

**Minutes of Special Assembly Meeting  
Held on November 5, 2020**

Mayor Stephen Prysunka called the Special Assembly meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., November 5, 2020, held by Zoom Teleconference.

PRESENT: COURSON, DECKER, PRYSUNKA, MORRISON, GILBERT, POWELL, HOWE

ABSENT: NONE

Borough Manager Von Barga and Borough Clerk Lane were also in attendance.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST** – None.

Captain Dorianne Sprehe gave a presentation on the State and local COVID statistics; explained the importance of mitigating the risk of COVID blowing up in our community by enacting a mask mandate; request is being brought to the Assembly by the Wrangell Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

**PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

The following persons either read a letter that they had submitted to the Borough Clerk or commented on the potential mask mandate:

- *Penny Allen – read her correspondence*
- *Valerie Massie – read her correspondence*
- *Jean and Rod Brown – read their correspondence*
- *Jim Leslie Sr. – read his correspondence*
- *Haig and Bonnie Demerjian – read their correspondence*
- *Walter Moorhead – read his correspondence*
- *Jake Hale*
- *Danika Smalley*
- *Zack Taylor*
- *Don McConachie Sr.*
- *Sierra Rolland*
- *Dr. Lynn Prysunka – read her correspondence*
- *Don Sherman*
- *Joan Sargent – read her correspondence*
- *Mike Lockabey*
- *David Anderson*

- *Nola Walker – read her correspondence*
- *Bruce Smith*
- *Winston Davies*
- *Ron Johnson*
- *Terry Courson (read the letter submitted by Karen and Marlin Benedict)*
- *Franklin Roppel*
- *Brook Leslie*

The following persons submitted letters or statement to the Borough Clerk. These persons did not want to call into the meeting and speak under Persons to be Heard. The letters were emailed directly to the Borough Assembly by the Borough Clerk. Letters are on file in the Borough Clerks office for public inspection.

- *Alice Rooney*
- *Leilani Sanford*
- *Lovina Brock*
- *Vickie Taylor*
- *Patrick and James Freeman*
- *Bruce Smith and Carla Smith*
- *Christopher Blackburn*
- *Jillian Privett*
- *Alexandra Angerman*
- *Eli Michael*
- *Loretta Rice*
- *Chris Bunes*
- *Dennis Reed*
- *Greg Roberts*
- *Katherine Ivy – submitted correspondence*
- *Dale Parkinson*
- *Rebecca Lynne Christensen*
- *Maria Byford*
- *Trista Robinson*
- *Diane O'Brien – submitted correspondence*

Recessed Special Session at 8:05 p.m.

Reconvened back into Special Session at 8:20 p.m.

### ITEM(s) OF BUSINESS:

#### 5a Discussion Item: Merits and Options of Enacting a Mask Mandate

Von Bargaen clarified that the "ask" to the Assembly this evening was that if they were in favor of a mask mandate, the mandate would come back to the Assembly for the Regular Assembly meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Captain Sprehe summarized again why this was being brought forward to the Assembly.

Gilbert thanked the Community for their verbal testimony and letters sent in; voiced that a mask mandate would help the schools to stay open; city has spent a lot of money trying to protect our Community against COVID-19; in favor of the Emergency Order coming before the Assembly for consideration.

In response to Courson on AS 12.25.180(a), if persons in town would refuse the citation, would a person be placed under arrest, Chief Radke stated that it could possibly happen; would have to submit the charges to the District Attorney to decide if the charges would stick.

Chief Radke stated that if the mandate were adopted and there was a trend where people were not accepting the citation, he would discuss it with the Borough Manager.

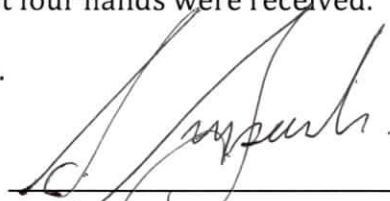
Decker stated that there is a priority to keep businesses and schools open; now that things have opened back up, we want to keep them open; wearing a mask, hand washing, social distancing are a common since approach in preventing the disease; need to take personal responsibility as a Community, at a local level.

Prysunka asked for a show of at least four hands to move this item to the next Regular Assembly meeting of November 10, 2020; at least four hands were received.

Special Assembly meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk

  
Stephen Prysunka, Mayor



