

**Minutes of Regular Assembly Meeting  
Held on February 13, 2024**

Mayor Patricia Gilbert called the Regular Assembly meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., February 13, 2024, in the Borough Assembly Chambers. Assembly Member Powell led the pledge of allegiance.

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

**ABSENT** – None

Interim Borough Manager Villarma and Clerk Lane were also present.

**CEREMONIAL MATTERS** – None.

**PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

*Chris Ellis, Wrangell Resident*, spoke on the item for requiring insurance for vessels in the harbor; type of insurance is very important; Seward and Whittier are the only ones that require insurance for vessels in the harbor and the requirement is for liability; gave the example from Juneau on how much they are charging (surcharge) per foot; Wrangell is considering \$5 per foot and Juneau is a lot less than \$5 per foot.

*Cassie Schlotzhauer, Wrangell Resident*, spoke regarding the city parks and the need for upgrades; wanting to do a dedication park in the Shoemaker Park area, in memory of their daughter who passed away recently; looking to push for upgrades and to make the park ADA compliant both on the grounds and swings.

*Wayne Ellis, Wrangell Resident*, spoke on the item for requiring insurance for vessels and on the fact that most of the boats are not insured; may be other options that could be put in place instead of requiring insurance.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA** – None.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Dalrymple declared a potential conflict of interest to Item 13h. Gilbert stated that she could understand the potential conflict, however, it would affect all of the Assembly Members, so she declared no conflict. There were no objections from the Assembly.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION ONLY:** *Move to Approve the Consent Agenda, as submitted.*

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

6b **RESOLUTION NO. 02-24-1839** OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$22,500 FROM CLEAN VESSEL ACT GRANT FOR THE PUMPOUT STATION AT SHOEMAKER HARBOR

6c **RESOLUTION NO. 02-24-1840** OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING THE PORT AND HARBOR FUND FOR THE AK DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME CLEAN VESSEL ACT (CVA) 25% REQUIRED

MATCH FOR THE PUMPOUT STATION AT SHOEMAKER HARBOR AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXPENDITURE

6d ~~RESOLUTION NO. 02-24-1842 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, SUPPORTING DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) FOR THE FEMA COOPERATING TECHNICAL PARTNERS (CTP) PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION~~ *Powell removed from the Consent Agenda – moved to Unfinished Business*

6e Approval of a Letter of Support for House Bill (HB) 201

6f CORRESPONDENCE: Minutes from the December 18, 2023, Regular School Board Meeting

***M/S: Morrison/Powell to approve the Consent Agenda, as amended. Motion approved by polled vote.***

### **BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT**

Economic Development Director Thomas provided an economic report. Matt Henson, Marketing and Community Development Coordinator gave a brief report on the recent visit from the USCG Pike; spoke in the upcoming "Kids don't float / Touch a boat" event in April.

Interim Borough Manager Villarma provided his report.

### **BOROUGH CLERK'S REPORT**

Clerk Lane provided her report.

### **MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY BUSINESS**

Gilbert asked that we strengthen our MOA with both the Forest Service and Wrangell Cooperative Association.

Morrison stated that we might want to adopt an MOU with Sealaska as well.

### **MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY APPOINTMENTS – None.**

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

11a Petition to Rezone Lot 5, Block 1, according to Plat 83-11 of Wrangell Island West, zoned Rural Residential changing the zoning district from Rural Residential (RR) to Rural Remote Unit (RMU) requested by Christian Ryll

Gilbert called the Public Hearing to order and asked for an administrative report.

Villarma stated that the Planning & Zoning did not approve the request to rezone Mr. Ryll's property.

Thomas also stated that because a zone change is legislative matter that would amend the code, the ultimate decision falls in the assembly; the Planning & Zoning Commission made a recommendation to deny the petition.

Mayor Gilbert opened the Public Hearing and asked if there was any persons who wanted to speak on this item.



**Rod Ryll, resident**, stated that when they originally purchased the property they liked the remoteness; they opened up the road but the road does not go to the property; didn't want that; chose to remain remote residential; access is not highway access.

Gilbert closed the Public Hearing and asked for a motion.

***M/S: Morrison/Ottesen Petition to Rezone Lot 5, Block 1, according to Plat 83-11 of Wrangell Island West, zoned Rural Residential changing the zoning district from Rural Residential (RR) to Rural Remote Unit (RMU) requested by Christian Ryll.***

Gilbert stated that there was currently no RMU zoning designation in Wrangell Island West in the Wrangell Municipal Code.

Thomas stated that before we became a borough in 2008 and before the Comprehensive plan was adopted in 2010, there were several areas that remained RMU; the Ryll property may have been considered RMU before incorporation however, after incorporation, the area in question was rezoned RR, most likely due to its proximity to Zimovia Highway; Thomas also stated that Mr. Ryll's property is currently accessible by a private driveway that was developed by the two southern property owners.

At the request of Gilbert on what Spot Zoning was, Thomas stated that "Spot Zoning" is essentially changing the zoning of an individual parcel within a greater area of land; the Alaska Statutes do not preclude spot zoning necessarily although the courts have reviewed certain cases to determine the ethics of it; provided a reference to some case studies in Homer where the courts ruled in favor of the municipality when someone sought spot zoning for their particular land area.

***Motion failed unanimously by polled vote.***

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**12a RESOLUTION NO. 02-24-1842** OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, SUPPORTING DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) FOR THE FEMA COOPERATING TECHNICAL PARTNERS (CTP) PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION (moved from the Consent Agenda)

***M/S: Powell/Ottesen to approve Resolution No. 02-24-1841. Motion approved by polled vote.***

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**13a ORDINANCE No. 1050** OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, ADDING SECTION 14.09.042, USE OF PORT AND HARBOR DUMPSTERS, IN CHAPTER 14.09 PROHIBITED PRACTICES, IN THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE

***M/S: Powell/Morrison to approve First Reading of Ordinance No. 1050 and move to a Second Reading with a Public Hearing to be held on February 27, 2024. Motion approved by polled vote.***

**13b ORDINANCE No. 1051** OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING THE MINOR OFFENSE FINE SCHEDULE IN CHAPTER 1.20, GENERAL PENALTY, OF THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE

***M/S: Powell/Morrison to approve First Reading of Ordinance No. 1051 and move to a Second Reading with a Public Hearing to be held on February 27, 2024. Motion approved by polled vote.***

**13c RESOLUTION No. 02-24-1841** OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE FY2024 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) GRANT PROGRAM AND COMMITTING FUNDS FOR PROJECT COSTS THAT EXCEED \$25,000,000 AND PROJECT COST OVERRUNS FOR THE WRANGELL HARBOR BASIN REVITALIZATION & TRANSPORTATION RESILIENCY PROJECT

***M/S: Morrison/Ottesen to approve Resolution No. 02-24-1841. Motion approved by polled vote.***

**13d RESOLUTION NO. 02-24-1843** OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF TWO PUMP REBUILD KITS IN CONFORMANCE WITH WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 5.10.061, DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS PROPERTY EXCEPT TO WAIVE THE PROVISION THAT STATES "TO DISPOSE OF IN ACCORDANCE WITH WRITTEN POLICIES AND PROCEDURES"

***M/S: Powell/Ottesen to approve Resolution No. 02-24-1843. Motion approved by polled vote.***

13e Discussion and Possible Direction: Port & Harbor Insurance

After extensive discussion with the Borough Assembly, Harbormaster Miller, and Interim Manager Villarma, the Assembly directed the Borough Manager to schedule a Joint Work Session with the Port Commission for March 7, 2024.

***Joe Holden, Wrangell Resident*** spoke in favor of insurance for vessels.

13f Discussion and Possible Direction: Mill Property Uses

Villarma stated that a good vision for the Mill Property would be to bring in business and job opportunities; asked if the Assembly was open to longer term leases.

After more discussion, there was no objection to opening up longer term leases at the Mill Site location.

13g Approval of Congressional Direct Spending Priorities

***M/S: Powell/Ottesen to approve the recommended Congressional Direct Spending Priorities for FY2025. Motion approved by polled vote.***

**13h ORDINANCE No. 1052** OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, ADDING SECTION 3.04.095 - MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY COMPENSATION TO CHAPTER 3.04 - ASSEMBLY - GENERAL PROVISIONS IN THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE

***M/S: Morrison/Ottesen to approve First Reading of Ordinance No. 1052 and move to a Second Reading with a Public Hearing to be held on February 27, 2024.***

Dalrymple stated that if there was an issue with attendance, the municipal code covers that downfall; has a problem with the Assembly essentially funding themselves; would rather that this be brought before the people as an advisory vote at the next election.

Powell expressed that this is not about compensation; this is about attracting younger people to run for office.



**M/S: DeBord/Powell to amend the Ordinance to add a provision that allows any assembly member to elect to forego compensation. Amendment was approved with Powell, Robbins, DeBord, Morrison, Ottesen, and Gilbert voting yes; Dalrymple voted no.**

**Main motion, as amended was approved with Powell, Robbins, DeBord, Morrison, Ottesen, and Gilbert voting yes; Dalrymple voted no.**

**13i RESOLUTION NO. 02-24-1844 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, PROVIDING FOR THE ADDITION OF AN INTERN POSITION AND THE AMENDMENT TO THE NON-UNION WAGE AND GRADE TABLE**

**M/S: Morrison/Ottesen to approve Resolution No. 02-24-1844.**

Morrison spoke in favor of this.

Powell spoke in opposition to doing this as an on-the-job training position since the borough would be putting in a lot of time into a person who will not stick around; believes this is a good idea but needs more work.

Villarma stated that this position would be specific to City Hall needs.

**Motion approved by polled vote.**

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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

15a Executive Session: IBEW Collective Bargaining Agreement Negotiations Progress

**M/S: Morrison/Powell moved, pursuant to AK 44.66.310(c)(1), that we go into Executive Session, and invite the Interim Borough Manager and Assistant Interim Borough Manager, to discuss the Collective Bargaining progress which is a matter by law required to be confidential. Motion approved by polled vote.**

The Assembly moved into Executive Session at 8:48 p.m.

The Assembly reconvened back into the Regular meeting at 9:27 p.m.

Regular Assembly meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

*Patricia Gilbert*  
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Patricia Gilbert, Borough Mayor

ATTEST: *Kim Lane*  
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Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk



