

**Minutes of Special Emergency Assembly Meeting
Held on June 2, 2020**

Mayor Stephen Prysunka called the Special Emergency Assembly meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., June 2, 2020, held by Zoom Teleconference.

PRESENT: PRYSUNKA, GILBERT, DELONG, POWELL, MORRISON

ABSENT: DECKER

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST – None.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Clerk Lane read a statement from *Penny Allen, resident* that spoke in opposition to the proposed Ordinance; suggested postponing action on this Ordinance to allow for more public input.

ITEM(s) OF BUSINESS

5a EMERGENCY ORDINANCE No. 978 OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, ORDERING PEOPLE TO QUARANTINE FOR 14 (FOURTEEN) DAYS WHEN TRAVELING INTO THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL FROM ANOTHER STATE OR COUNTRY UNLESS PROOF OF NEGATIVE COVID-19 TEST WITHIN 72 HOURS IS PROVIDED TO THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL

M/S: Gilbert/Morrison to Approve Ordinance NO. 978.

Von Bargaen explained the background for bringing this Ordinance forward; State was considering contracting with SEARHC to perform testing at the airport if traveler had not received a test upon arrival (airport); enforcement was not something that would be taking place if a traveler did not want to be tested upon arrival (airport); emergency meeting requested to include Commissioner Crum and Dr. Zink to make sure that everything was in place when the new restrictions came into play; did not receive a response.

Von Bargaen further stated that Sitka was hiring up to twelve greeters to meet travelers at the airport; we are at the mercy of testing policies in other states; this ordinance is an effort to be preemptive; this ordinance requires that they quarantine for 14 days if testing is not available at the airport, or in the origin that the traveler is coming from, or if they simply did not get tested before traveling.

Prysunka reported that the State is not communicating with the communities; tourists are not required to quarantine; the State's plan is poorly thought out; State COVID-19 positive numbers are going up and the State is saying that it's expected; this ordinance is mandating that people have the test or quarantine for 14 days.

Lane read the emailed statement that Decker had request be read to the assembly on the following:

- Effective Date; requested shortening to July 1st
- Define “approved plan”
- Clarification on if a person traveled to a community that did not have a quarantine (less than 14 days) and then traveled to Wrangell?
- Requested postponing action until Thursday to allow for more public comment

Powell stated that he believed that we had no “teeth”, even with this Ordinance.

Powell questioned that if someone was coming from another community that did not test unless you had symptoms, that we were not testing asymptomatic people either.

Prysunka stated that the test would be sent out to the University of Washington; would be a delay in getting the test results; rapid abbot testing is limited and is the best line of defense for checking various people quickly in town.

Morrison stated that it appeared that this ordinance was similar to what the State was saying except that it said “must quarantine” if not tested prior to travel.

Gilbert stated that this ordinance illustrates our position when travelers enter our community; if there is a major outbreak, there may be other ordinances that have to be put in place; erroring on the side of caution is a good thing.

Prysunka stated that he believed that the State’s plan was rushed and not well thought out; State was not reaching out to communities for their suggestions and input.

Von Bargaen stated that although SEARHC is not currently testing asymptomatic people, they will test those coming into the community because the State is mandating the testing.

M/S: Powell/Delong moved to postpone this item until Thursday to allow for more community input.

Von Bargaen asked the Assembly if they would like the Ordinance to come back to them with the following amendments:

- Amend Section 3 to be in conformance with the States Mandates for Critical Workforce Infrastructure
- Amend Section 4 to put the Sunset date at July 1

The Assembly had no objections to the amendments being made.

Gilbert expressed concern that if the Assembly postponed action and adopted the Ordinance on Thursday, would only be giving a little over 24 hours for it to go into effect.

Powell asked that we put together something that would show what the State was asking

and what the Ordinance was asking so that people could see that it was similar.

Von Bargen said that yes, we could put something together.

Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

M/S: DeLong/Powell moved to recess this meeting until Thursday at 5:30 p.m. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

Special Assembly meeting recessed at 6:25 p.m.

Mayor Stephen Prysunka **reconvened** the Special Emergency Assembly meeting at **5:30 p.m., June 4, 2020**, held by Zoom Teleconference.

PRESENT: PRYSUNKA, GILBERT, DELONG, MORRISON

ABSENT: DECKER, POWELL

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

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Bruce Jessop, resident spoke in favor of proposed Ordinance No. 978.

Brennon Eagle, fisherman spoke in opposition of the proposed Ordinance No. 978.

Mayor Prysunka called for a recess at 5:37 p.m.

Meeting was called back into order at 5:45 p.m.

Clerk Lane read emailed statements in opposition of the proposed Ordinance No. 978 from the following persons:

- ***Michael T. Lockabey***
- ***Michael L. Lockabey***
- ***Mike and Lydia Matney, Wrangell Extended Stay Trading Post***
- ***Penny Allen***
- ***Rick and Dori Matney***
- ***Leslie Cummings DBA Grand View B&B***
- ***Chris Guggenbickler***
- ***Teniy & Lysie Morelli, Night N Gale Charters, MorePowers Construction***
- ***John and Brenda Yeager, Alaska Charters & Adventures, LLC***
- ***Dale Parkinson***
- ***William Beppu***
- ***Dora Voltz***
- ***Ron Johnson***
- ***Patrick Freeman***

490
224

Lane also read the following emailed statement from the following person, that spoke in favor of the proposed Ordinance No. 978:

- **Maria Byford**

Prysunka read the motion on the floor: ***Motion to approve Emergency Ordinance No. 978.***

Von Bargaen reported that on June 3rd, the State issued a revision to Health Mandate 10, requiring a 14-day quarantine if a person traveling interstate had not been tested 72-hours with a negative result before travel or if they refuse to test upon entry into Alaska. Von Bargaen also stated that the new mandate allows for an alternative to the 14-day quarantine by allowing people to test prior to coming into Alaska or to test when they arrive in Alaska.

Prysunka addressed the topic of "timing", since that had been a reoccurring theme from individuals, and why this was brought forward as an Emergency Ordinance; had received notice of the new "opening" from the State on Friday; we had no idea on how this would be implemented; we sent email to State and received no response; the email asked for clarification on how testing would be done, who would be paying for testing, if contractors would be coming to town to do the testing; told by State repeatedly, to just reach out to the and every time we do, we receive no response.

Prysunka stated that the State enacted (with Mandate 10.1) the 14-day quarantine for people who either had not been tested or refuse to get tested upon entry from another State. Prysunka stated that upon reaching out to SEARHC, they had stated that they were not sure if they could meet the needs of the testing; also that they had just received their new machine and didn't have the tests for it and that the abbot rapid test was not good for testing asymptomatic people.

Prysunka also stated that if someone with COVID comes into the community and infects people in our community, that would be an economic threat; if that happens, the State could come in and shut us down; we have until midnight Friday, to get the testing set up at the airport.

Prysunka stated that he was also thinking about the community and the businesses; was a fair request to have postponed on Tuesday to allow for more public input.

DeLong thanked the community for submitting their public input.

M/S: DeLong/Morrison to postpone Ordinance No. 978 indefinitely. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

Special Emergency Assembly meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk




Stephen Prysunka, Mayor