

**Minutes of Regular Assembly Meeting
Held on January 28, 2025**

Mayor Patricia Gilbert called the Regular Assembly meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., January 28, 2025, in the Borough Assembly Chambers. Assembly Member Dalrymple led the pledge of allegiance.

PRESENT – ROBBINS, GILBERT, POWELL, DALRYMPLE, DEBORD

ABSENT – OTTESEN

Borough Manager Villarma and Clerk Lane were also present.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Certificates of Service for Anne Morrison (Borough Assembly) and Gary Morrison (Port Commission) were presented.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

CORRESPONDENCE: from Greg and Anne Duncan (opposing the proposal from Mr. Borgford for a waste gasification plant)

Brian Herman, Wrangell Athletic Club spoke on the funding demands; newly formed LLC; cannot apply for a gaming permit yet since they need to be an LLC for three years; requesting the city to apply for the gaming permit on the behalf of the Wrangell Athletic Club.

Dr. Anne Marie Duncan, resident, spoke in opposition to the Borgford proposal on waste gasification; has done a lot of research on burning garbage to create energy; explained the negative impacts to the community.

Dr. Greg Duncan, resident, provided extensive information in opposition to Mr. Borgford’s proposal; stated that his proposal said it would be to burn bioenergy however, it would actually be to burn garbage; stated that Mr. Borgford does not have a permit to burn garbage; had a permit to burn biomass however that permit was rescinded in 2024; also, contacted the Department of Washington Ecology and they stated that there were no test results or communications that the unit ever operated; stated that Mr. Borgford’s claim that he is burning bioenergy is false and that it would be burning garbage.

Paula Rak, resident, spoke in opposition to Mr. Borgford’s proposal to burn garbage at the Mill Site.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Dalrymple requested that item 6g, Approval of City Brand Package and place it under Unfinished Business. There were no objections from the Assembly.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Minutes from the December 17, 2024, Regular Assembly Meeting
- b. **RESOLUTION No. 01-25-1916** OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING THE FY 2025 BUDGET IN THE GENERAL FUND BY ACCEPTING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1000 FROM THE JUNEAU COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND AUTHORIZING ITS EXPENDITURE FOR LIBRARY BOOKS *Moved to Unfinished Business for consideration*
- c. Approval of Alcohol Renewal for Muskeg Meadows Golf Course
- d. Approval of Marijuana License Renewal and Combined Application for Happy Cannabis
- e. Acceptance of the Resignation from Anne Morrison from the Borough Assembly
- f. Acceptance of the Resignation from Gary Morrison from the Wrangell Port Commission

- g. ~~Approval of the new City and Borough of Wrangell brand Package and Style Guide Moved to Unfinished Business for consideration.~~
- h. CORRESPONDENCE: Minutes from the October 7, 2024 Regular School Board Meeting
- i. CORRESPONDENCE: Minutes from the November 18, 2025 Regular School Board Meeting
- j. CORRESPONDENCE: School Board Action from the January 20, 2025 Meeting

M/S: Powell/Robbins to approve the Consent Agenda, with item 6g removed. Motion approved by polled vote.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. Chief Meek provided a brief report on the drug enforcement action taken today in the community.
- b. Manager Villarma provided his report.
- c. Harbormaster Miller's report was provided.
- d. Nolan Center Director Arnold's report was provided.
- e. The Draft Emergency Operations Plan was included in the packet for Assembly review.
- f. The FY 2025 Q2 - Budget Report was included in the packet for Assembly review.
- g. The December 2024 Accounts Receivable Report (Utilities and Harbor) was included in the packet for Assembly review.

BOROUGH CLERK'S REPORT

Clerk Lane's report was provided.

MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

Dalrymple stated that the first SSRAA Board was held; they are a key cornerstone of the community and fisheries; overall financial situation is good; concerned about the Board of Fish cutting them back 25%; would devastate SSRAA; National old growth amendment going on last year; came in on top of the current plan; was pulled by the Forest Service; Forest Plan for the Tongass is continuing; Assessments are now complete and ready for review; Transportation plan is of concern; timber and social economics will also need review; comments are due by February 24th; Forest Service will be having a public meeting on the Forest Service Plan on April 28th at the Nolan Center.

Powell stated that he would like to see our Entitlement Lands rezoned to Timber Management; stated that he wanted to direct the Borough Manger to direct the Planning & Zoning Commission to rezone the Entitlement Lands to Timber Management.

Gilbert stated that this could be added to the February 11th Assembly meeting, in the form of a report from the Borough Manager, for recommendations.

Villarma stated that he would draft a letter to Planning & Zoning on rezoning; would also have a report for the Assembly at the next meeting; stated that we would be having a Work Session on February 25th to discuss Entitlement Lands; can discuss further, at that time.

MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY APPOINTMENTS

10a Appointment of two Assembly Members to serve on the IBEW PD Collective Bargaining Negotiations Team for the Borough

Gilbert appointed Powell and Gilbert to serve on the Police Department IBEW Collective Bargaining Negotiations Team for the Borough.

PUBLIC HEARING – None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12a Approval of the new City and Borough of Wrangell brand Package and Style Guide (*Moved from the Consent Agenda for consideration*)

M/S: DeBord/Powell to approve the City and Borough of Wrangell Brand Package and Style Guide. Motion approved by polled vote.

NEW BUSINESS

13a Approval of one Sales Tax-Free day for May 3, 2025, requested by the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce

M/S: Powell/Robbins to approve one Sales Tax-Free day for May 3, 2025, requested by the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce. Motion approved by polled vote.

13b ORDINANCE No. 1071 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, REPEALING SECTION 5-14(A) – CONTRACTS AND SALES, OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER BASED UPON THE RECOMMENDATION AND LEGAL OPINION OF THE BOROUGH ATTORNEY THAT SECTION 5-14(A) – CONTRACTS AND SALES, OF THE HOME RULE CHARTER IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND NOT LEGALLY ENFORCEABLE

M/S: Robbins/Powell to approve First Reading of Ordinance No. 1071 and Move to a Second Reading with a Public Hearing to be held on February 11, 2025.

Borough Attorney Luce provide a legal analysis that stated that having this provision in our Municipal Code and Charter is deemed unconstitutional; no legal reason to keep something in the Municipal Code or Charter that is unconstitutional; recommendation is to repeal section 5-15(A) and Wrangell Municipal Code Section 5.10.035(A).

Motion approved by polled vote.

13c ORDINANCE No. 1072 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, REPEALING SECTION 5.10.035(A) – WHEN PRIOR APPROVAL BY THE VOTERS IS REQUIRED, OF THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE BASED UPON THE RECOMMENDATION AND LEGAL OPINION OF THE BOROUGH ATTORNEY THAT SECTION 5.10.035(A) IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND NOT LEGALLY ENFORCEABLE

M/S: Powell/Robbins to approve First Reading of Ordinance No. 1072 and Move to a Second Reading with a Public Hearing to be held on February 11, 2025.

Attorney Luce stated that Charter Section 12.2 says that the Assembly has the power to repeal or amend the Charter since any binding provision of the state constitution or law regulating such manner shall prevail over any conflicting provision of this charter or of any ordinance.

Motion approved by polled vote.

Gilbert asked that the Assembly allow her to suspend the rules and move Agenda Items 13l, 13n and 13p up to be considered after 13c. There were no objections from the Assembly.

13n RESOLUTION No. 01-25-1913 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING THE FIREMEDIC/TRAINER JOB DESCRIPTION AND PROVIDING FOR AN AMENDMENT TO THE NON-UNION WAGE AND GRADE TABLE

M/S: Robbins/Powell to approve Resolution No. 01-25-1913. Motion approved by polled vote.

13p RESOLUTION No. 01-25-1914 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, TO ACCEPT A \$26,000 GRANT FROM THE WALKER FOUNDATION FOR THE PURCHASE OF CPR TRAINING EQUIPMENT AND TO AMEND THE FY2025 BUDGET TO AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE

M/S: Powell/Robbins to approve Resolution No. 01-25-1914. Motion approved by polled vote.

13l RESOLUTION No. 01-25-1911 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, ACCEPTING REIMBURSABLE GRANT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,000 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION'S FIREFIGHTING SUBSTANCE DISPOSAL REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM (FSDRP) FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISPOSING OF PFAS FOAM

M/S: Robbins/Powell to approve Resolution No. 01-25-1911. Motion approved by polled vote.

Assembly Meeting recessed at 8:40pm

Assembly Meeting reconvened at 8:50pm

13d RESOLUTION No. 01-25-1903 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, ESTABLISHING THE CAPITAL PROJECT STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR FY 2026; AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 11-24-1892 IN ITS ENTIRETY

M/S: Robbins/DeBord to approve Resolution No. 01-25-1903.

Dalrymple commented that #7 – Improvements to the Petroglyphs Beach is State managed; bothersome that we would be asking the State for funding to fund its own infrastructure; should ask them to possibly turn the management of this to the city; maybe a little more direct in the ask, in the future.

Powell stated that he would like to press the State to either do something with the DNR adjoining property to the Petroglyph property or turn it over to us; possibly make it a park.

Villarma stated that DEC was looking at that property for potentially contaminated materials; there is a conservation easement currently.

Motion approved by polled vote.

13e RESOLUTION No. 01-25-1904 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, ESTABLISHING THE CAPITAL PROJECT FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR FY 2026; AND REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 11-24-1891 IN ITS ENTIRETY

M/S: Powell/Robbins to approve Resolution No. 01-25-1904. Motion approved by polled vote.

13f RESOLUTION No. 01-25-1905 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL COMMITTEE UNDER WMC 3.04.060 TO REVIEW AND OVERSEE THE TRANSITION OF BARGE SERVICE OPERATIONS TO THE 6-MILE MILL SITE PROPERTY

M/S: Powell/Robbins to approve Resolution No. 01-25-1905.

M/S: Powell/Dalrymple to amend Resolution – Section 2 to include a Member at Large. Amendment approved by polled vote.

Main motion approved by polled vote.

Powell requested to be appointed to the Committee. There were no objections from the Assembly. Gilbert directed the Clerk to advertise for the member at large seat.

13g RESOLUTION No. 01-25-1906 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING THE FY2025 BUDGET BY ACCEPTING A GRANT IN AN AMOUNT OF \$5,000,000 FROM THE STATE OF ALASKA, DESIGNATED LEGISLATIVE GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE DAM SAFETY AND STABILIZATION IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

M/S: Robbins/Powell to approve Resolution No. 01-25-1906. Motion approved by polled vote.

13h RESOLUTION No. 01-25-1907 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING THE FY2025 BUDGET BY ACCEPTING A GRANT IN AN AMOUNT OF \$200,000 FROM THE STATE OF ALASKA, DESIGNATED LEGISLATIVE GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE EAST CHANNEL EMERGENCY ACCESS ROUTE PROJECT FOR THE EMERGENCY ACCESS ROUTE PROJECT

M/S: Powell/Robbins to approve Resolution No. 01-25-1907. Motion approved by polled vote.

13i RESOLUTION No. 01-25-1908 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING THE FY2025 BUDGET BY ACCEPTING A GRANT IN AN AMOUNT OF \$6,479,206 FROM THE STATE OF ALASKA, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION & EARLY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE WRANGELL SCHOOLS RENOVATIONS, 3 SITES PROJECT

M/S: Robbins/Powell to approve Resolution No. 01-25-1908. Motion approved by polled vote.

13j RESOLUTION No. 01-25-1909 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING THE FY2025 BUDGET BY ACCEPTING A GRANT IN AN AMOUNT OF \$222,500 FROM THE STATE OF ALASKA, HARBOR FACILITY GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE MEYERS CHUCK HARBOR REPLACEMENT – FLOAT PROCUREMENT PROJECT

M/S: Powell/Robbins to approve Resolution No. 01-25-1909. Motion approved by polled vote.

13k RESOLUTION No. 01-25-1910 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER / EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT POSITION AND AMENDING THE NON-UNION WAGE AND GRADE TABLE

M/S: Robbins/DeBord to approve Resolution No. 01-25-1910. Motion approved by polled vote.

13m RESOLUTION No. 01-25-1912 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO THE STATE FOR A LOAN FROM THE CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING LOAN FUND (CWSRF) FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT EFFLUENT DISINFECTION PROJECT

M/S: Powell/Robbins to approve Resolution No. 01-25-1912. Motion approved by polled vote.

13o Approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Trust Land Office and the City and Borough of Wrangell

M/S: Powell/Robbins to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Trust Land Office and the City and Borough of Wrangell. Motion approved by polled vote.

13q RESOLUTION No. 01-25-1915 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, TO AMEND THE FY 2025 BUDGET AND REAPPROPRIATE UNSPENT COMMITTED FUNDS FROM THE FY 2024 BUDGET FOR VAC TRUCK PROCUREMENT IN THE GENERAL FUND PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

M/S: Robbins/Powell to approve Resolution No. 01-25-1915. Motion approved by polled vote.

13r Approval of Change Order No. 7 to McG Constructors, Inc. in the amount of \$52,812.71 for the Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project

M/S: Powell/Robbins to approve Change Order No. 7 to McG Constructors, Inc. in the amount of \$52,812.71 for the Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project. Motion approved by polled vote.


13s Approval of a professional services contract award to DATAMARK in the amount of \$79,855 for the NG911 Addressing Identification Project

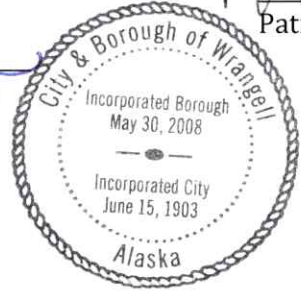
M/S: Powell/Robbins to approve a professional services contract award to DATAMARK in the amount of \$79,855 for the NG911 Addressing Identification Project. Motion approved by polled vote.

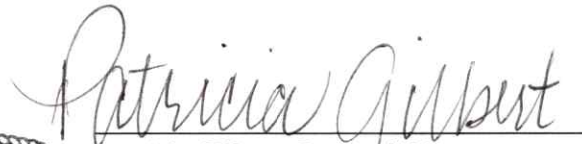
ATTORNEY'S FILE - Available for Assembly review in the Borough Clerk's office

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None.

Regular Assembly Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

ATTEST: 
Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk




Patricia Gilbert, Borough Mayor