

City of Forks
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session
City Council Chambers
September 14, 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.

0:24 **ROLL CALL**

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

MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

0:43 **Motion** to approve the agenda as presented by Gingell, second Kimball, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1:26 Minnie Whalen with Clallam Resilience Project thanked the Mayor for his proclamation designating October as Resilience Awareness Month in the City of Forks, invited the people of Forks to participate in Resilience Awareness Month activities, and named some of the local agencies contributing to Resilience Awareness Month.

PROCLAMATION

4:23 Mayor Fletcher read his proclamation designating October as Resilience Awareness Month in the City of Forks.

PRESENTATION

7:58 Melissa Mies, JoAnn Shuler, and Kara Mitchell with the Washington State Department of Transportation [present via Zoom] presented information on upcoming repairs to the Hoh River Bridge and associated road closures. Council expressed their strong desire for some ability to cross the bridge during this first phase of repairs with the WSDOT representatives holding firm to decisions that had already been made.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Council Meeting Minutes

27:43 **Motion** to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held August 10, 2026 by Gingell, second Pearson, motion carried.

2. Expenditures

28:11 **Motion** to approve manual check 46134 in the amount of \$11,316.61, payroll checks 46135 through 46154 in the amount of \$154,094.22, claim checks 46155 through 46183 and EFTs as included in the total amount of \$271,685.46, and

travel checks 3799 through 3804 in the amount of \$338.50 by Soha, second Kimball, motion carried.

3. Ordinance No. 695: Livestock at Large

29:04 Attorney/Planner Fleck introduced proposed changes to Forks Municipal Code, Title 6 Animal Regulations based on prior discussion.

31:18 **Motion** to approve Ordinance No. 695 amending Title 6 of the Forks Municipal Code by Soha, second Gingell, motion carried.

4. Capital Improvement Plan 2027-2032

A. Public Hearing

31:42 Mayor Fletcher opened the public hearing at 8:01 p.m.

There were no comments.

32:04 Mayor Fletcher closed the public hearing at 8:02 p.m.

B. Resolution No. 541

36:16 Clerk/Treasurer DePew pointed out one change to the Capital Improvement Plan regarding the Forks Airport.

33:22 **Motion** to approve Resolution No. 541 adopting the 2027-2032 Capital Facilities Improvement Plan as presented by Gingell, second Pearson, motion carried.

5. Biosolids Floor Bid Award

33:52 Attorney/Planner Fleck introduced the request for bids and bid tabulation, and asked Council to award the project to Interwest Construction.

34:38

Motion to award the Forks Wastewater Treatment Facility Solids Building Floor Replacement Project to Interwest Construction Inc., the lowest responsible bidder, by Soha, second Kimball, motion carried.

6. RAC Rental Category Changes and Rate Increase

35:02 Clerk/Treasurer DePew reminded Council of the discussion of a 33% increase in Rainforest Arts Center rental rates at the previous Regular Meeting, and said she thinks this is also a good time to simplify the rental tier structure. Some discussion ensued.

38:23

Motion to adopt changes to RAC rental tiers and rates by Soha, second Kimball, motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Timber Museum and Chamber of Commerce Lease

38:48 Clerk/Treasurer DePew explained the current Timber Museum and Chamber of Commerce lease, and suggested separating the two and adding rental fees for

which the entities could apply for lodging tax revenue that would then go into the City's General Fund.

- 39:32 Attorney/Planner Fleck noted the lease agreement could be changed, but that it (they) may have to be changed again in the future should Council deny requests for lodging tax revenue. A brief discussion ensued.

2. RCO Grant Preliminary Ranking

- 41:13 Attorney/Planner Fleck recognized Annie Crippen of the Tillicum Park Board for her hard work applying for a grant from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office for the Tillicum Park Playground, and introduced the most recent ranking of grant applications.

3. Reports

• Council Member Reports

- 42:32 **Council Member Kimball** said the radar sign seems to be helping quite a bit.

- 43:11 **Council Member Soha** said he feels like we are slowly getting our town back.

- 43:47 **Council Member Gingell** reported having some close calls with tourists on the road, and said he would like to see the speed limit reduced further at the north end of town.

- 45:06 **Council Member Pearson** reported on the Whiskey, Women & Wood event, and reminded the Mayor and Attorney/Planner Fleck to see her e-mail regarding homeless people camping in Tillicum Park. She said she would like the City to adopt policies that address the issue and to see community members open their homes to those who are struggling.

• Staff Reports

- 47:48 **Clerk/Treasurer DePew** reported a successful lodging tax workshop, which was better attended than she had expected.

- 48:03 **Public Works Director Hampton** said he is eager for the biosolids floor project to get underway, and then reported the pump on the clarifier went out and will have to be repaired before the new clarifier can be brought online, and that he has a meeting on Tuesday on the E Street project, which must be completed before October.

- 46:06 **Police Chief Rowley** reported a lot of traffic and traffic stops, complaints from locals regarding jaywalking who, he said, should remember that parking across from the post office and walking across the street is also jaywalking, and relatively few calls for road accidents, especially at the 101/110 junction. He also said his department continues pursuing some long-term cases, and is working with the State crime lab to get sexual assault and DUI blood kits processed.

51:46 **Attorney/Planner Fleck** said he has been working on a critical areas ordinance, and reported a very busy FTF weekend with people from all over the world attending, most of whom he said had a very positive impression of Forks.

52:42 • Mayor's Report

Mayor Fletcher said that with the tremendous increase in tourism, the City needs to improve its infrastructure, especially with the addition of public restrooms. He said he doesn't know how or where, but it is something that needs to be addressed and he is actively seeking suggestions.

3. ADJOURNMENT

53:45 **Motion** to adjourn by Soha, second Gingell, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.



Caryn DePew, Clerk/Treasurer



Tim Fletcher, Mayor