

**Minutes of Special Assembly Meeting  
Held on June 16, 2020**

Mayor Stephen Prysunka called the Special Assembly meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., June 16, 2020, held by Zoom Teleconference.

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

ABSENT: DELONG

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

**PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

***Cindy Sweat, KSTK Stikine River Radio*** read a letter that urged the city to continue to provide the \$8500 utility credit; stated that the \$8500 was not a cash payment to the station, but an in-kind utility credit.

***Stephanie Cook, Wrangell Chamber of Commerce*** read a statement on behalf of the Chamber, asking the Assembly to consider all that the Chamber does for businesses and the community, when deciding on the funding to the Chamber.

Clerk Lane stated that she had received six (6) letters from community members for her to read out loud; Lane stated that she had emailed each person and explained that Persons to be Heard is the opportunity for them to call and read their letter or statement and have their voice heard by the Assembly; also, that the letters or statements had been forwarded to the Mayor and Borough Assembly and that the community members had been notified of this.

Powell and Morrison agreed that the letters should not be read and that the emails being forwarded to the Borough Assembly was sufficient.

Decker agreed however believed that it would be a good idea to move forward saying that community members should be responsible to read their own letters in the future; she voiced that the letters should be read for this meeting.

Prysunka stated that he would have the Clerk read all of the letters but that moving forward, we will not make that a normal practice of reading letters that are sent in unless the person has an extenuating circumstance that prevents them to call-in; will no longer be the Assembly's general practice to read all letters received by the Clerk; letters received are open for public inspection.

***Clerk Lane read letters from the following individuals:***

- ***Jim Leslie (on behalf of the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce)***
- ***Darian Burley (on behalf of the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce)***
- ***John Taylor (on behalf of the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce)***
- ***Brooke Leslie (on behalf of the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce)***
- ***Caitlin Cardinel (on behalf of the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce)***
- ***Apryl Hutchinson (on behalf of the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce)***

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST-** None.

**ITEM(s) OF BUSINESS:**

**5a Public Hearing:** FY 2021 Budget

Mayor Prysunka declared the Public Hearing open and asked if there was an administrative report.

Prysunka instead requested some clarification to the public on the cuts to specific entities since there was considerable public comment to that.

Von Bargaen clarified for the public, that we are facing significant revenue difficulties for the FY2021 which include: sales tax revenue, program revenue, and operational revenue; expecting a 1.2 million dollar deficit; assembly requested that staff try and get to a zero deficit; the memo provided includes a significant number of suggested staff cuts through attrition and open positions that we are looking at not filling; departments cut where they believed they could cut.

Von Bargaen stated at with regard to the Persons to be Heard, in the memo provided, it outlines additional budget reduction considerations; a number of options are provided here; Community Service organizations include a total of \$47,000 to outside organizations; \$11,500 for the Senior Center, \$23,000 Wrangell Chamber of Commerce, \$8,500 in a utility credit for KSTK, and \$4000 for fireworks to the Wrangell Fire Department.

Von Bargaen also reported that additionally under budget reduction considerations that are currently not included in this budget is a potential employee wage freeze, reduction in health insurance premiums or reduction in health care coverage, or potentially looking at the closure of the Parks & Recreation Community Center.

Those potential cuts were considerations that Administration could look at if the Assembly wanted to get down to a zero deficit from the proposed \$224,000.

Prysunka asked if there were any persons on the line who wished to comment on the Public Hearing item.

There were not persons who wished to speak under this item and therefore, Prysunka declared the Public Hearing closed.

Special Assembly meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

ATTEST:

Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk

Stephen Prysunka, Mayor

