



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

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

Minutes - Final

City and Borough Assembly

*Mayor Steven Eisenbeisz,
Deputy Mayor Kevin Mosher,
Vice Deputy Mayor Timothy Pike,
Thor Christianson, Chris Ystad,
JJ Carlson, Scott Saline*

*Municipal Administrator: John Leach
Municipal Attorney: Brian Hanson
Municipal Clerk: Sara Peterson*

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

6:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. RECITAL OF LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

IV. ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Christianson, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Ystad, Pike, Carlson, and Saline

V. CORRESPONDENCE/AGENDA CHANGES

No agenda changes.

[23-143](#)

Reminders, Calendars, and General Correspondence

VI. CEREMONIAL MATTERS

None.

VII. **SPECIAL REPORTS: Government to Government, Municipal Boards/Commissions/Committees, Municipal Departments, School District, Students and Guests (five minute time limit)**

[23-141](#)

Special Report: Sustainability Commission - Chair Katie Riley and Sustainability Coordinator Bri Gabel

Chair Katie Riley and Bri Gabel, the Sustainability Coordinator, delivered a progress report on the Commission's activities and expressed gratitude to the Assembly for their continued support. Mosher expressed gratitude for the

Commission's efforts and encouraged public engagement.

VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Klaudia Leccese expressed gratitude to the Tourism Task Force for organizing the Tourism Town Hall meeting, extended thanks to the Sustainability Committee and raised concerns about the decline in recycling in Sitka. Richard Wein acknowledged the sacrifices made by the U.S. Coast Guard and suggested organizing a remembrance ceremony for Armed Services Day. He stressed the importance of effective communication and leadership, advocated for the utilization of town halls, and highlighted the need for improved health care services in the community.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

Richard Wein commented on item A.

A motion was made by Mosher that the Consent Agenda consisting of items A & B be APPROVED. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 7 - Christianson, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Ystad, Pike, Carlson, and Saline

- A** [23-139](#) Approve the minutes of the October 24 Assembly meeting
- This item was APPROVED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

- B** [23-140](#) Approve a new winery license application and premises diagram application for Harbor Mountain Brewing Company LLC at 1209 A Sawmill Creek Road
- This item was APPROVED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.**

X. BOARD, COMMISSION, COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

- C** [23-138](#) Appoint Erik de Jong and Lilli Garza to three-year terms on the Sustainability Commission
- From the public, Richard Wein thanked the applicants.
- A motion was made by Christianson to appoint Erik de Jong and Lilli Garza to three-year terms on the Sustainability Commission.**
- Yes:** 7 - Christianson, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Ystad, Pike, Carlson, and Saline

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- D** [ORD 23-22](#) Making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2024 (Residential Utility Account Credits)
- Klaudia Leccese and Richard Wein commented.

Christianson expressed concerns about its one-time nature and impact on city reserves. Ystad mentioned prioritizing immediate needs like utilities and long-term benefits such as tourism, emphasizing the surplus should benefit all citizens, not specific sectors or interest groups. Carlson stated the ordinance was in alignment with goal 1 of the Sitka Strategic Plan. Pike stated this could prevent rate increases and considered using the surplus funds from the first half of the fiscal year to offset potential increases. Eisenbeisz suggested citizens who declined the utility account credit could make a donation to their favorite non-profit.

A motion was made by Ystad that this Ordinance be APPROVED on SECOND AND FINAL READING. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 5 - Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Ystad, Pike, and Carlson

No: 2 - Christianson, and Saline

XII. NEW BUSINESS:

E [ORD 23-23](#)

Making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2024 (Neogov HRIS/Recruitment Platform)

Richard Wein commented.

Municipal Administrator John Leach emphasized the need for an HRIS system and chose the NeoGov HRIS/Recruitment platform for its recruiting program and employee self-service system. He highlighted that committing to three years would result in a percentage off each year's cost. Mosher and Ystad mentioned the new system had potential to save the city money by reducing turnover and risk.

A motion was made by Christianson that this Ordinance be APPROVED on FIRST READING. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 7 - Christianson, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Ystad, Pike, Carlson, and Saline

XIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

Richard Wein discussed the current state of inflation and highlighted Moody's concerning outlook on the economic future of the United States, emphasizing the growing debt and declining tax revenues. He also mentioned the potential acquisition of non-unionized employees by Stellantis, financial hurdles encountered by Ford in the electric vehicle market, and the significant development of Petro China replacing ExxonMobil as the main contractor in an Iraqi oil field.

Austin Cranford requested an investigation into illicit drugs at the schools, voiced concerns about Police Department staff shortages, and to potential structural integrity issues in dam maintenance.

XIV. REPORTS

a. Mayor, b. Administrator, c. Attorney, d. Liaison Representatives, e. Clerk, f. Other

Administrator - Leach updated the Assembly on the progress of the airport lease, mentioned a draft lease would be presented at the next meeting along with different scenarios for breaking even over the long-term of the lease.

Liaison Representatives - Mosher reported on the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting. Saline provided updates on the Library Commission. Ystad shared insights from the Gary Paxton Industrial Park Board meeting. Carlson commented on the well-attended Tourism Town Hall Meeting organized by the Planning Department and Spruce Root.

Clerk - Earnshaw reviewed board/commission vacancies.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Christianson to ADJOURN. Hearing no objections, the meeting ADJOURNED at 7:35 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Jessica Earnshaw,
Acting Municipal Clerk