

Minutes of Regular Assembly Meeting

Held on December 10, 2019

Mayor Stephen Prysunka called the Regular Assembly meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., December 10, 2019, in the Borough Assembly Chambers. The pledge was led by Assembly Member Patty Gilbert and the roll was called.

PRESENT: DELONG, POWELL, PRYSUNKA, MORRISON, GILBERT, DECKER (by phone)

ABSENT: LARRABEE

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

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Representative Dan Ortiz provided the Assembly and the General Public, a Legislative Update for our region. .

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Hank Voltz, Wrangell High School Student made a proposal to the Assembly to pave the Shoemaker Parking Lot. Mayor Prysunka presented Mr. Voltz with a Letter of Recognition.

Maria Byford, Wrangell resident spoke against Resolution No. 12-19-1503 (alternative 6); explaining environmental and tourism importance.

David Rak, Wrangell resident spoke against supporting Alternative 6; also talking about tourism; gave background on the Roadless Rule and how it was established.

CORRESPONDENCE LETTERS RECEIVED FOR Item 13a:

- Brenda Schwartz-Yeager, Wrangell Resident: not in favor of approving Resolution No. 12-19-1503, supporting Roadless Rule Alternative Six (6)
- Bonnie & Haig Demerjian, Wrangell Resident: in support of taking no action on the Roadless Rule Exemption
- Captain Dan Blanchard, UnCruise Adventures, Cruise ship Captain: asked that the Assembly votes to keep the Roadless Rule intact

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Assembly Minutes - Regular from November 12, 2019

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

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Von Bargen provided updates on the following:

- Evergreen Elementary School received a National ESEA Distinguished Schools Award from the Department of Education and Early Development

- Hearing in Petersburg on the Critical Habitat for Humpback Whales (January 6th)
- Nolan Center received “thanks” from the Wrangell Senior Center – Movie Night for seniors.
- Met today with Representative Ortiz
- Met today with regional OCS worker from Petersburg
- Met today with the IBEW Regional Manager
- IT – new server installed at City Hall
- IT contractor coming in on Thursday to meet with Manager
- Received notification from a resident on the crosswalks in front of the Middle School and the Parks & Recreation Department – will make this happen
- Electric Consumption Issue: Still looking into what is going on; some meters have been tested; 36 meters have been re-read; analysis of weather patterns; Electric Department is working with home owners to help them with cutting down on consumption.
- Equipment that have been purchased with grants (handed out to the Assembly)
- New Police Chief hired

BOROUGH CLERK'S FILE

Clerk Lane's report was provided.

MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY BUSINESS

Morrison reported on her attendance at the Alaska Municipal League.

DeLong also reported on her attendance at the Alaska Municipal League; encouraged the public to shop local during the holiday.

Gilbert reported on the Inner Island Ferry Association (IFA).

Prysunka reported on his trip to Washington DC to speak on behalf of Alaska and our Community of PILT and SRS; delegation was very positive and responsive to our issues.

Prysunka also reported on the fact that some students are at risk; need to have a large discussion on the issues we are having in our community on drugs and the need for food; community has stepped up to help on this issue to see what each organization can do for kids; trying to set up a “safe place” where kids can go if they need to; larger discussion is coming.

SEAPA's upcoming proposed budget is based on a .5 cent rate increase; have committed to removing community rebates; will be attending the SEAPA meeting this week and will be fighting for the community; Ketchikan is also not in favor of the rate increase; will be watching this item closely.

MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY APPOINTMENTS

- a. Appointment to the Planning & Zoning Commission

Hearing no objections, Mayor Prysunka appointed *Jillian Privett* to the Planning & Zoning Commission.

PUBLIC HEARING

11a ORDINANCE No 970 REPEALING AND REENACTING CHAPTER 5.20 OF THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODERELATED TO THE PERMANENT FUND INVESTMENT POLICY, OBJECTIVES AND GUIDELINES

Clarification on this item was provided by Von Bargaen.

Mayor Prysunka declared the Public Hearing open for Ordinance No. 970.

Prysunka declared the Public Hearing closed on this item and entertained a motion.

M/S: Morrison/DeLong to approve Ordinance No. 970.

Gilbert stated that she would like the Investment Committee ratified by Resolution since its named numerous times throughout the proposed Ordinance.

Joe Levesque, Borough Attorney stated that he could work with the Clerk and Manager on an Ordinance that would define the Investment Committee.

The assembly had no objections.

Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12a RESOLUTION No 12-19-1506 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA AUTHORIZING THE REFUND OF OVER PAYMENT OF PROPERTY TAXES AND EXPENSES TO ARNOLD AND ALICE BAKKE DUE TO A MANIFEST ERROR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,382.46 (*postponed from the September 24, 2019 meeting*)

M/S: Gilbert/Morrison to approve Resolution No. 12-19-1506, authorizing the refund of over payment of property taxes to Arnold and Alice Bakke in the amount of \$4,382.46.

Von Bargaen provided background on this item; overpayment has been made since the construction of the structure in 1994; recommending the repayment of six years (which is the State Statute of Limitations), plus the accrued interest, and repayment of what the Bakke's paid an accountant.

Helen Keller, daughter of Arnold and Alice Bakke, reported to the Assembly, the reason why she believed that the full amount (not just the six year State Statute of Limitations).

Arnold Bakke, son of Arnold and Alice Bakke, spoke against paying just the six year statute amount; stated that he believed that the Borough Assessor didn't do his job right and his parents should be reimbursed all of the overpayment made from 1994.

Joe Levesque, Borough Attorney explained the State Statute of Limitations and the purpose for the Board of Equalization.

Arnold Bakke, homeowner spoke to the Assembly; explained that there was never an apartment in the lower half of their house; told stories of how he purchased home as well as his other interactions with the City.

In response to Gilbert on if the Appraising company is bonded, Joe Levesque stated that he was not sure if Alaska Appraisal Company was bonded; Gilbert stated that it would be a benefit to check and see if the Appraisal company could be liable.

M/S: Gilbert/Morrison to postpone this item. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

Prysunka stated that this postponement was made with the understanding that the Borough Attorney and Borough Manager would contact the Borough Assessor and try to come to an acceptable resolution for the Bakke's.

Recessed at 7:50 p.m.
Reconvened at 8:06 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

13a RESOLUTION No 12-19-1503 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, SUPPORTING ROADLESS RULE ALTERNATIVE SIX (6)

M/S: Gilbert/Morrison to approve Resolution No. 12-19-1503.

DeLong stated that she thought that this was a terrible idea; doesn't speak to the public meetings that we have had in the community; here to represent the community.

Von Bargaen explained the reasoning behind Staff's recommendation.

Powell stated that he was at the community meeting; doesn't believe that what the Assembly does today will sway what the Federal Government will do; alternative six regulates logging.

Morrison agreed with Powell; more concerned with stream enhancement, etc.; not really concerned with logging.

Gilbert stated that she had gone through all of the alternatives; maps are not clear; alternative six has the same safeguards that alternative one has.

Prysunka stated that if we opt out and we don't make a commitment, it doesn't look good for our community; we should at least take a position; as we move forward, we don't know what the unknown opportunities are.

DeLong read off a list of organizations that have not taken a position.

Decker stated that the Economic Development Committee that she is a member of had a very long discussion on this item and came to the conclusion to go with Alternative six. Decker stated that she didn't believe that by removing the Roadless Rule would bring forward, a timber industry; we need flexibility in our land; Roadless Rule makes flexibility very difficult; the Roadless Rule puts the land in a conservation status; supports alternative six.

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

13b RESOLUTION No 12-19-1504 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, ADOPTING AN ALTERNATIVE ALLOCATION METHOD FOR THE FY 2020 SHARED FISHERIES BUSINESS TAX PROGRAM AND CERTIFYING THAT THIS ALLOCATION METHOD FAIRLY REPRESENTS THE DISTRIBUTION OF SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS OF FISHERIES BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN FMA 18: CENTRAL SOUTHEAST

M/S: Morrison/Gilbert to approve Resolution No. 12-19-1504. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

13c RESOLUTION No 12-19-1505 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, SETTING THE STRATEGIC ASSET ALLOCATION OF THE PERMANENT FUND AT 55% EQUITY AND 45% FIXED INCOME

M/S: Morrison/DeLong to approve Resolution No. 12-19-1505. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

13d ORDINANCE No 971 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING SECTION 5.02.070 OF THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE TITLED INVESTMENTS PLACED

M/S: Powell/Morrison to approve first reading of Ordinance No 971 and move to a second reading with a Public Hearing on January 14, 2019.

M/S: Gilbert/Powell to amend the motion to reflect the elimination of the \$300,000 and to insert the clause: "at the direction of the Investment Committee". Amendment approved unanimously by polled vote.

Motion, as amended, was approved unanimously by polled vote.

13e ORDINANCE No 972 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A COMMON INVESTMENT AGREEMENT AMONG POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE STATE OF ALASKA AND TO AUTHORIZE BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE ALASKA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE INVESTMENT POOL, INC.

M/S: DeLong/Gilbert to approve first reading of Ordinance NO. 972 and move to a second reading with a Public Hearing on January 14, 2019. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

13f Establishment of Wrangell 2020 Census Complete Count Committee

M/S: Gilbert/DeLong to approve the establishment of a Wrangell 2020 Census Complete Count Committee.

Gilbert suggested that the Hospital be on the committee as well. There were no objections from the assembly.

Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

ATTORNEY'S FILE

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

15 Executive Session – Borough Manager's Annual Evaluation & Contract Discussion

M/S: DeLong/Morrison moved, pursuant to 44.62.320 (c) (2), that we recess into executive session to discuss matters that may tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, specifically to discuss the Borough Manager's Evaluation. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

Borough Assembly meeting convened into Executive Session at 8:44 p.m.
Borough Assembly reconvened back into Regular Session at 9:57 p.m.

Powell stated that there was no action taken in Executive Session.

M/S: Powell/Morrison to approve the Borough Manager's contract, pending legal review.

Prysunka stated that he and Assembly Member Morrison will meet with Von Barga to discuss the specifics of her review.

Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

Regular Assembly meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.



Stephen Prysunka, Mayor

ATTEST:



Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk

