

**Minutes of Regular Assembly Meeting
Held on May 14, 2024**

Mayor Patricia Gilbert called the Regular Assembly meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., May 14, 2024, in the Borough Assembly Chambers. Assembly Member Powell led the pledge of allegiance.

PRESENT – GILBERT, POWELL, DEBORD, DALRYMPLE, OTTESEN, ROBBINS, MORRISON (*by phone*)

ABSENT –

Borough Manager Villarma and Clerk Lane were also present.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS - None.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Jim DeBord, resident read a statement regarding the impact to our community with the number of senior sales tax exemption numbers; also the issue on the number of people how only live in town for 6 months out of the year and the impact that has to our sales tax revenue and the impact that has on our ability to fund the schools; we rely on the sales tax revenue and property tax revenue and with the exemptions and lack of full time residents, this heavily impacts the school funding ability; also commented on the recommendation by the state legislature to increase the senior property tax exemption amount, creating a demographic problem, and impacting our local schools.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Gilbert asked that we move Consent Agenda up to occur above Item 8, and Agenda Item 13g to be considered after 13a. There were no objections from the assembly.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

DeBord declared a potential conflict of interest since his wife has a contract with the school. Gilbert ruled that DeBord does have a conflict of interest since it is possible that the school funding could impact her contract.

Powell declared a potential conflict of interest since his wife works for the school district. Gilbert stated that he does not have a conflict of interest since she is within a large group of employees and the funding will not impact her position.

Robbins declared a potential conflict of interest since she is on the school board vice-president and serves on the finance committee. Gilbert declared that unless there were an objection, there is no conflict.

There were no objections from the assembly on any of the three rulings.

CONSENT AGENDA

6a Minutes from the April 23, 2024, Regular Assembly Meeting

M/S: Powell/Robbins to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion approved by polled vote.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Economic Development Director Thomas provided her report.

The Library Director Report was provided in the packet.

The Nolan Center Director Report was provided in the packet.

The Infrastructure Report was provided in the packet.

Borough Manager Villarma gave a verbal report.

BOROUGH CLERK'S REPORT

Borough Clerk Lane's Report was provided.

MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

Powell reported that the trap machine has been ordered; cost \$15,000; the Stikine Sportsmen's Association is going to pay for that.

Gilbert reported that she attended the T-3 presentation in the High School Tech room, with Senator Murkowski.

MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY APPOINTMENTS - None.

PUBLIC HEARING - None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None.

NEW BUSINESS

13a Approval of FY 2025 Wrangell Public Schools Budget and Local Funding Contribution in the Amount of \$1,300,000

M/S: Powell/Ottesen to approve the FY 2025 Wrangell Public Schools Budget and Local Funding Contribution in the Amount of \$1,300,000.

David Wilson, School Board President, and resident read a statement that spoke in favor of the assembly funding the school to the maximum allowable amount.

Bill Burr, Wrangell School Superintendent stated that with the growth of the community, the school is very important to that growth; spoke in favor of the assembly funding the school to the maximum allowable amount.

Michelle Clark, Wrangell School Teacher, and resident read a statement that advocated for the assembly to fund the school to the maximum allowable amount.

Ryan Howe, Wrangell School Teacher, and resident spoke in favor of the assembly funding the school to the maximum allowable amount.

Villarma provided an extensive administrative report.

Powell stated that his concern is that the Governor will veto the one-time school BSA increase; will go along with the amendment if that means that we will ensure that the school is funded to the max.

Dalrymple stated that it is our duty as assembly members to balance our funding between the school and the borough's needs.

Gilbert clarified that the amendment ensures that the school will be funded to the maximum allowable amount.

Assembly Member Morrison signed out of the meeting at 8:41p.m.

M/S: Powell/Robbins to amend the motion to include the words “with supplement funding up to the maximum allowable amount, pending the State of Alaska’s FY 2025 one-time school BSA increase to the amount of 1,752,087”. Amendment approved with Robbins, Dalrymple, Powell, and Gilbert voting yes; Ottesen and Morrison voted no.

Main motion, as amended, was approved unanimously by polled vote.

13g RESOLUTION No. 05-24-1864 OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA AMENDING THE MARKETING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR JOB DESCRIPTION WITHIN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

M/S: Powell/Robbins to approve Resolution No. 05-24-1864. Motion approved by polled vote.

13b ORDINANCE No. 1056 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING SECTION 11.04.020 TITLED “TRAFFIC FINE SCHEDULE – ADOPTION OF STATE BAIL FORFEITURE SCHEDULES BY REFERENCE”, IN THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE

M/S: Powell/Ottesen to approve first reading of Ordinance No. 1056 and move to a second reading with a Public Hearing to be held on June 11, 2024. Motion approved by polled vote.

13c RESOLUTION No. 05-24-1862 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, ACCEPTING GRANT AGREEMENT AMENDMENT 2 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (EDA) GRANT AGREEMENT FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,144,677 TO FINANCE REPAIRS, RENOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT OWNED AND OPERATED BY THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AND RELATED MATTERS

M/S: Ottesen/Robbins to approve Resolution No. 05-24-1862. Motion approved by polled vote.

13d Approval of Change Order No. 5 to Ketchikan Ready Mix & Quarry, Inc. in the amount of \$154,640 for the Alder Top Village Subdivision Site Work Project

M/S: Robbins/Ottesen to approve Change Order No. 5 to Ketchikan Ready Mix & Quarry, Inc. in the amount of \$154,640 for the Alder Top Village Subdivision Site Work project. Motion approved by polled vote.

13e Approval of First Modification to Wrangell Marine Service Center Lease for Mill Dock #1 from Wind and Tide LLC, dba Peninsula Seafoods, requested by Jeff Grannam

M/S: Ottesen/Dalrymple to approve Modification No. 1 to Wrangell Marine Service Center Lease for Mill Dock #1 from Wind and Tide LLC, dba Peninsula Seafoods, requested by Jeff Grannam, extending the lease to June 30, 2032. Motion approved by polled vote.

13f RESOLUTION No. 05-24-1863 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA AMENDING THE FY 2024 BUDGET BY TRANSFERRING \$13,000 FROM THE GENERAL FUND RESERVES TO THE GENERAL FUND CIP FUND AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXPENDITURE FOR THE AIRPORT AIRFELD LIGHTING BACK-UP POWER CONNECTION PROJECT

M/S: Ottesen/Powell to approve Resolution No. 05-24-1863. Motion approved by polled vote.

ATTORNEY'S FILE – Available for Assembly review in the Borough Clerk's office

EXECUTIVE SESSION

15a Discuss with Borough Attorney the petition received by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) petitioning to Unionize the Wrangell Police Department

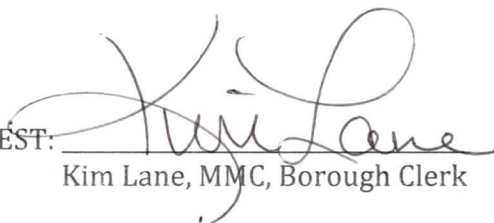
M/S: Powell/Ottesen moved pursuant to AS 44.62.310 (c)(1) and (c)(3), that we recess into executive session and invite the Borough Manager and Attorney into the session, to discuss matters which if immediately known would clearly have an adverse effect on Borough finances and matters which by law are required to be confidential, specifically to have attorney-client privileged communications with the Borough Attorney regarding an Alaska Labor Relations Agency petition filed by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers to unionize Wrangell Police Department employees. Motion approved by polled vote.

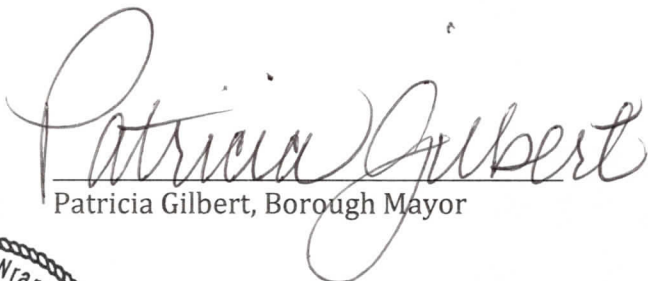
Assembly recessed into Executive Session at 9:05 p.m.

Assembly reconvened from Executive Session at 9:47 p.m.

Gilbert stated that the assembly has given the Borough Manager direction; no action has been taken.

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

ATTEST: 
Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk


Patricia Gilbert, Borough Mayor

