Center have not been raised since the building was constructed and suggested a 33% increase, noting rising costs. Discussion ensued.

57:19 Gingell asked about the number of bookings. Clerk/Treasurer DePew said she would bring numbers to the next Regular Meeting. Discussion continued.

3. Reports

• Council Member Reports

1:02:36 **Council Member Pearson** said she has been approached by members of the community about transients and the smell of human waste at the Transit Center. In response to Lissy Andros' question about the firewood, she said the fire chief reminded those selling firewood about the burn ban last year, but doesn't know whether the new chief has done so. She then thanked the Mayor for allowing private individuals to make some improvements at the ballfields ahead of the Tod Horton Memorial Softball Tournament.

• Staff Reports

1:05:17 **Clerk/Treasurer DePew** reported preparing for budget season, and that she will hold a workshop for those interested in applying for lodging tax revenue.

1:05:56 **Police Chief Rowley** reported several DUIs over the past few weeks and said he is very appreciative any time courtesy rides are made available. He also reported upcoming legislation regarding camping on public land. He said he and his officers try to get transients to move along during the day and that some have been trespassed, but that there are few places for them to go.

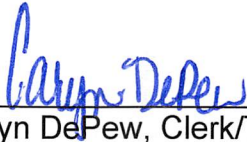
1:08:18 **Attorney/Planner Fleck** said Tillicum Park closes at dusk, so anyone in the Park after that is given a warning and then trespassed for a second violation. A third warning opens them up to criminal prosecution. He then reported on the America's Rural Future field hearing, taxiway and hangar repairs at Quillayute Airport, and discussions with the Port of Port Angeles regarding Citizen Air service between SeaTac and Quillayute Airport.

• Mayor's Report

1:13:21 **Mayor Fletcher** said social media is not a way to communicate with City Hall. Complaints are best received in-person with a willingness to offer one or more suggestions for resolving the issue. He also reported having received a number of compliments on the appearance of downtown, and thanked the Public Works crew for their work to get the ballfields in good shape and said he hopes softball tournaments will return to Forks. He then reminded everyone of the upcoming 25th anniversary of 911, which has been designated Patriot Day, and asked Council and community members to commemorate the day with charitable acts, to thank first responders for their daily service, and for anyone who flies a flag to fly it at half-mast from sunrise to sunset on September 11.

3. ADJOURNMENT

1:15:41 **Motion** to adjourn by Soha, second Gingell, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.



Caryn DePew, Clerk/Treasurer



Tim Fletcher, Mayor