



At your March 10, 2015 meeting you directed to consider placing additional funding for the Ride into FY16 Budget above the original \$25,000. See attached minutes.

The RIDE

Bus Route Services

Our partner, Sitka Tribe of Alaska, operates the “blue buses” called The RIDE. The RIDE operates 6:30am to 7:30pm, Monday through Friday.

The RIDE runs three routes: [Click Here for Schedule & Map](#)

Blue route out along Halibut Point Road – 1 hour loop

Red route out along Sawmill Creek Road – 1 hour loop

Green Route through town and over the bridge – 1/2 hour loop

\$2.00 per one way ride for adults. \$1.00 for seniors or persons with disabilities.

Jay Sweeney, added the State of Alaska sped up the timeline and agreed to manage the project so we were moving this forward to this year. If for some reason the State abandoned the project the funds would not be committed.

A motion was made by Miyasato that this Ordinance be APPROVED on first reading. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 7 - McConnell, Hunter, Swanson, Miyasato, Eisenbeisz, Guevin, and Putz

Additional New Business Items



J 15-023

Discussion and/or direction to include any funding for "the Ride" through its coordinating agency Center for Community in the FY16 Municipal Budget

Swanson announced that his wife worked for Center for Community. Deputy Mayor Hunter ruled without objection that he did not have a conflict. Following some discussion and clarification on Miyasato's potential conflict it was determined that he needed to step down and wear his Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA) Council member, treasurer and Transportation Chair hat. Guevin brought up that Miyasato didn't receive any financial benefit. Municipal Attorney Koutchak advised Miyasato had a conflict because there was a financial allocation.

Connie Sipe, Executive Director for Center for Community (CFC) was the state recognized operator of the RIDE, STA was the contractor. She explained CFC was reimbursed from the State. STA received a federal Tribal grant to expand the RIDE. Four buses belonged to CFC and two buses belonged to STA. Sipe reported they were in need of \$100,000. Considering salaries, wages, benefits and fuel Sipe reported the RIDE brings \$1 M to the community and helps Sitka be affordable.

Gerry Hope, Transportation Director, for STA spoke. He noted it was unheard of that the City didn't have an elevated role in public transit and was difficult for them to make a case when the City didn't contribute much. He requested a worksession with the Assembly.
Note: A time will be allocated during the budget worksessions.

Benjamin Miyasato speaking as STA Tribal member, treasurer, and Transportation Committee Chair recently traveled to Washington DC to discuss the issue of the next federal transportation bill. As treasurer of STA he stated there would be a shortfall and that STA did not have the funds.

STA Director, Lawrence SpottedBird, encouraged the Assembly to support the request.

Harry Green testified the RIDE was a good thing and there was a lot of people going through difficult times.

Guevin believed that it was part of the City's responsibilities. He added there were a lot of people who could not afford a vehicle, the RIDE gave them a benefit. He stated CBS needed to prioritize and equitable transportation was extremely important. Putz was very supportive to have some absolute funding on a yearly basis. At the same time, she was leery because she didn't know what shape the budget was in. McConnell said the City didn't have a social services department. She stressed the need to have non-profits in Sitka and the RIDE was important for the community. She asked staff to think about where money could possibly come from. Gorman stated it would be helpful for staff to get direction from the Assembly as to a dollar amount. Deputy Mayor Hunter recognized the value of the RIDE stating it was great for the community. He took issue with the statement that the City hadn't been supportive.

CBS has a huge deferred maintenance need, the Sitka School District deficit was over \$2 M and the municipality was still working on a \$600,000 deficit.

Miyasato said Center for Community and STA operate the RIDE.



A motion was made by Putz to place \$25,000 in the FY2016 budget and to consider additional funding at the April 14, 2015 Assembly meeting. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 4 - McConnell, Swanson, Guevin, and Putz

No: 2 - Hunter, and Eisenbeisz

Recused: 1 - Miyasato

XII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Swanson to ADJOURN. Without objection and no further business, the meeting ADJOURNED at 7:31 PM.

ATTEST

Colleen Ingman, MMC
Municipal Clerk