City of Forks
Council Meeting Minutes Regular Session
City Council Chambers
October 12, 2026

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND CALL TO ORDER

1:12 Mayor Fletcher led the Pledge of Allegiance and then called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

1:35 **ROLL CALL**

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

MODIFICATIONS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

2:10 **Motion** to approve the agenda as presented by Gingell, second Patel, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

2:59 Lissy Andros, Forks Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, thanked Council for approving pursuit of speed reductions, and said the Visitor Center continues to receive approximately 300 visitors per day.

4:39 Brent Gagnon, owner of West Waste & Recycling Inc., read from a prepared letter on behalf of his early application to extend his waste-disposal license with the City.

PROCLAMATIONS

7:18 Mayor Fletcher read his proclamation designating October 17, 2026 as Martha Merchant Maybury Day in the City of Forks.

9:49 Mayor Fletcher read his proclamation designating October 25 through October 31 as Red Ribbon Week in the City of Forks.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Council Meeting Minutes

12:07 **Motion** to approve minutes of the Regular Meeting held September 28, 2026 by Patel, second Kimball, motion carried.

2. Expenditures

12:41 **Motion** to approve payroll checks 46250 through 46268 in the amount of $152,155.07, claim checks 46269 through 46304 and EFTs as included in the total amount of $500,177.50, and travel check 3805 in the amount of $561.36 by Patel, second Gingell, motion carried.

3. West Waste Franchise Agreement Extension

13:38 Attorney/Planner Fleck introduced the current license with West Waste and Recycling Inc., explained Mr. Gagnon's request, and outlined Council's options for extending the license. Discussion ensued with Soha taking issue with the possible appearance the City is aiding a business owner in the sale of his business.

25:16 **Motion** to table this item until the October 26, 2026 Regular Meeting by Gingell, second Patel, motion carried.

4. Set Budget Hearing Schedule

28:52 Clerk/Treasurer DePew introduced the 2027 Budget Calendar showing tentatively scheduled hearings.

29:18 **Motion** to set public budget hearings for the dates presented by Gingell, second Pearson, motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Sewer Rates

29:50 • Rate Increase

Clerk/Treasurer DePew explained she has been trying to find a way to increase sewer revenue by increasing commercial rates. She then presented information regarding the City's wastewater treatment system, introduced suggestions for new rate tiers along with comparables with Sequim for those customers who will be most affected, and projected 5-year budgets for three different rate-increase scenarios. Discussion ensued with those participating in favor of putting additional burden on commercial enterprises.

2. Reports

• Council Member Reports

43:40 **Council Member Patel** noted we are still seeing a lot of tourist traffic with daytime work on the Hoh River Bridge completed for the time being, despite having entered the shoulder season.

45:33 **Council Member Pearson** reported having attended a Clallam County Lodging Tax Advisory Committee meeting and said she was happy to see so many people working to increase tourism. She also said she has many ideas for working with other organizations to do so in Forks.

• Staff Reports

47:24 **Clerk/Treasurer DePew** said there will be many changes to the preliminary 2027 budget Council has received.

48:04 **Public Works Director Hampton** said work on the E Street project continues and reported the replacement of a biosolids pump at the wastewater treatment plant, noting the incredible increase in price since the last replacement. He said prices are rising on everything so rates really do need to be increased just

to keep up. He then reported he once again has a full crew after today's hiring of a new employee.

49:34 **Attorney/Planner Fleck** said he took Clallam PUD Commissioner Phyllis Bernard on a tour of places of interest to her, during which she spoke with a number of people regarding power outages. He reported having attended the annual Washington State Association of Municipal Attorneys conference in Stevenson, that the Hoh River Bridge opened today with future closures in the near term to be only at night, and that Riverside Forest Products USA held a job fair that was well attended. He further reported WSDOT received notification from the City regarding its interest in speed-limit reductions and will be getting back to him.

- Mayor's Report

52:09 Mayor Fletcher said with temperatures falling, the City will again help with a temporary warming center as needed, but called strongly on all local NGOs to open their doors as the City cannot afford to staff the Transit Center overnight. He said vandalism and damage to the Transit Center tends to happen in the early morning hours, and that if any local NGOs cannot open their doors, perhaps they could help with staffing. He went on to point out that no NGO has stepped up to help with warming or cooling centers for the three terms he has been mayor, though, he said, he believes some receive money to do so.

3. ADJOURNMENT

53:16 **Motion** to adjourn by Soha, second Gingell, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Tim Fletcher, Mayor

Caryn DePew, Clerk/Treasurer