

Minutes of Regular Assembly Meeting

Held on May 28, 2019

Mayor Stephen Prysunka called the Regular Assembly meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., May 28, 2019, in the Borough Assembly Chambers. The pledge was led by Assembly Member David Powell and the roll was called.

PRESENT: PRYSUNKA, GILBERT, DELONG, POWELL, MORRISON, DECKER, DEBORD

ABSENT: NONE

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

CEREMONIAL MATTERS – None.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD – None.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA – None.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

DeBord stated that because he worked for Wrangell Medical Center and they provided services for the Wrangell Public School, he might have a conflict. Mayor Prysunka stated that he did not see a Conflict; there were no objections from the Assembly.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Consent Agenda MOTION
- b. Assembly Minutes - May 14, 2019 (Regular)
- c. CORRESPONDENCE School Board Action – May 10, 2019 (Special)
- d. Review of the Certification of 2019 Real Property Tax Roll by Appraisal Company of Alaska

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

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Von Barga's reported on the following items:

- Wrangell Medical Center Groundbreaking Ceremony – Thursday, May 30, 2019 from noon to 1:30 p.m.
- SEAPA Board meeting; asking to change FY to a Calendar Year
- Representative from Viking Cruises; looking at adding Wrangell as a stop in the coming years
- Last week the Mayor and Manager met with WCA; would like to pay to have the lot next to the Carving Shed paved; DEC has not yet signed off on the soil yet; will follow up
- Notification: purchased one fuel fuselage from Nome; will allow us to clean fuel before it goes into our system (\$20,000)

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- Water Conservation Town Hall meeting – June 12th
 - Received the 6% (\$61,168) from the SRS funding; Federal Government originally held the 6% out of the amount previously received

Decker questioned what our Water Strategy for notifying the public was.

Von Bargaen stated that Staff would be discussing a strategy; talking to the media, etc.; inviting SEAPA would also be a good idea.

Prysunka stated that we need to give people some notice before hitting them with a Water Stage Watch enforcement; having water at least at the fuel docks is a must.

BOROUGH CLERK'S FILE

Clerk Lane's report was provided.

MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

Morrison reported that she attended a Friends of the Museum meeting; about 15 people showed up; going to have a membership drive to rejuvenate the Board; wonderful exhibit coming to the Museum in a couple of weeks; will hold a reception for that.

Prysunka gave a SEAPA update; sitting now at 1,285 feet; dropped about 10-15 below our worst year; should be adopting the buffer of 1,290 feet in June so that water cannot be sold to the South if the water drops below that level; worried that we are starting to reach the end of the snow pack; next SEAPA Board meeting will be June 19th in Wrangell at the Nolan Center.

Prysunka stated that he and Manager Von Bargaen met with the Forest Service about the derelict vehicles on Zarimbo; Prysunka questioned the wrecked vehicle that was around Lower Salamander; Forest Service was asking for assistance from the City; feels that if there is no plan to take care of the vehicles on Zarimbo at this time; would like to see a plan in place first.

MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY APPOINTMENTS – None.

PUBLIC HEARING

11a Official Public Hearing on the FY 2019-20 Budget

Mayor Prysunka declared the Public Hearing open on the FY 2019-20 Budget.

Von Bargaen stated that the approval of the FY 2019-20 will come back to the Assembly for approval on June 11, 2019; assessment role will be reflected in the FY 2020 Budget.

Caleb Vierkamp, resident asked if the City would be operating with a deficit this year, and if the City had a reserve; questioned what the unrestricted amount of the reserves were as opposed to the restricted reserves.

Von Barga stated that it's a deficit budget because we are pulling from the unrestricted reserves to bridge that deficit gap; the restricted reserves are to be used for a specific purpose whereas the unrestricted reserves are available for use at any time.

Recessed at 7:30 p.m.

Reconvened at 7:36 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

13a Approval of the FY 2020 Wrangell Public School District Budget, Amending the Total Local Contribution to \$1,365,117

M/S: Decker/Morrison to approve the FY 2020 Wrangell Public School District Budget, amending the total local contribution to \$1,365,117.

Prysunka stated that he was nervous because he had asked for the School Budget Actuals for the last month; were told that we would receive them by Friday; have not received them still; being asked to make a decision without all of the information; don't understand why any budgeting process didn't have the ability to show actuals; we are being asked to spend money in a deficit situation when we cannot see what was spent in this budget; we requested this information in a formal manner with no follow-up from the School; inclination is to lower the contribution amount with a caveat that if they need additional funding, they could come to the Assembly for that; last year, the Assembly funded the maximum and the school didn't pull from reserves and banked funds for their reserves while the City pulled from its reserves to cover expenses.

Gilbert stated that she wished that we had more information as well; school district was requesting \$100,000 more than what the Assembly talked about funding them at the last Work Session; in the meantime, we found out that we will receive \$50,498 additional education allocation funds; came to this meeting, wanting to fight for that funding to go towards the school contribution but I don't have anything to fight for; may lose the art program and the guidance counselor at the school.

Superintendent Debbie Lancaster explained that Ms. Jennifer Miller will not be in a designated classroom; will be receiving an additional 12.5% salary increase to pay for pre-time and some extra days at the beginning and end of the school year to cover for some administrative duties; will be taking on the responsibilities of an administrator; will not be replacing her position; will be re-distributing students to other teachers; hiring a long-term substitute to cover for Matt Nore, who was deployed.

Powell stated that he has spent a lot of time reviewing this budget and he cannot figure out how the School Board passed a budget without receiving all the information needed to pass a budget.

Gilbert confirmed that the School is required to submit a budget to the Assembly by May 1st; we then are required to submit the funding amount to the School, in writing, within 30 days.

Von Barga confirmed for the Assembly that the School could come back to the Assembly to request more funding.

Decker stated that she believed that the Assembly had good rationale behind the amount of funding the Assembly was proposing; not sure that with the additional information, that would change the rationale; to be fair, there are two new positions: the Superintendent and the Finance Director and they have provided a lot more information this year than in years past; still satisfied with the proposed funding.

Gilbert stated that last years budget was easier to read because they had the prior budget to refer to; this year, they started with a zero budget; cutting the school budget anymore than the proposed \$100,000 seems punitive; hopefully, this is the one off year that the legislature has put us in.

Prysunka stated that he didn't believe that this was a one-off year; would like to see the school come to us if they need more funding; don't want to see the school fund their reserves when we are having to pull from our reserves to fund our projects and failing infrastructure; don't know how to make an informed decision without all of the information doesn't make since; being told to make a decision and then afterwards, receive the information doesn't make since.

Superintendent Lancaster said that she saw the email late this afternoon, that stated that Ms. Buhler could possibly get the information to the Assembly after the Budget Committee meeting; Ms. Lancaster stated that she would do her best to make sure that that was done; apologized that she had not personally checked into this.

In response to Prysunka as to if Ms. Lancaster had seen the actuals year-to-date, Ms. Lancaster's answer was no.

Gilbert questioned if some of the problem might be because the school was doing a different kind of budget.

Ms. Lancaster said that yes, that was a great point; it's been challenging trying to get the systems to talk to each other.

M/S: Powell/Morrison to postpone this item and hold a Special Assembly meeting on May 31, 2019.

Powell stated that he would like to give the school a few more days.

Decker questioned if this would really change the Assembly's opinion; her impression was that this was the way the School Board approve their budget in the past; this information is what the Assembly was asking for, not the School Board.

Gilbert stated that the Schools are very near to everyone's heart; would like to postpone so that we can make an informed decision based on where they stand.

Morrison questioned what the Assembly proposed if the School didn't come up with the information.

Prysunka stated that he wasn't proposing a penalty; each Assembly Member will vote how they wish.

Motion approved with DeLong, Decker, Powell, DeBord, Gilbert, and Morrison voting yes; Prysunka voted no.

13b PROPOSED ORDINANCE No. 962 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, REPEALING SECTION 13.12.050, FEE SCHEDULES, IN ITS ENTIRETY AND ESTABLISHING A NEW PROCESS FOR FEE SCHEDULES IN CHAPTER 13.12, PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, OF THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE

M/S: DeLong/Gilbert to approve first reading of Ordinance No. 962 and move to a second reading with a Public Hearing to be held on June 11, 2019. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

13c PROPOSED ORDINANCE No. 963 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING SECTION 5.09.045, CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION, IN CHAPTER 5.09, EXCISE TAX ON MARIJUANA, OF THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE

M/S: Powell/Morrison to approve first reading of Ordinance No. 963 and move to a second reading with a Public Hearing to be held on June 11, 2019. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

13d PROPOSED RESOLUTION No. 05-19-1465 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA AMENDING PERSONNEL POLICY SECTION 105, EMPLOYMENT OF RELATIVES, TO ADD A REPORTING SITUATION AND PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE

M/S: Morrison/Gilbert to approve Resolution No. 05-19-1466, amending Personnel Policy Section 105, Employment of Relatives, to add a reporting situation and provide for an effective date. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

13e PROPOSED RESOLUTION No. 05-19-1466 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA AMENDING THE FY19 BUDGET IN THE SALES TAX FUND, STREETS RESERVES, BY ACCEPTING THE STATE OF ALASKA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S RETURN OF BOROUGH MATCHING FUNDS, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$55,369.31, PROVIDED FOR THE WRANGELL ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (FRONT STREET REVITALIZATION), AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXPENDITURE

M/S: Gilbert/Powell to approve Proposed Resolution No. 05-19-1466, amending the FY2019 Sales Tax, Street Reserves, by accepting a return of Borough Matching Funds from the State of Alaska DOT in the amount of \$55,369.31.

Von Bargaen stated that we need to amend the budget to reflect a carry-forward in the FY2020 budget; need to have Assembly approve the funds.

Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

13f Approval of a Sole Source Contract, in Conformance with Wrangell Municipal Code Section 5.10.050(E), with Truly360 for Digital Marketing Assistance on the Google Platform, in the Amount of \$18,168

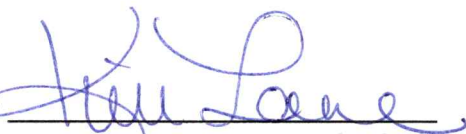
M/S: Morrison/Powell to approve a sole source contract, in conformance with Wrangell Municipal Code Section 5.10.050(E), with Truly360 for Digital Online Marketing Assistance on the Google platform, in the amount of \$18,168. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.


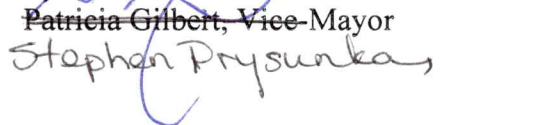
Prysunka stated that the Attorney's file was available for review by the Assembly in the Clerk's office.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None.

Regular Assembly meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk


Patricia Gilbert, Vice-Mayor

Stephen Prysunka

