



**City of Saxman
Totem and Tourism Committee
Meeting
January 08, 2025
5:30 PM**

AGENDA

Call to Order

Roll Call

1. Teesh Kwaan Xagu

Background: Acknowledge T'eesh Kwaan Xagu Original Peoples

Public Comment

Consideration of the Agenda

Old Business

New Business

2. Totem & Tourism Meeting Minutes

Background: Review and approve the minutes from November 7, 2025.

3. Eagle Beaver Totem Pole

Background: Approve the Eagle Beaver Totem Pole drawing to proceed with the next phase of the contract.

4. Eagle Beaver Totem Pole

Background: planning an event around the "Eagle Beaver Totem Pole." The Council agreed to prioritize this item as part of the financial planning process to ensure proper budgeting and coordination.

5. Our Town for Historic Ketchikan Inc.

Background: Review the draft for the next edition of Our Town.

6. Executive Session

Background: Proprietary

Council Comments

Adjournment

CITY OF
Saxman



Land ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

“WE ACKNOWLEDGE THE LAND AND THE LABOR OF THE SAANYAA KWAAN PEOPLE, WHOSE CONNECTION TO THIS LAND WE REMEMBER, AND WHOSE PRESENCE-PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE-WE RESPECT. AS PART OF SAXMAN MISSION OF SUPPORTING AND FOSTERING LEARNING THROUGH THE GENERATION AND DISSEMINATION OF KNOWLEDGE, WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE LAND WE ARE MEETING ON TODAY IS THE ORIGINAL HOMELAND OF NEIXADI, KIKSADI, AND TEIKWEIDI PEOPLE.





**City of Saxman
Totem and Tourism Committee
Meeting
November 07, 2024
5:30 PM**

Item 2.

MINUTES

Call to Order

Mayor Seludo calls the meeting to order at 6:52PM

Roll Call

Public Comment

New Business

1. Nathan Jackson Eagle/Beaver Totem Contract

Background: Discussion, review, and approval of the Carving Agreement for the Eagle/Beaver Totem.

"Mayor moves to recommend the contract for the Eagle Beaver Totem Pole project to the full council for approval."

All in favor

none opposed

Council Comments

Adjournment

"Motion to adjourn"

m/s Woodrow Watson/Rick Makua

All in Favor

None Opposed

Mayor Seludo Adjourns the meeting at 6:13PM

CITY OF Saxman



Dear Marissa Medford,


We are writing to confirm that we have received the sketch of the totem pole as required by the terms of the contract. Per the agreement, the submission of this sketch was due by today's date, January 2, 2025.

This letter serves as an acknowledgment that the sketch has been received and is now formally documented as part of the contractual obligations.

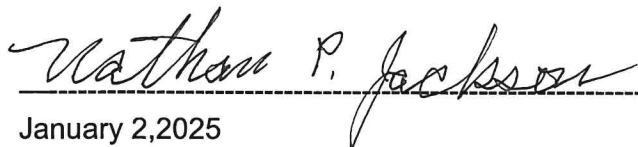
If you have any questions or require further confirmation, please feel free to contact the city clerk Ginger McCormick at 907-225-4166 or cityclerksaxman@kpunet.net

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Ginger McCormick
City Clerk


----- 01/02/25
January 2, 2025

Nathan Jackson
Master Carver



January 2, 2025

Exhibit A

Approval of Milestone Completion and Release of Payment to Artist

Date: 1/2/2025

In regards to the Carving Agreement between the City of Saxman and Nathan Jackson signed on 12/2/2024 (date). The undersigned certify that the work associated with Milestone 1 has been completed. By signing below the City's designee and the Owner's designee certify that the work associated with the milestone has been completed. The designees hereby direct the City Finance Staff to release any and all payments associated with this milestone.

Ginger McCormick
City of Saxman Designee
(print name)

NATHAN P. JACKSON
Owner's Designee
(print name)

[Signature]
City of Saxman Designee
(signature)

Nathan P. Jackson
Owner's Designee
(signature)

INVOICE

Item 3.

Nathan P Jackson - Artist

5972 Roosevelt Dr. S.
Ketchikan, AK 99901

Invoice Number: 703
Invoice Date: 1/2/25
Page: 1

Voice: 907-225-3431
Fax:

Bill To:
City of Saxman 2706 S Tongass Hwy (Rt 2 Box 1-Saxman) Ketchikan, AK 99901

Customer ID: SAX

Customer PO	Payment Terms	Sales Rep ID	Due Date
	Net 10 Days		1/12/25

Description	Amount
Milestone 1 - drawing completed	2,500.00

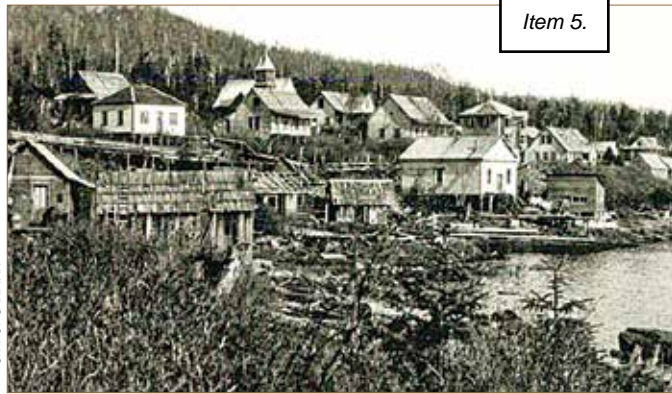
Subtotal	2,500.00
Sales Tax	
Total Invoice Amount	2,500.00
Payment/Credit Applied	
TOTAL	2,500.00

Check/Credit Memo N:

CITY OF SAXMAN



CITY OF SAXMAN



CITY OF SAXMAN

Cape Fox Dancers perform in the clan house. A photo shows Saxman in its early years.

THE COMMUNITY EMBODIES MUNICIPAL AND CULTURAL SERVICES

Rich history and deep cultural heritage are easy to see on a walk through Saxman.

Totem Row, leading up from the shore, is flanked by totem poles representing those brought from village sites nearly a century ago. Up the hill is a clan house providing an essential civic and cultural asset for Saxman.

In the 1930s, totem poles and ceremonial artifacts were brought from village sites at Cape Fox and on Tongass, Cat and Pennock islands in programs managed by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Many totem poles were restored and raised. The totem park welcomes more than 100,000 visitors each year. Beaver Clan House—built in traditional style all in cedar—hosts cultural presentations and is also much-used by the greater community for concerts and other gatherings. Edwin DeWitt Carving Center nearby is a work space for Tlingit artists; visitors interact here with carvers and learn about Alaska Native culture.

The City of Saxman has 431 residents. The Organized Village of Saxman is a federally recognized tribe. Almost 70 percent of Saxman residents claim Alaska Native ancestry. Many of them still lead a

subsistence lifestyle. Deer, salmon, halibut and other wild foods provide a significant part of their diets and figure in cultural events.

The city recently completed a 20-year master plan that envisions a new harbor for small cruise ships and large yachts. This development will enhance cultural tourism in the greater Ketchikan community.



CITY OF SAXMAN

The New Deal was a new lease on life for Northwest Coast carving. Henry Denny Sr. was filmed as he recounted the CCC restoration of the Giant Oyster totem pole, standing today at the foot of Totem Row.

Saxman Community Center incorporates a gym, meeting space, a theater, a kitchen and some city offices.

The city operates water distribution and sewer collection systems. Public works staff take care of Saxman's roads. Firefighting is handled through a contract with a rural fire department.

VILLAGERS SETTLED ON A HOPEFUL SHORE

Saxman was founded in 1894 when residents of the Tlingit villages of Tongass and Cape Fox left ancestral homes to create a new village around a government school and a church. The village on a gentle seaside slope was named for Samuel Saxman, a Presbyterian teacher who had been lost at sea while searching for a new village site with a Fort Tongass villager and Louis Paul, the teacher in Fort Tongass. (Louis Paul was the father of William Paul, the first Alaska Native admitted to the bar and first to be elected to the Territory of Alaska House of Representatives. He was also an Alaska Native rights activist.)

The school building was erected at once in the new village and still stands today, used as the Saxman City Hall; it is the oldest building in active use in all of Saxman and Ketchikan.

Fishing and timber were the economic mainstays of the new village and by 1900 there were 142 residents of the community. Saxman was incorporated as a second-class city in 1929; it was the first Alaska Native village community in Alaska to incorporate under territorial law.



TÉESH KWAAN XAGU CITY OF SAXMAN

Since Time Immemorial Neixadi-Kiksadi-Teikweidi

The heart of Téesh Kwaan Xagu

Discover the rich cultural heritage of the City of Saxman, home to the proud Neixadi, Kiksadi, and Teikweidi clans. These three distinct clans relocated to Teesh Kwaan Xagu from their ancestral villages, establishing a vibrant community rooted in tradition.

Cultural Heritage & History
Upon relocating, the clans gathered in Teesh Kwaan Xagu, or currently known as Saxman, where they built lasting symbols of unity and cultural identity. One of the most significant landmarks is the historic School House, the oldest building in Saxman, where generations of children from all three clans attended school. The City of Saxman is a Tlingit Village with a population of 382 residents, with a 93 percent Indigenous population who thrive off of their subsistence lifestyle. Teesh Kwaan Hagu has been harvesting grounds since time immemorial but was founded as a city in 1984. The Tlingit of Saxman hold their traditional values very close; the Tlingit are rich in culture and traditions, they are resilient. As the Tlingit have adapted to modern-day lifestyles, their diets and village ways of life keep them ahead of today's society. Located in Southeast Alaska, their diets consist of Salmon, Seal Meat, Deer, Berries, and one of the famous sayings of the Tlingit is "when the tide is low, the table is set."



Kooteeya (Totem Pole Central)

The legacy of totem poles (kooteeya) in Saxman is truly remarkable. Teesh Kwaan Xagu contains the largest amount of standing Totem Poles in the world. Many of the totem poles you will see around the city are carved at the Edwin Dewitt Carving Center, where local carvers apprentice under the guidance of our esteemed Master Carver, Nathan Jackson. Visitors can witness the intricate process of totem pole carving, a skill passed down through generations. Not only totem poles are carved in the Carving Center but as well Halibut Hooks, Canoes and even Canoe Paddles are brought to life. The Tlingit are coastal people for many moons the Tlingit have travel and traded via canoes.

Beaver Clan House
A central gathering place for the Neixadi, Kiksadi, and Teikweidi clans, the Beaver Clan House stands as a testament to their shared history and cultural pride. Many stories and songs are shared within the clan house and many guests are welcomed in, in 2024 the Hokulea from Hawaii came back to visit after 30 years. The traditional Polynesian voyaging canoe Hōkūle'a is making its way through Southeast Alaska as the first part of its years-long global journey called Moananuiākea. It's an adventure all about spreading a sense of care for the ocean and Indigenous knowledge.

