

**Minutes of Regular Assembly Meeting  
Held on June 25, 2024**

Mayor Patricia Gilbert called the Regular Assembly meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., June 25, 2024, in the Borough Assembly Chambers. Assembly Member Powell led the pledge of allegiance.

**PRESENT** – GILBERT, POWELL, DEBORD, DALRYMPLE, ROBBINS (by phone), OTTESEN (arrived at 6:50 p.m.), MORRISON

**ABSENT** –

Borough Manager Villarma and Clerk Lane were also present.

**CEREMONIAL MATTERS** – None.

**PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

*EMAILED CORRESPONDENCE* from *Bruce and Nancy McQueen* (Boat Insurance) was included in the packet.

*EMAILED CORRESPONDENCE* from *Bruce and Nancy McQueen* (Mill Site) was included in the packet.

*Tony Guggenbickler, resident*, spoke in opposition of the Marine Vessel Insurance Ordinance.

*Cindy Sweat, KSTK General Manager* spoke on the contribution request and on the FEMA grant that was awarded to KSTK for upgrading and replacing essential equipment that is important to our early warning emergency alert system.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA** – None.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST** – None.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

6a Minutes from the June 11, 2024, Regular Assembly Meeting

**M/S: Morrison/Powell to approve the Consent Agenda, as submitted. Motion approved by polled vote.**

**BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Villarma provided his report.

Capital Facilities Director, Amber Al-Haddad's report was provided.

**BOROUGH CLERK'S REPORT**

Clerk Lane's report was provided.

**MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY BUSINESS**

DeBord clarified his prior comment that was mentioned in the submitted correspondence that his statement during a prior meeting was that when seniors or residents come to Wrangell for only the summer months, we lose out on the sales tax in the winter months when they are not here.

Powell requested that the previously adopted 3% increase to the annual reserved moorage fee, be brought back to the assembly to remove that additional increase; stated that with the poor fishing, it would be a good idea to add some relief for fishermen for this next year. There were no objections from the assembly to bring this back.

**MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY APPOINTMENTS** – None.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

**11a RESOLUTION No. 06-24-1870** OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR ALL FUNDS OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

Gilbert called the Public Hearing to order and stated that because of the large number of people that had signed up under persons to be heard, she would allow responses to questions or comments.

*Joan Sargent, resident* read a letter submitted to the assembly that focused on the budget.

Villarma stated that the budget would be amended tonight for the contributions for KSTK, Senior Center, and the Chamber of Commerce.

*Donald Roher, resident* spoke in opposition to cutting the police department or first responders.

*Terri Courson, resident*, spoke in opposition to adding administrative positions and cutting the police officers.

*Bruce Smith Jr., Police Lieutenant*, gave an extensive statement regarding the proposal in the budget to cut his position and another police officer.

*DJ McConachie, resident*, spoke in opposition to cutting police officers.

*Aleisha Seward, State Trooper*, spoke in opposition to cutting the police department; stated that to cut the police department that essentially is her backup; expressed the importance of support throughout the law enforcement agencies.

*James Nelson, US Forest Service Police officer*, spoke in opposition to cutting police officers and like State Trooper Seward, expressed the importance of support throughout the law enforcement agencies.

*John Stewart, resident*, stated that the police department is the last place the city should cut.

*Josh Fish, resident*, spoke in opposition to laying off two police officers.

*Toni Paul, resident*, spoke in opposition to cutting the police officers; stated that for 22 years, she has been a girlfriend or wife, and mother.

*Damon Roher, police officer*, spoke in opposition to cutting the police department; if there is a major event and something else happens, there may not be enough officers to respond if the department is cut.

*Heidi Milazzo, resident*, stated that as a former police officer, working with only two officers on shift, it's extremely difficult; spoke in opposition to cutting the police department.

*Tommy Wells, Executive Director of Chamber of Commerce*, stated that he would like to see the assembly continue to support the Chamber.

*Chris Ellis, resident*, as a 35-year-old career magistrate stated that the community will suffer if the police department is cut.

After all the people had spoken, Gilbert closed the Public Hearing and asked for a motion.

***M/S: Powell/Ottesen to approve Resolution No. 06-24-1870.***

Villarma thanked the members who came to speak before the assembly; provided a brief narrative on critical infrastructure and working towards the high amount of deferred maintenance.

Gilbert stated that she believed that we could work with six officers but through attrition and not a layoff.

Dalrymple agreed because the key person (the new Chief) and the upcoming possible unionization, we should maybe set this aside.

Gilbert stated that there have been discussions on reductions in the past, before the talk of unionization.

Powell stated that this would not be effective until September and that if the Assembly needed to make an amendment to the budget, that could be done; has been on the assembly for over 8 years and he has always supported the police department.

Villarma gave an extensive overview of the proposed budget.

***By consensus the Assembly approved the following amendments to the Proposed FY 2025 Budget:***

- ***Amend the fire call contribution from \$7,500 to \$12,000; and***
- ***Add an asterisk under Community Contributions to add the wording as follows “in kind utilities will be provided to the Chamber of Commerce, Senior Center, and KSTK”; and***
- ***Add \$10,000 to the IT department in the library department budget.***

***M/S: Morrison/Powell to amend Resolution No. 06-24-1870, Section 1 for the General Fund from \$8,141,887 to \$9,273,614. Amendment was approved by polled vote.***

***Main motion, as amended, was approved unanimously by polled vote.***

**11b ORDINANCE No. 1057 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING SECTION 14.05.025, GENERAL MOORAGE CONDITIONS AND RESTRICTIONS, OF TITLE 14, HARBOR AND PORT FACILITIES, OF THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE, TO ADD A NEW SUBSECTION REQUIRING MARINE VESSEL INSURANCE OR ALTERNATIVELY TO REQUIRE USERS TO PAY A MOORAGE SURCHARGE**

Gilbert called the Public Hearing to order and asked for an administrative report.

Villarma stated that he and the harbormaster has talked in depth on this item; has listened to the public; proposed that this item be postponed indefinitely; would like to send the maneuverability section back to the Port Commission to work through the process for this and send it back to the Assembly for consideration.

Gilbert asked if there was anyone who wanted to speak on this item.

*Stephanie McGinn, Stick Built Homes,* stated that she was in support of postponing this item indefinitely.

*John Stewart, resident,* spoke in opposition to requiring boat insurance in the harbors.

*Chris Ellis, resident,* thanked the Assembly for slowing down; stated that having insurance on vessels is not a guarantee that the insurance company will pay.

*Pat Ellis, resident,* stated that currently, there was no designated place to dispose of boats; could put in a salvage yard at the 6-mile site to dispose of boats.

After testimony was given, Gilbert closed the Public Hearing and asked for a motion.

*M/S: Powell/Morrison to approve Ordinance No. 1057. Motion failed unanimously by polled vote.*

*Recessed at 8:35 p.m.*

*Reconvened at 8:40 p.m.*

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS** – None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**13a** Approval to hold a Special Assembly meeting on July 16, 2024, for the purpose of an holding an Executive Session to rate the Proposals that were received for Municipal Legal Services

*M/S: Powell/Morrison to approve holding a Special Assembly meeting on July 16, 2024, for the purpose of an Executive Session to rate the Proposals that were received for Municipal Legal Services. Motion approved by polled vote.*

**13b ORDINANCE No. 1058 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING AND REPEALING-REPLACING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 2.24 – ABSENTEE VOTING TO ALLOW FOR EARLY VOTING AND ELECTRONIC VOTING, IN THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE**

*M/S: Morrison/Ottesen to approve first reading of Ordinance No 1058 and move to a second reading with a public hearing to be held on July 23, 2024. Motion approved by polled vote.*

**13c RESOLUTION No. RESOLUTION No. 06-24-1871 OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING THE FY 2024 BUDGET BY TRANSFERRING \$247,625 FROM THE SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS FUND TO THE DEBT SERVICE FUND FOR SERVICING GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND DEBT**

*M/S: Morrison/Ottesen to approve Resolution No. 06-24-1871. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.*

**13d** Approval of the amended Employee Handbook, as presented.

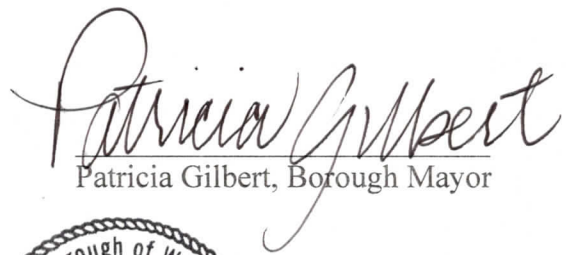
*M/S: Powell/Ottesen to approve the amended Employee Handbook, as presented. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.*

**ATTORNEY’S FILE** – Available for Assembly review in the Borough Clerk’s office

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Regular Assembly Meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

ATTEST:   
Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk

  
Patricia Gilbert, Borough Mayor

