



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
330 Harbor Drive
Sitka, AK
(907)747-1811

Minutes - Final City Assembly

MAYOR Scott McAdams
Jack Ozment, Deputy Mayor - Reber Stein, Vice Deputy Mayor
Cheryl Westover - Mim McConnell
Phyllis Hackett - Larry Crews

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR: Jim Dinley
MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY: Theresa Hillhouse
MUNICIPAL CLERK: Colleen Ingman, MMC

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

6:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - McAdams, Ozment, Westover, Crews, Hackett, and McConnell

Absent: 1 - Stein

IV. CORRESPONDENCE/AGENDA CHANGES

MOTION by Crews to Pull Item E. - Resolution 10-05 Authorizing the Municipal Administrator to submit application to obtain existing replica of a Russian Blockhouse and its .063 acres of land and to accept ownership of this property if application is approved.

Motion PASSED by Unanimous Consent.

V. CEREMONIAL MATTERS

10-023

Proclamation - Sitka National Historical Park Month

Mayor read a proclamation recognizing Sitka National Historical Park Month and the Park's 100th birthday. This was the first federal park in Alaska being designated as Sitka National Monument on March 23, 1910.

VI. SPECIAL MUNICIPAL/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS:

10-024

Sitka National Historical Park - Mary Miller

Mary Miller of Sitka National Historical Park announced the Park is approaching their 100 Year Birthday. They will be celebrating not only park history but all related historical relationships. Scheduled events will kick off on March 20 with a "Battlecruise" from "Old Sitka" tying the events of 1802-1804, a picnic will follow. A dedication will take place for the Raven's Tail robe that was designed and donated by Terry Rofkar; the robe reflects the Parks 100 year history. On the actual birthday there will be an E.W Merrill photo exhibit. Merrill served as the park's first official custodian from 1919-1922.

Miller added the park will be co-hosting the Russian-America Conference with hopes of it becoming a recurring event.

VII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Mary Allen spoke to the Seaalaska Senate Bill 881 – Proposed Land Selections. She urged the Assembly to request that hearings be held in Sitka before action is taken on this bill. She expressed concerns of the sites, saying they are not clearly defined; some may be cultural and sacred.

Brian Hanson and Deborah Lyons of Sitka Trail Works thanked Electrical Department Director Mr. Brewton for his correspondence and recommended that there be public meetings surrounding the Sawmill Creek Phase III project.

Steve Ash, Chairman of the Tourism Commission announced the plan of selecting two or three days during the tourist season to close Lincoln Street; with an outdoor festival atmosphere. They have taken a poll of store owners and eleven out of twelve liked the idea. More detail will be brought forward to the Assembly. Ash also announced that the website will have a link to survey visitors and residents on how tourism affects us.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Ozment to adopt the Consent Agenda consisting of Items A and B.

Yes: 6 - McAdams, Ozment, Westover, Crews, Hackett, and McConnell

A 10-022

Approve the minutes of the January 26, 2010 Assembly meeting.

This matter was approved on the Consent Agenda

B 10-025

Reappoint Tim Riley to a three-year term on the Parks and Recreation Committee, reappoint Ken Fate to a three-year term on the Local Emergency Planning Commission and appoint Allen Turner to a three-year term on the Tourism Commission.

This matter was approved on the Consent Agenda

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- C [ORD. 09-79A](#) Amending SGC 2.04.010A entitled "Agenda" concerning the appearance of "Municipal Reports - from mayor, administrator, attorney, liaisons, clerk and other" section towards the beginning of the meeting following the first appearance of Persons to be Heard.

Sponsors: Hackett and McConnell

MOTION by Hackett to approve Ordinance 2009-79A on second and final reading as amended.

Yes: 5 - McAdams, Ozment, Crews, Hackett, and McConnell

No: 1 - Westover

Absent: 1 - Stein

X. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- D [RES-10-04](#) Supporting U.S. Forest Service funding requests for the Sitka Forest Service Office.

USFS Ecology Staff Officer, Perry Edwards stated this will create a permanent facility for the employees. It will house 48 plus 32 employees in two of their buildings and will be energy efficient with dual heating. Rental costs for the current building are \$600,000/annually. The USFS has invested \$400,000 in this project thus far with it being top priority for "Stimulus Funding."

The contract for design will be ready within a month of funding approval. Hackett mentioned concerns on the ability to provide community and visitor services an additional 2 miles out of the downtown area. She prefers these services remain located closer to downtown. Edwards explained the USFS already owns the property on Halibut Point Road. They did research other properties including the SJC Campus, but that research led to additional and sizeable financial factors. Crews and Ozment wondered if this maxed out the facility and Edwards responded "No, there is potential for additional adjustments." Crews also questioned the number of former USFS employees when the USFS was at its peak in Sitka, however, Edwards did not have those figures. McConnell mentioned the possibility of looking into the Passenger Fee Fund to help establish a new visitor's center downtown. The USFS said that they did put a Kiosk in Harrigan Centennial Hall which is highly used and they hope to expand on that.

Andrew Thoms urged support of the resolution pointing out the US Forest Service's sizeable investment in the community.

Mayor queried what happens to the existing structure. He expressed his concerns on the capacity of the new building, reflecting on the migration of USFS employees and the potential for creating a "capped baby."

MOTION by Hackett to approve Resolution 2010-04 supporting U.S. Forest Service funding requests for the Sitka Forest Service Office.

Yes: 5 - McAdams, Ozment, Westover, Crews, and McConnell

No: 1 - Hackett

Absent: 1 - Stein

- E [RES-10-05](#) Authorizing the Municipal Administrator to submit application to obtain an existing replica of a Russian Blockhouse and its .063 acres of land and to accept ownership of this property if application is approved.

This item was pulled under Agenda Changes until the Sitka Historic Preservation Committee can review.

- F [10-027](#) Approve a \$50,000 line of credit for Sitka Works funded under Sitka Economic Development Fund.

Potential Conflict of Interest Disclosed:

Westover disclosed a potential conflict announcing that Mr. Reynolds is currently her instructor in a carpentry class. McConnell declared that she has a contract with Sitka Works. Mayor ruled there was no conflict in Westover's case but since money has exchanged hands for McConnell she would need to be excused.

Greg Reynolds, of Sitka Works, has applied to continue the Youth Build Grant that was formerly under YABA. The group talked to the Long Range Planning and Economic Development Commission, who encouraged them to come to the Assembly directly, especially in light of their time frame. This is a reimbursable grant for \$200,000 that would come from the Denali Commission. The grant would support four jobs (90-95% salaries) and materials would be purchased locally. Request would be pending the approval of the grant.

Crews inquired if they had talked to a bank and was informed that the bank would require collateral from the board members. Hackett is hoping these requests can return to the former arrangement under the LRPEDC.

Responding to assembly member's concerns of burdening the Finance Department; Wolff clarified that his department operates several revolving loans and adding one more would not burden them. Responding to a question by Westover, Wolff replied that the interest would be reasonable.

Westover and Crews wanted more background information and expressed concern on setting a precedent. Ozment didn't see the point in delaying the item when he believed it wouldn't change the outcome.

MOTION by Ozment to approve a \$50,000 line of credit for Sitka Works funded under Sitka Economic Development Fund.

MOTION by Westover that this Item be POSTPONED until the next regular meeting 2/23/10. The motion to POSTPONE PASSED by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - McAdams, Westover, Crews, and Hackett

No: 1 - Ozment

Absent: 1 - Stein

Recused: 1 - McConnell

G **10-026**

Authorize the Sitka Historic Preservation Commission to publish a Request For Proposals for 5010 Historic Preservation Fund Grant Program.

Administrator Dinley stated the Historic Preservation Commission Chair requested Assembly approval. He added the Commission is authorized to submit, but that does not mean that the City will have the 40% match available. Hackett added that the match can be "in-kind" and it's a good project.

MOTION by Hackett to authorize the Sitka Historic Preservation Commission to publish a Request For Proposals for 5010 Historic Preservation Fund Grant Program.

Yes: 6 - McAdams, Ozment, Westover, Crews, Hackett, and McConnell

Absent: 1 - Stein

XI. PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

Brewton requested a delay on bringing forward the Sawmill Phase III until the second meeting in March.

XII. REPORTS**a. Mayor**

The Mayor, Administrator and Mim McConnell (much on her own expense) traveled to Juneau to attend AML's annual "Fly-In". Energy and transportation continued to be topics of interest. He attended the National Historical Trust for Historic Preservation naming Sitka one of the Dozen Distinctive Destinations of 2010. Attended a meeting today with Susan Bell to walk through the Stratton Library in hopes to showcase and expand the museum at Sheldon Jackson College.

b. Administrator

Informed utility projects are going good and shared dates for street upgrades. Announced that the Commercial Passenger Project Implementation Plan group will advertise for a public hearing March 4. Hames janitorial bid is forthcoming. With regard to the Rifle Range improvements they are waiting for DEC approval. Sawmill Cove project is on track.

c. Attorney

Absent.

d. Liaison Representatives

Regarding the Sitka Historic Preservation Commission, Hackett shared her excitement in Sitka being named one of the Dozen Distinctive Destinations and apologized to those that got left out of the invitation process; explaining the news had to be kept confidential until the final hour. Hackett added that you can vote on your favorite historic destination and encouraged folks to go online under the National Trust for Historic Preservation and vote for Sitka. McConnell reported the Long Range Planning and Economic Development Commission (LRPEDC) has been meeting weekly preparing for the housing forum scheduled for March 10 & 11 at Harrigan Hall. Westover reported that the hospital is still struggling until they get a surgeon. Ozment related that the Climate Action Plan Task Force has been busy meeting and has asked the Assembly to meet with them for a worksession at one of their upcoming meetings.

e. Clerk

Mayor and Assembly are invited to meet with Governor Parnell at City Hall on Feb. 17 from 3:00 – 3:45 PM in the Third Floor Conference Room.

f. Other

McConnell reported that she enjoyed attending the “AML Fly-In”. She believes it is invaluable for Assembly members to be involved with AML activities. While there she also attended a caucus of Southeast Mayors meeting and met with both Senator Stedman and Representative Wilson. Ozment plans to bring forward a resolution urging the DC Congressional Delegation to hold meetings in Sitka to discuss SB 881.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Crews to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

ATTEST:

Colleen Ingman, MMC
Municipal Clerk