

Minutes of Regular Assembly Meeting

Held on April 12, 2022

Mayor Prysunka called the Regular Assembly meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., April 12, 2022, in the Borough Assembly Chambers. Assembly Member Powell led the pledge of allegiance, and the roll was called.

PRESENT: DALRYMPLE, POWELL, GILBERT, and PRYSUNKA

ABSENT: MORRISON, DEBORD and HOWE

Borough Manager Jeff Good and Borough Clerk Lane were also present.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

A Proclamation for the Wrangell Lady Wolves Basketball Team was presented by Mayor Prysunka.

Recessed meeting at 6:02pm

Reconvened meeting at 6:07pm

Representative Dan Ortiz participated via telephone to provide an update to the Assembly on funding opportunities, based on our projects.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD / PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from Brittani Robbins was submitted to the Assembly and was included in the Assembly Packet.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Assembly Member Dalrymple requested to move Item 6b (Ordinance No. 1023) from the Consent Agenda. Therefore, Item 6b was moved to Unfinished Business for consideration.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST – None.

CONSENT AGENDA

6a ORDINANCE No. 1022 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS IN CHAPTER 15.16, CEMETERY, AND ESTABLISHING A NEW PROCESS FOR FEES AND RATES BY REMOVING THE FEES AND RATES FROM THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE AND ADDING THEM TO A FEE AND RATE SCHEDULE

6b ORDINANCE No. 1023 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS IN CHAPTER 5.08, REVENUE AND FINANCE, IN THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE

6c RESOLUTION No. 04-22-1679 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA AMENDING THE FY 2022 BUDGET IN THE WASTE WATER FUND BY TRANSFERRING \$10,000 FROM WASTE WATER FUND RESERVES TO THE WASTE WATER COLLECTION SYSTEM MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXPENDITURE FOR WASTE WATER COLLECTION SYSTEM PUMPS AND SPARE PARTS

6d RESOLUTION No. 04-22-1680 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, CREATING THE 911 SURCHARGE SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

6e RESOLUTION No. 04-22-1681 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING THE FY 2022 BUDGET IN THE CEMETERY CAPITAL EXPENDITURES BUDGET BY TRANSFERRING \$57,739 FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE CEMETERY CAPITAL EXPENDITURES BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXPENDITURE FOR THE SUNSET GARDENS CEMETERY COLUMBARIUM PROJECT

6f RESOLUTION No. 04-22-1682 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, APPROVING AMENDMENT II TO THE POLE RENTAL AGREEMENT WITH ALASKA TELEPHONE COMPANY

6g RESOLUTION No. 04-22-1683 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING THE FY 2022 BUDGET IN THE LIBRARY CAPITAL EXPENDITURES BUDGET BY TRANSFERRING \$23,625 FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE LIBRARY CAPITAL EXPENDITURES BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXPENDITURE FOR THE LIBRARY CARPET REPLACEMENT PROJECT

6h RESOLUTION No. 04-22-1684 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING THE FY 2022 BUDGET IN THE STREETS FUND BY TRANSFERRING \$65,000 FROM THE SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS FUND RESERVES TO THE STREETS CAPITAL EXPENDITURES BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXPENDITURE FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROJECT

6i RESOLUTION No. 04-22-1685 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING THE FY 2022 BUDGET IN THE INDUSTRIAL CONSTRUCTION FUND APPROPRIATING \$25,000 TO PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXPENDITURE FOR THE ENGINEERING ASSESSMENT OF THE FORMER 6 MILE MILL SITE

6j Minutes from the March 22, 2022 Regular Assembly Meeting

6k CORRESPONDENCE: School Board Action from the March 21, 2022 Regular Meeting

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

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Good's report was provided.

BOROUGH CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Lane's report was provided.

MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

Dalrymple thanked Staff for their work on the Cemetery expansion and new Columbarium projects.

MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY APPOINTMENTS

Appointment to fill the Vacancy on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

As there were no letters of interest received for this vacancy, Mayor Prysunka directed the Clerk to continue advertising.

PUBLIC HEARING

11a Accepting alternative proposals for funding considerations and seeking further citizen views and community comments on proposed projects for funding under the FFY20 Community Development Block Grant-COVID Round 2 (CDBG-CV2) program and selecting a project

Mayor Prysunka called to order the Public Hearing on this item and asked if there was an administrative report.

Carol Rushmore, Economic Development Director explained to the Assembly and public that this hearing was to request public input for the purpose of soliciting ideas for projects to be submitted to the Federal Fiscal Year 2020 (FFY20) Community Development Block Grant-COVID Round 2 (CDBG-CV2) program for project funding. Rushmore stated that the public hearing would be followed by an Assembly decision and action based on public input.

Rushmore further explained that the overall mission of the State of Alaska CDBG-CV Program was to enhance the quality of life for low and moderate-income residents, particularly in rural Alaska by preventing, preparing for, and responding to coronavirus. Rushmore said that the CDBG-CV Program fulfills this mission by acting upon its defined goals and objectives.

Rushmore said that the National goals of the program are to:

- Provide financial resources to communities for community development including building and improvements of public facilities used to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus; and
- Ensure that the state's CDBG-CV funds will be used to principally benefit low and moderate-income persons.

Rushmore said that the following objectives guide the Statewide distribution and use of funds:

- Prevent, Prepare for, and Respond to the spread of the coronavirus.

Rushmore stated that the State of Alaska CDBG-CV Program may only be used to fund community development activities carried out to prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus. Also, that by law, use of funds for any other purpose is unallowable.

Rushmore stated that a public hearing is required to be held to provide an opportunity for the community to comment on and suggest potential projects eligible for the CDBG-CV funding and to also comment specifically on Borough staff-recommended projects under consideration.

Additionally, Rushmore said that solicitation for project ideas from the public have been posted via radio, Facebook, website, bulletin boards, radio, and newspaper.

Rushmore stated that the following are examples of eligible activities:

- Reconfiguration of interior space to reinforce social distancing recommendations.
- Interior physical barriers such as clear plexiglass in public areas.
- Ventilation Systems (high-efficiency particulate air filters, air purifiers, dehumidifiers).
- Temperature, humidity, and air quality sensors to reduce airborne transmission.
- Stand-alone sinks or handwashing stations.
- Replacement of fixed windows with operable windows.
- Accessibility improvements for persons with disabilities that reduce contact.
- Installation of drive-through or walk-up windows.
- Technology improvements to support remote access.
- Modification of roadways and sidewalks to allow for social distancing.
- Creation of outdoor areas with shade covers and seating that ensure physical distancing.
- Exterior physical barriers such as fencing or planters.

Rushmore said that Staff had prepared a list of projects for consideration by the public and the Assembly. She said that this was a general list with basic project information. Also, that this list would be updated with any additional information prior to the public hearing and any alternative proposed projects submitted by the public through public outreach this week and during the participation in the community meeting. Rushmore stated that a sign-in sheet was provided to document public attendance for this public hearing.

Rushmore stated that of April 5, 2022, the following projects are proposed for funding consideration, either by staff or by the public:

1. Primary School Carpet Replacement in the Multi-Purpose Room: Estimated Cost \$75,000.

This project was suggested by the Assembly during the public hearing discussion of the round 1 CDBG-CV grant process.

This proposed project replaces carpet flooring in the Evergreen Elementary School's Multi-Purpose Gymnasium, an area that serves as their Lunchroom, indoor recreational area, and Public Assembly space, which is well beyond its useful life and poses a sanitary concern. The project includes removing the existing, approximately 4,500 sf of carpet flooring and replacing it with a non-porous, hard-surface flooring, which could be routinely disinfected for sanitary concerns. Preliminary investigations for the carpet replacement to a hard service is estimated to cost approximately \$75,000.

2. High School HVAC Upgrades: Estimate unknown

The High School has heating and ventilation system issues. The pneumatic control system is no longer supported and has failed in many locations, leaving much of the building in a state that requires manual adjustments by maintenance staff and with no ability to monitor the status of the system, locally or remotely.

3. Solid Waste Transfer Facility Loading Dock: Estimate unknown

The existing operational structure for the loading dock handling situation for the new bailer actually increases the number of times all solid waste is handled before and after bailing. With COVID being able to be transmitted through contaminated surfaces and airborne, the additional handling could present a risk to municipal workers. Redesigning the loading dock access to minimize touch points could mitigate the risk. Staff is working on determining if this project can be presented in enough detail for the application which is due in 2.5 weeks.

4. Community Center/Emergency Shelter Generator Replacement: Estimate \$750,000

The Community Center is identified in our Hazard Mitigation Plan as an emergency shelter for the community. A standby power generator is necessary for emergency situations. The lack of a standby power generator prevented the building's use as an emergency shelter for people without power during the December 2021 windstorm and power outage event. This was suggested during the Round 1 grant applications.

A Condition Assessment was performed in 2014 with total recommended improvements for a Community Center Improvements and Rehabilitation project totaling approximately \$2,800,000. However, there has been no engineering completed for the addition of a back-up generator, although some has been done for the Fire Alarm System Replacement and Electrical Distribution Upgrades. Because the project must be completed by July 2023, there is not time for the engineering, purchase, and installation.

The following suggestions for additional projects were made during the Public Hearing:

1. Assembly Member Gilbert suggested the Senior Center Facility needs to prepare or respond to COVID.
2. Manager Good suggested the City Park Shelter.
3. Mayor Prysunka suggested something with our Sewer Pumps.
4. Assembly Member Powell suggested a sewer pump truck.
5. Tom Wetor, Public Works Director, suggested a slope concrete vault for receiving Wastewater at the treatment plant.
6. Prysunka suggested replacing the lockers at the Recreation facility.

Dalrymple asked if there were any issues on the number one suggested project on replacing the carpet at the elementary school.

Rushmore stated that no, there were no issues with that project.

Prysunka asked if there were any other persons wishing to speak on this item. Prysunka stated that there were several additional projects proposed and that those projects would be documented. Prysunka closed the Public Hearing and asked for a motion on this item.

M/S: Gilbert/Powell to approve applying for the Primary School Carpet Replacement ~~in the Multi-Purpose Room with the Estimated Cost of \$75,000~~ as the selected project for the Federal Fiscal Year 2020 (FFY20) Community Development Block Grant-COVID Round 2(CDBG-CV2) Program. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

M/S: Powell/Gilbert amended the motion to remove “in the Multipurpose Room with the Estimated Cost of \$75,000” and added the wording “throughout the entire Elementary School”. Amendment was approved unanimously by polled vote.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12a RESOLUTION No. 03-22-1675 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, CREATING THE FEE AND RATE SCHEDULE FOR THE WRANGELL WATER DEPARTMENT AND IMPLEMENTING A STRUCTURE FOR INCREASING FEES AND RATES (*postponed from the March 22, 2022 Assembly Meeting*)

M/S: Gilbert/Powell to approve Resolution No. 03-22-1675.

Good explained how the increases would occur for the next five years; purpose was to make sure that we would have enough funding to pay off the debt incurred in building the new water treatment plant; would also endure that we had some funds in reserves to cover the costs for any needed repairs or replacements of parts, etc.

In response to Gilbert on if we have locked in the 1.5 interest rate, Villarma explained that the loan interest rate will not be locked in until we go out to bid; loan and grant are tied together; must use the loan first and the grant second.

After more discussion, the following amendment was made:

M/S: Powell/Dalrymple to amend the Ordinance to a flat 30% increase, effective May 1, 2022.

Amendment was approved unanimously by polled vote.

M/S: Gilbert/Powell to postpone amended motion until the next Assembly Meeting.

12b *Reconsideration of* RESOLUTION No. 03-22-1676 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, CREATING THE FEE AND RATE SCHEDULE FOR THE WRANGELL SEWER DEPARTMENT AND IMPLEMENTING A STRUCTURE FOR INCREASING FEES AND RATES (*requested from Assembly Member Gilbert*)

M/S: Gilbert/Powell to reconsider Resolution No. 03-22-1676 that was approved at the March 22, 2022, Assembly meeting.

Gilbert explained the reasoning behind why she wanted to have the Resolution reconsidered.

Villarma explained that the reasoning behind the larger increase up front is because there are several capital project needs coming up and this will help.

After more discussion:

The request to reconsider Resolution No. 03-22-1676 failed with Gilbert voting yes; Dalrymple, Powell and Prysunka voted no.

6b12c ORDINANCE No. 1023 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS IN CHAPTER 5.08, REVENUE AND FINANCE, IN THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE

M/S: Powell/Gilbert to approve first reading of Ordinance No, 1023 and move to a Second Reading with a Public Hearing to be held on April 26, 2022.

Powell stated that he was not in favor of removing the Sales Tax Cap; we are one of the highest communities that cap their sales tax; stated that he is aware of several large purchases that people are making down South, and they are not paying any sales tax; does not believe the amount would be a lot more than what we are making now.

M/S: Powell/Dalrymple to amend the Ordinance to remove item 4 (sales tax cap) from the Ordinance. Amendment was approved unanimously by polled vote.

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

NEW BUSINESS

13a Approval of Sole Source Purchase of a New Columbarium from Sunset Memorial & Stone Ltd. in the amount of \$36,989 in Conformance with Wrangell Municipal Code Section 5.10.050 B

M/S: Powell/Gilbert to approve a Sole Source Purchase of a New Columbarium from Sunset Memorial & Stone Ltd. in the amount of \$36,989 in Conformance with Wrangell Municipal Code Section 5.10.050 B. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

13b Approval to move forward with the Cemetery Expansion, Phase 1, as presented

M/S: Powell/Gilbert to approve moving forward with the Cemetery Expansion, Phase 1, as presented. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

13c Approval of a negotiated land sale of Borough Owned Property to resolve encroachments in a portion of Tract Y, USS 2321, to Bill and Maria Byford

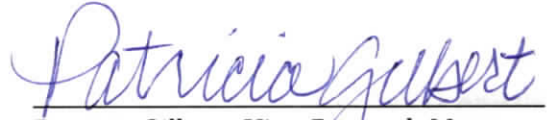
M/S: Gilbert/Powell to approve the Negotiated Sale of Borough Owned Property, in a portion of Tract Y, USS 2321, to Bill and Maria Byford. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.


ATTORNEY'S FILE

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

Regular Assembly meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.


Patricia Gilbert, Vice-Borough Mayor

ATTEST: 
Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk

