

Minutes of Regular Assembly Meeting

Held on April 28, 2020

Mayor Prysunka called the telephonically held Regular Assembly meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., April 28, 2020. The pledge was led by Assembly Member Powell and the roll was called.

PRESENT (BY TELECONFERENCE): POWELL, DECKER, GILBERT, LARRABEE, PRYSUNKA, MORRISON

ABSENT: DELONG

Borough Manager Von Bargen and Borough Clerk Lane were also in attendance via telephone.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS – None.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Joan Sargent, resident, gave the Invocation and updated the community on face-mask making efforts; checked with the library today and was told that they have handed out at least 300 masks and still have around 200 available (adult and child); publicly expressed her appreciation to all of the mask makers; also thanked those who are wearing the masks.

Mike Lockabey, resident, stated that he believed that people the City should disseminate the State's mandates for the public. Mr. Lockabey commented on city sales tax revenue and the potential loss of money to retailers in our community; gave several suggestions on how the City could spend the CARES Act Funding; commented on Mandate 14 and how it states that healthcare workers and first responders are asked to go into non-congregate shelter as to not expose their family members; doesn't see a need for this; believes that the community has done an exemplary job with protecting one another we should be considering as few restrictions as possible, going forward.

Prysunka replied that the comment from Mr. Lockabey that non-congregate (EMS, First Responders, and Healthcare Workers), there is a provision in the Mandate that if there was a requirement that they would not be able to live in their domicile, the State would be paying to put those people up in a hotel; the Mandate is not saying that they cannot live at their homes.

Von Bargen clarified that what she had said at the last meeting (update) was that we anticipate being down the last quarter of the fiscal year, which is June 30th; also anticipating considerable reductions in sales tax revenue for the upcoming quarters, as indicated by Mr. Lockabey.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA – None.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST – None.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes from the April 14, 2020 Regular Assembly Meeting
- b. Minutes from the April 16, 2020 Special Assembly Meeting

- c. Final Plat Trust Land Survey 2018-9
- d. Final Plat Trust Land Survey 2018-11
- e. Floating Public Access and Utility Easement Agreement
- f. Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority, Trust Land office, Floating Easement Agreement
- g. Final Plat Trust Land Survey 2018-10

M/S: Gilbert/Morrison to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Von Barga provided updates on the following:

- Southeast Alaska will be exempted from the anticipated Statewide Burn-Ban.
- SRS funds were estimated to be around \$950,000; actual amount that we will be getting \$883,647; slightly less than anticipated.
- Mayor signed onto a letter that was written from the Alaska Municipal League that expressed the importance of Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Funding; final form of the letter will be sent out to the Assembly, when finalized.
- Will be having a discussion with the Union representatives tomorrow about moving forward with negotiations; bargaining might be different moving forward, due to COVID-19.
- Masks / Face-coverings Local Mandate – Response from the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC), was that if we want to look at doing anything, we will need to submit a request to Commissioner Crum and he would facilitate a discussion between himself, the Borough, and the Governor.
- Received two responses regarding proposed Section 8 to the Marine Service Center Facility Use Agreement; will make those updates and get them to the fisheries group tomorrow.
- Urged anyone that still needs a mask, please contact the Library; thanked everyone in the community who sewed the masks; it is greatly appreciated.
- Stated that we need to continue to social distance and practice good hygiene; that is what is going to allow us to keep our “curve” at zero.

Carol Rushmore, Reopen Wrangell Task Force provided an update on their first two meetings; goal is to have all businesses open in Wrangell in a responsible and safe manner; 10-question survey distributed for all businesses to allow the task force to collect data to see where businesses are in re-opening and also see what their concerns were; working on a newsletter for the public with links to key sites; should be out within a week.

Updated budget calendar should be out in the next couple of days.

BOROUGH CLERK'S FILE

Clerk Lane's report was provided.

MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

Decker reported that United Fishermen of Alaska is holding a Webinar at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow to explain to Fishermen what Mandate 17 means; webinar will be recorded and available on their Website.

Prysunka reported that the Governor had stated that they and other State agencies were reporting that they have worked with the communities and local government (for example, the Fishing Mandate 17) to create it; in speaking to other Mayors around Alaska, that is not the case. Prysunka also stated that we were not consulted and in some instances, we were given less than 48 hours to review and respond. Prysunka stated that he had participated in a meeting today where the Department of Health had reported that they have had discussions with the hospitals during the fisheries discussions to ensure that hospitals could handle the surge; spoke with the SEARHC Administrator, Leatha, and she stated that the surge for this hospital is designed for the resident population; no surge plan for fish processors or tourist that could be coming into the community.

MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY APPOINTMENTS – None.

PUBLIC HEARING – None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

13a Approval of Senior Property Tax Exemptions that were received after the March 1st Deadline, but before the Late Filing Grace Period

M/S: Gilbert/Morrison to approve the Senior Property Tax Exemption received after the March 1st Deadline, but before the Late Filing Grace Period. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

13b Approval to postpone the May 2, 2020 approved Tax-Free day to June 6, 2020 unless the Governor has not lifted the restrictive mandate to allow retail establishments to open

M/S: Morrison/Decker to approve postponing the May 2, 2020 approved Tax-Free day to June 6, 2020.

Decker stated that she would like to see about making it a tax-free day with masks; in order to get the tax-free benefit, they would have to be wearing a mask.

Clerk Lane stated that the tax-free event was a Chamber event; could suggest to the Chamber to see if they would be in favor of adding that requirement to get their tax benefit.

M/S: Decker/Gilbert to amend motion to consumer must be wearing a mask in order to receive the tax-free purchase.

Larrabee stated that he believed that it might be a logistical nightmare for the vendors to compute on their registers, tax-free and non-tax-free purchases.

Powell confirmed that yes, it would be difficult.

Powell stated that perhaps the Chamber could give out a separate prize to those who were wearing masks or have a separate drawing.

Morrison said that she could see people who were not wearing masks getting upset if they didn't get the tax-free benefit; store owner and bookkeeping might be very difficult.

Amendment failed unanimously by polled vote.

Main Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

ATTORNEY'S FILE

14 Available for Assembly review in the Borough Clerk's office.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

15a Borough Clerk's Annual Evaluation

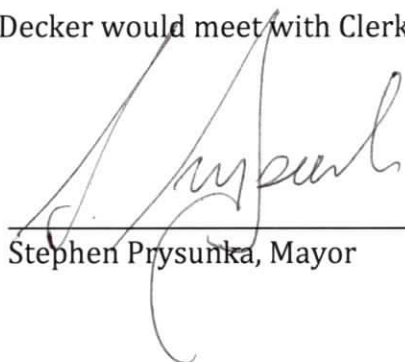
M/S: Gilbert/Morrison pursuant to 44.62.320 (c)(2), that we recess into executive session to discuss matters that may tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, specifically the Borough Clerk's Evaluation.

Recessed into Executive Session at 7:00 p.m.

Reconvened back into Regular Session at 8:01 p.m.


Prysunka stated that Assembly Members Morrison and Decker would meet with Clerk Lane to provide feedback in the next week.

Regular Assembly meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.



Stephen Prysunka, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk

