

**Minutes of Special Assembly Meeting
Held on July 21, 2020**

Mayor Stephen Prysunka called the Special Assembly meeting to order at 5:32 p.m., July 21, 2020, held by Zoom Teleconference.

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

ABSENT:

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

PERSONS TO BE HEARD – None.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Gilbert declared a potential conflict of interest to Item 5a (Approval of CARES Act Funding in the Amount of \$250,000 for Wrangell Public Schools for COVID-19 Mitigation) due to her being a lobbyist for the School District as a member of the School Board. Prysunka declared that in reviewing with the attorney, it does appear that she did have a conflict of interest, due to her lobbying interest for the school and therefore that conflict did preclude her from participating in Item 5a. There were no objections from the Assembly.

Howe declared a potential conflict of interest to Item 5a (Approval of CARES Act Funding in the Amount of \$250,000 for Wrangell Public Schools for COVID-19 Mitigation) due to his employment with the School District. Prysunka declared that as an employee of the school, none of the funds would directly benefit him, above any other employee of the school. Therefore, Prysunka stated that he did not see a conflict. There were no objections from the Assembly.

ITEM(s) OF BUSINESS:

5a Approval of CARES Act Funding in the Amount of \$250,000 for Wrangell Public Schools for COVID-19 Mitigation

M/S: Decker/Morrison to approve CARES Act Funding in the Amount of \$250,000 for Wrangell Public Schools for COVID-19 Mitigation.

Dr. Debbe Lancaster, School Superintendent stated that the many items that are on the list that was submitted are required for reopening the schools safely; the personnel aspect of the request was to hire two sanitation aids.

Responding to Prysunka, Von Bargaen stated that the reason why the recommendation was for \$250,000 and not for the \$483,636 that was on the list of recommendations was because we have approximately \$500,000 in CARES act funding remaining; we don't know what emergent items may come up; would leave the City with a cushion for any emergent COVID needs.

In response to Howe on if there were Federal Funds distributed to the schools, Dr. Lancaster stated that the school district received \$86,000; used \$73,000 for iPads and some Spring cleaning supplies.

Decker recommended that for the next meeting, that we consider a Resolution to support funding for schools and municipalities CARES 2.0 and get that to our Congressional Delegation; requires money for the schools to open safely.

Powell stated that he might like to wait a few weeks to say "yes" to this, to see if the school would be receiving additional funding.

In response to Powell on if the school had looked or received funding or assistance from other agencies, Dr. Lancaster stated that the school had received some PPE from the Fire Department and the State; State will be providing a free platform for distance learning and training for teachers; actively searching for additional funding.

Von Bargaen stated that the full list of requested items and funding from the school was provided to the Emergency Operations Command (EOC); Captain Sprehe and Jamie Roberts were looking for other options for funding.

Powell stated that he was worried about running out of the CARES Act funding; City might need these funds for City departments.

Prysunka stated that based on the list of requested items, it appears that the decision moving forward was to open the schools; concerned that there is no guarantee that there will be additional funding coming to the City; supports helping the school however, concerned about some of the items on the list.

In response to Powell on how much money was in the school reserves, Dr. Lancaster stated that there was about 1 million dollars that could be spent for emergencies.

Von Bargaen stated that if the Assembly chose to do so, the City could reimburse the School District school district for items, instead of writing a check for the entire amount.

Motion approved unanimously by polled vote with Gilbert not voting.

5b Approval to Appoint Assembly Member Anne Morrison and Carol Rushmore to the Collective Bargaining Team for the City and Borough of Wrangell

M/S: Gilbert/Powell to approve the appointment Assembly Member Anne Morrison and Carol Rushmore to the Collective Bargaining Team for the City & Borough of Wrangell. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

5c Approval of Collective Bargaining Ground Rules

Von Bargaen asked that the Assembly table this item until after the Executive Session.

M/S: Decker/Morrison to table this item until after the Executive Session. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

5d Executive Session: Discuss and provide update of the status of the Collective Bargaining Negotiations

M/S: Gilbert/Powell Pursuant to AS 44.62.310 (c)(3), that we go into Executive Session, and invite the Borough Collective Bargaining Team, 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.

*Recessed into Executive Session at 6:41 p.m.
Reconvened back into Special Session at 8:00 p.m.*

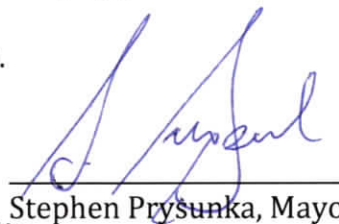
5c Approval of Collective Bargaining Ground Rules (previously tabled)

M/S: Gilbert/Powell to approve the Collective Bargaining Ground Rules.


M/S: Decker/Morrison to amend the motion to strike Sections 19 & 20 and replace with the language: "If the parties are unable to agree on articles or sections, the IBEW and City agree to come together and determine a mutual path forward". Amendment approved unanimously by polled vote.

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

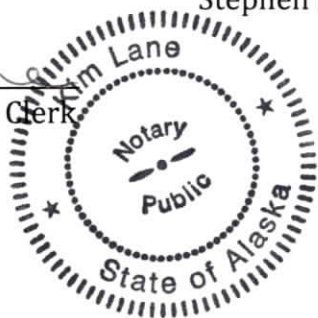
Special Assembly meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.



Stephen Prysunka, Mayor

ATTEST: 

Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk



240



~~230~~