

Minutes of Regular Assembly Meeting

Held on October 13, 2020

Mayor Prysunka called the Regular Assembly meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., October 13, 2020 by Zoom teleconference. The pledge of allegiance was led by Anne Morrison and the roll was called.

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

ABSENT: POWELL

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

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

A Proclamation was presented for Extra Mile Day

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Don McConachie gave the invocation.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA – None.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST – None.

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes from the September 22, 2020 Regular Assembly Meeting
- b. Minutes from the October 8, 2020 Special Assembly Meeting
- c. Renewal of Retail Marijuana Store License #10200 from Kelsey J. Martinsen dba Happy Cannabis
- d. CORRESPONDENCE: School Board Action from the September 21, 2020 Meeting
- e. CORRESPONDENCE: Letter from Mayor Regarding Winter AMHS Schedule

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

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Von Barga provided updates on the following:

- Would like to schedule an off-night Work Session for the Water Treatment Plant update
- Kate Thomas received highest award by the Alaska Parks & Recreation Association
- Asking Staff to do COVID testing
- Reached out to the Auditors for a schedule; will check to see if the price is lower since the auditors will not be traveling here
- Disaster Declaration – Governor's office staff is asking the Dept. of Commerce and Dept. of Labor to review the declaration documents that we submitted
- Valvoda case was dismissed by the court
- Police Chief working diligently on procuring body cameras
- Contractors are in town and are installing the touchless plumbing fixtures

Gilbert encouraged Kate to work to establish a 501C3 for the Parks & Recreation Department.

Captain Sprehe provided a COVID update.

BOROUGH CLERK'S FILE

Clerk Lane's report was provided.

MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

Prysunka stated that SEAPA has been working diligently on the underwater Wrangell to Petersburg intertie cable; has not been a SEAPA rate increase in several years; will likely see a rate increase in the future, most likely in the fall.

Prysunka also thanked those who ran for office; for those who did not win this year, he encouraged them to still stay involved.

Decker stated that the Federal Cares Act funds specifically fishery related; Alaska Fish & Game has come out with a Spend Plan and are taking public comments; will send information to the Clerk to distribute to the Assembly.

MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY APPOINTMENTS

10a Vice-Mayor Appointment

M/S: Howe/Morrison to appoint Gilbert for Vice-Mayor until October 2021. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

10b Annual Board and Committee Appointments

Board/Committee	Letter of Interest Received from:
Planning & Zoning Commission (1 avail.)	<i>Don McConachie Sr.</i>
Parks & Recreation Advisory Board (2 avail.)	<i>Cindy Martin</i>
Wrangell Convention & Visitors Bureau (2 avail.)	<i>Chris Bunes & Corree Delabruue</i>
Economic Development Committee (2 avail.)	<i>Joan Sargent</i>
Investment Committee (1 avail. – Community Member)	<i>Jim DeBord</i>

Mayor Prysunka stated that unless there are any objections to the appointments to the City Boards and Committees, he declared them appointed ending October 2023. There were no objections from the Assembly. Prysunka directed the Clerk to advertise for the vacant seats.

10c Parks & Recreation Board Appointments

There were no letters of interest received for these vacancies, therefore the Clerk will continue advertising.

PUBLIC HEARING – None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS

13a Approval of Application to the ADEC State Revolving Loan Fund for the Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project Interim Financing Plan

M/S: Gilbert/Morrison to Approve Application to the ADEC State Revolving Loan Fund for the Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project Interim Financing Plan.

Von Bargen explained that one of the requirements for the USDA Rural Development loan is that the Borough is required to borrow the full amount of the loan for the project; after project has been paid for, using these funds, USDA will pay the lender back and then the Borough would have just the USDA loan.

Von Bargen further explained that Finance Director researched loans and found that the State Revolving Loan Fund from ADEC would lend the funds and it would be at a much lower interest rate than the original commercial loan interest rate.

Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

13b RESOLUTION No. 10-20-1547 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, EXTENDING THE TEMPORARY AMENDMENT OF WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 3.05.050 (TELECONFERENCING) RELATED TO ASSEMBLY MEETINGS AND PROVIDING GUIDANCE FOR ALL NON-ESSENTIAL BOROUGH COMMISSION, BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

M/S: Howe/Morrison to approve Resolution No. 10-20-1547.

Clerk Lane explained that the Resolution that was adopted in March would be expiring on October 17, 2020; based on the Assembly discussion at the last Assembly Meeting, Lane stated that the Resolution would postpone in-person meetings until December 31, 2020; further, the Resolution states that the in-person meetings would be held at the Nolan Center; Lane said that the postponement would give Staff time to test out the equipment first, before going to full meetings.

Prysunka stated that he wanted a mitigation plan sent to all Assembly Members so that they understood the risk that they would be taking by attending in-person meetings; would also like the plan to state when and if in-person meeting would be suspended (for instance if we had 5 cases, or no ICU beds available); asked that the EOC review that plan.

Motion approved with Howe, Decker, Gilbert, and Morrison voting yes; Prysunka and Courson voted no.

13c Approval of Audit Engagement Letter with BDO, USA in the amount of \$53,500 for the FY 2020 Audit

M/S: Gilbert/Morrison to Approve Audit Engagement Letter with BDO, USA I the amount of \$53,500 for the FY 2020 Audit.

Joyce Mason, Finance Director explained that the audit is a State Statute; BDO has a portal that documents can be uploaded to; everything can be done electronically.

Von Bargaen stated that they would check on the amount since travel will not be happening this year.

Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

13d EMERGENCY ORDINANCE No. 980 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA EXTENDING THE BOROUGH'S DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY RELATED TO THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC AND GRANTING AUTHORIZATION TO TAKE ACTIONS NECESSARY TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH DURING THE EMERGENCY THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020

M/S: Morrison/Gilbert to approve Emergency Ordinance 980.

Von Bargaen explained that the Emergency Ordinance that the Assembly originally passed is due to sunset on October 17, 2020; renewing this Ordinance will ensure that we have things in place for any State or Federal funding resources that may be available; this Ordinance is extending the declaration until the end of the year.

Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

ATTORNEY'S FILE

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

15 Discussion of Litigation Tactics and Strategies Concerning Filing a Motion for Attorney's Fees and Bill of Costs in the Litigation Case Valvoda v. Borough of Wrangell, et al, Case No. 1WR-19-8 CI

M/S: Decker/Gilbert moved Pursuant to AS 44.62.310 (c)(d), I move that we go into Executive Session, and invite the Borough Attorney, Clerk and Manager, to discuss litigation tactics and strategies concerning the CBW filing a Motion for Attorney's Fees and Bill of Costs in the Valvoda Case, a matter "which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance" is required to be confidential. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

Regular Assembly meeting recessed into Executive Session at 7:22 p.m.

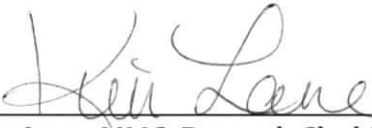
Regular Assembly meeting reconvened back into Regular Session at 8:11 p.m.

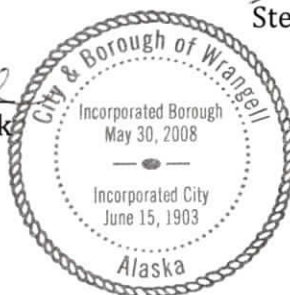
Prysunka clarified that in executive session, the Assembly can give direction to the Borough Attorney.

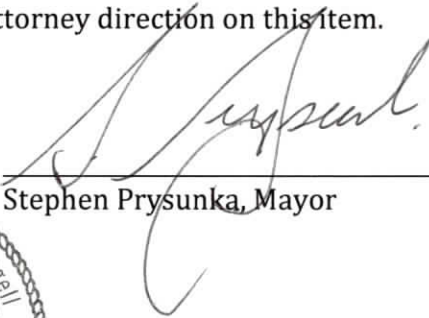
Prysunka stated that the Assembly did give the Borough Attorney direction on this item.

Regular Assembly meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk




Stephen Prysunka, Mayor