

## **Minutes of Regular Assembly Meeting**

**Held on March 9, 2021**

Mayor Prysunka called the Regular Assembly meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., March 9, 2021 by Zoom teleconference. Assembly Member Courson led the pledge of allegiance and the roll was called.

PRESENT: PRYSUNKA, POWELL, DALRYMPLE, GILBERT, MORRISON, COURSON

ABSENT: HOWE

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

CEREMONIAL MATTERS – None.

### PERSONS TO BE HEARD / PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

- a. Emailed Correspondence - Bob Lippert
- b. Public Correspondence from March 2nd Special Assembly Meeting

***Jim Bailey, resident*** spoke on Item 13a (Discussion Item: Hospice of Wrangell Request for Use of Former Wrangell Medical Center for Storage of Lending Closet Items); gave information on what Hospice does for the community.

### AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

***Gilbert/Dalrymple moved to move Item 13a to take place before the Borough Manager's Report. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.***

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Courson declared a conflict of interest to the Executive Session since his wife is a city union employee; Prysunka thanked Courson for declaring and stated that yes, he did see that there could be a conflict. There were no objections from the Assembly.

### CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes of the February 23, 2021 Regular Assembly Meeting
- b. Minutes of the February 24, 2021 Special Assembly Meeting
- c. Minutes of the March 2, 2021 Special Assembly Meeting

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

**13a** Discussion Item: Hospice of Wrangell Request for Use of Former Wrangell Medical Center for Storage of Lending Closet Items

Von Bargaen explained that since we didn't know what was in store for the old hospital, this was being brought to the Assembly for discussion.

Prysunka stated how important Hospice in the community is; nervous about storing items in the hospital itself and having to power up utilities; possibly the garage area might be a good option.

Morrison stated that she was concerned about liability; definitely a worthy cause.

Von Bargen stated that if there was general consensus to move forward on this, Administration can work with Hospice and see if we can come up with a suitable location and bring something back to the Assembly for consideration.

#### BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Public Works Director, Tom Wetor gave a report on the tire shear and de-rimming machine; securing with grant funds from SEASWA; would be used by Southeast Communities; would most likely get it for three months at a time, every six months or so.

Manager Von Bargen's report was provided; also provided a Budget update for FY2021.

#### BOROUGH CLERK'S FILE

Clerk Lane's report was provided.

#### MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

Prysunka stated SEAPA is moving forward with the cable replacement from Vanks Island over to Wornofski; GCI had the cable layer vessel here laying their fiber optic cable; GCI's cable runs over the top of the SEAPA cables; SEAPA is looking at options for underwater cable replacement possibly in the summer; looking at possibly purchasing cable to accommodate our longest run, just in case, and storing it in Wrangell; essentially, having a spare.

MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY APPOINTMENTS – None.

PUBLIC HEARING – None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

#### NEW BUSINESS

***Item 13a was moved by vote of the Assembly to be considered before the Borough Manager's Report.***

**13a** Discussion Item: Hospice of Wrangell Request for Use of Former Wrangell Medical Center for Storage of Lending Closet Items

**13b** Approval of a Professional Services Agreement with Shannon & Wilson in the Amount of \$86,775 for Site Characterization Activities at Three Borough-Owned Contaminated Soil Sites

***M/S: Morrison/Gilbert to Approve a Professional Services Agreement with Shannon & Wilson in the amount of \$86,775 for Site Characterization Activities at Three Borough-Owned Contaminated Soil Sites.***

Amber Al-Haddad reported on the three areas that this work would be done and what the scope of work would be; work plans have been developed by Shannon & Wilson and approved by DEC; Shannon & Wilson would be monitoring and testing to determine the level of contamination.

***Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.***

**13c ORDINANCE NO 990** OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING SECTION 16.08, TIDELAND LEASES, OF THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE

***M/S: Gilbert/Powell to Approve first reading of Ordinance No. 990 and move to a Second Reading with a Public Hearing to be held on March 23, 2021.***

Gilbert had several recommended changes throughout the Ordinance. There were no objections from the Assembly on the changes.

***Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.***

**13d** Approval to extend the Professional Services Agreement for Municipal Legal Services between Levesque Law Group, LLC and the City & Borough of Wrangell

***M/S: Powell/Gilbert to approve the extension of the Professional Services Agreement for Municipal Legal Services between Levesque Law Group, LLC and the City & Borough of Wrangell.***

Von Bargaen outlined what Levesque Law Group does for the Borough; recommended that the City retains Levesque Law Group.

***Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.***

**13e Approval of a Professional Services Agreement with NTL Alaska for Interim Water Quality Solutions Assessment and Staff Training in the Amount of \$29,749.50**

***M/S: Powell/Gilbert to Approve Professional Services Agreement with NTL Alaska for Interim Water Quality Solutions Assessment and Staff Training in the Amount of \$29,749.50.***

Von Bargaen explained that we have had some water issues this year; taking a look at what might be helpful for our staff to figure out what the root issue may be; NTL Alaska can come and evaluate and provide training; if this is approved, the next item on the Agenda is to help pay for the budget shortfall for this item.

***Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.***

**13f RESOLUTION NO. 03-21-1568** OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING THE FY 2021 BUDGET IN THE WATER FUND BY TRANSFERRING \$4,849.92 FROM WATER FUND RESERVES TO THE WATER PROFESSIONAL/CONTRACTUAL SERVICES ACCOUNT AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXPENDITURE

***M/S: Powell/Morrison to Approve Resolution No. 03-21-1568. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.***

**13g RESOLUTION NO. 03-21-1569** OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA AMENDING THE BUDGET IN THE INDUSTRIAL CONSTRUCTION FUND TRANSFERRING \$3,000 FROM INDUSTRIAL CONSTRUCTION FUND RESERVES TO INDUSTRIAL CONSTRUCTION FUND PROFESSIONAL/CONTRACTUAL SERVICES ACCOUNT AND AUTHORIZING ITS

EXPENDITURE FOR THE ARMORY BUILDING HAZARD MATERIALS ASSESSMENT AND ARMORY  
PROPERTY APPRAISAL

***M/S: Powell/Courson to Approve Resolution No. 03-21-1569.***

Von Barga stated that since the Assembly has provided direction to make the Armory Building ready for sale; the assessment was necessary because of the hazardous materials; this budget amendment is to pay for that assessment as well as paying for the appraisal.

***Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.***

ATTORNEY'S FILE

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

**15a** Discuss and Provide Update of the Status of the Collective Bargaining Negotiations

***M/S: Morrison/Gilbert moved to Approve, Pursuant to AS 44.62.310 (c)(3), that we go into Executive Session, and invite the Borough Collective Bargaining Team, Borough Attorney and Borough Manager, to discuss and provide an update of the status of the Collective Bargaining Negotiations, a matter "which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance" is required to be confidential.***

**15b** Vandebunte Traffic Conviction Appeal Discussion with Borough Attorney

***M/S: Morrison/Gilbert moved Pursuant to AS 44.62.310, that we go into Executive Session, and invite the Borough Attorney, the Borough Manager and Police Chief, to discuss the Vandebunte Traffic Conviction Appeal, a matter which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance, are required to be confidential.***

*Recessed into Executive Session at: 8:12 p.m.*

*Reconvened back into Regular Session at: 9:27 p.m.*

Borough Attorney Joe Levesque provided an update to the Vandebunte matter; Mr. Vandebunte was cited for two violations; violations were upheld in court; time to file an appeal had passed; still, he contacted a defense attorney to appeal the decision and the court approved the appeal; now moving forward to defend that appeal.

Regular Assembly meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

---

Stephen Prysunka, Borough Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk