



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

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

Minutes - Final City and Borough Assembly

Mayor Cheryl Westover
Deputy Mayor Pete Esquiro
Vice-Deputy Mayor Thor Christianson,
Phyllis Hackett, Mim McConnell, Mike Reif and Bill Paden

Municipal Administrator: Jim Dinley
Municipal Attorney: Theresa Hillhouse
Municipal Clerk: Colleen Ingman, MMC

Tuesday, July 10, 2012

6:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Westover, McConnell, Christianson, Esquiro, and Hackett

Absent: 1 - Reif

IV. Appointment and Swearing in of Acting Assembly Member

A motion was made by Christianson to nominate all six candidates Jack Ozment, Bill Paden, Michelle Putz, Matthew Hunter, Ryan Haug, and Sherry Aitken to fill Blake's assembly seat until a candidate is elected in October to fill the remaining balance of Blake's term.

A 1 [12-89](#)

Appoint an interim Assemblymember to fill Terry Blake's term until the results of the election are certified on October 9, 2012

Even though the Charter allows for the Assembly to appoint an Assembly member by secret ballot the Assembly decided to cast their votes openly. Each of the five members present took a moment to explain who they planned to endorse. Once it was apparent the vote would be 3-2 and insufficient to seat someone, McConnell volunteered to cast her vote for Paden so there would be the four votes required. McConnell initially supported Hunter along with Hackett. All members encouraged those that submitted their names to run for election in October.

Paden received the four votes required and was sworn in.

V. CORRESPONDENCE/AGENDA CHANGES

VI. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Matt Donohoe spoke to the proposed Port and Harbors rate increase. He feared if rates were tripled, boat owners would seek cheaper moorage elsewhere. Sitka's services are inadequate; noting he had to travel to Wrangell to have his boat pulled out.

Ken Barkhau, a small scale fisherman, echoed Donohoe's comments. He shared an example where he had pursued a quota share and learned the seller was reluctant to sell to someone in Sitka because of the perceived lack of support for harbors.

John Holst, representing SEDA, mentioned the group learned the importance of Affordable Housing at their recent Economic Forum. They contend the Benchlands property needed to be put on the market and the group hoped to develop a plan. Holst said the group felt strongly the City should not be the developer of the property and suggested the City divest ownership of the entire Benchlands either in portions or entirely.

Cindy Edwards, co-director of the Hames Center, provided a status report. Over 100 hundred volunteer hours a week go into the gym. Edwards reported membership dollars were keeping the facility running and stated there were plans to refurbish the gym floor, install a new roof and new insulation. She noted a scholarship fund had also been established.

Peter Apathy, announced Alaska Arts Southeast had received a \$350,000 grant enabling them to refurbish the Yaw Class Room to hold art classes throughout the year. Allen Auditorium had the first public performance in 20 years and was being used by the Sitka Fine Arts Camp. Camp continues to grow - 699 students, 132 more than last year. They added four brand new programs. Kids came from 23 states and Puerto Rico. The camp represents approximately \$400,000 in payroll.

VII. REPORTS

SCVB - Sitka Convention and Visitor's Bureau Director, Tonia Rioux, gave an update on what she found out about "Today in America". The company would come to Sitka to film resulting in 20 broadcasts which would be aired on various stations. For various reason, Rioux recommended the Assembly not to proceed.

Alaska Engineering LLC - Jim Rehfeldt provided the results of the Renewable Energy Feasibility Analysis for the Wastewater Treatment Plan, Harrigan Centennial Hall and Kettleon Memorial Library.

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

Mayor - Mentioned the new historical display at the Airport.

Administrator - Added Public Works was doing a good job with the terminal renovation.

Liaison - McConnell attended the Tourism Commission meeting which included a

branding presentation. Also attended the SEDA meeting and found it to be very informative.

Clerk - Noted the Government-to-Government dinner had been scheduled for 7/19, at the Community House. She also commented the Division of Elections was moving forward with condensing Sitka's voting precincts with all voting to take place at Harrigan Centennial Hall beginning with the August 28, 2012 primary election. New voter cards are to be mailed out at the end of July.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

- A 2** [12-97](#) Approve the minutes of the June 26, 2012 Assembly meeting.
- B** [12-98](#) Appointment: Re-appoint Ken Corson to a term on the Parks and Recreation Committee
- C** [12-95](#) Approve replacing a printer for Sitka Police Department
- D** [12-94](#) Authorize the Administrator to execute the Alaska Clean Water Action 2013 Grant Agreement - Sitka's match \$28,925 included in FY2013 Budget

These items were APPROVED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- E** [ORD 12-18](#) Amending SGC at Section 4.12.020 Entitled "Property Subject to Tax" to increase the Biennial Motor Vehicle Registration Tax to be used for municipal roads

A motion was made by McConnell to approve the ordinance on second and final reading. No vote was taken. Following discussions the ordinance was postponed.

The following individuals spoke in opposition to the ordinance: Matt Donohoe, Matt Hunter, Dave Durham, Michelle Putz, Shirley Robards, and Sherry Aitken.

Municipal Attorney Theresa Hillhouse clarified there were statutory limitations and a fuel tax was not an option.

Assembly members Hackett, Westover, and Christianson expressed their views. It was decided an adhoc committee would be formed with plans to bring something back in the future. Group members were to be: Hackett, McConnell, Paden and citizens, Matt Hunter, Sherry Aitken and Michelle Putz.

This ordinance was POSTPONED until September 11, 2012, to give the adhoc committee time to work on it.

Yes: 6 - Westover, McConnell, Paden, Christianson, Esquiro, and Hackett

Absent: 1 - Reif

- F** [ORD 12-19](#) Amending SGC Subsection 4.09.100Y entitled "Exemption for Retired Persons who have Reached the Age of Sixty-Five to Exclude Alcoholic Beverages, Cigarettes, and Other Tobacco Products as Exempt Sales, and making clerical edits

Mayor Westover noted alcohol and tobacco have a recognized social cost and to exempt any part of the population on those items did not make sense.

NOTE: Hackett's telephonic participation was cut off due to technical difficulties. She was no longer able to participate. A motion was made by McConnell that this Ordinance be PASSED ON SECOND READING. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 5 - Westover, McConnell, Paden, Christianson, and Esquiro

Absent: 1 - Reif

Non-voting: 1 - Hackett

- G** [ORD 12-20](#) Amending SGC Section 15.01.020 entitled "Electric Rates" by Increasing Rates for all Customer Classes to Fund Voter Approved Improvements for the Blue Lake Hydroelectric Expansion Project and Implementing a Structure for Residential Class Customers to Promote Energy Conservation, and also Amending SGC Section 15.01.030 entitled "Billing-Credit-Deposit-Fees" to Increase Emergency Electric Service Charges

Michelle Putz stated this subject was proposed in the Climate Action Plan. Administrator, Jim Dinley, pointed out the City needed to increase the rates to pay for the bonds; the reason a cost of service study was done.

Christianson felt the ordinance was in line with what the Climate Action Plan had requested; addressing the big power users. He reminded the public these rate increases would come back yearly to pay for the raising of Blue Lake Dam. McConnell added through this ordinance the City was promoting conservation.

A motion was made by McConnell that this Ordinance be PASSED ON SECOND READING. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 5 - Westover, McConnell, Paden, Christianson, and Esquiro

Absent: 1 - Reif

Non-voting: 1 - Hackett

X. NEW BUSINESS:

- H** [RES 12-17](#) Formally submits a Municipal Harbor Facility Grant Application to the State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) in the amount of \$2,620,000 for the project entitled Sitka Transient Float

Senior Engineer, Dan Tadic, explained the resolution was part of the process of the City submitting a grant application to assist in 50% funding of the transient float.

A motion was made by Christianson that this Resolution be APPROVED. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 5 - Westover, McConnell, Paden, Christianson, and Esquiro

Absent: 1 - Reif

Non-voting: 1 - Hackett

I [12-96](#) Approve rollover of funds from FY12 to FY13

Administrator Dinley explained these funds represented projects that were underway and previously funded.

A motion was made by Christianson that this Item be APPROVED. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 5 - Westover, McConnell, Paden, Christianson, and Esquiro

Absent: 1 - Reif

Non-voting: 1 - Hackett

J [RES 12-15](#) Amending the United States Constitution to restore the people's power to limit corporate influence in elections and policy making

Municipal Attorney Hillhouse explained this resolution dealt with a 2010 case that was in front of the US Supreme Court. The US Supreme Court said they were not going to restrict corporations.

Speaking in support of the resolution were: Libby Stortz, Kent Barkhau, Pat Kehoe, Michelle Putz, Dorik Mechau, Cindy Litman, David Kreiss Tomkins, and Lynn Wilbur.

Christianson said he had been following this closely; if a number of small towns were to put forth a resolution like this it may have an impact. McConnell added this would be brought up July 17; over 100 members of Congress have backed a constitutional amendment to overturn this.

A motion was made by McConnell that this Resolution be APPROVED. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 5 - Westover, McConnell, Paden, Christianson, and Esquiro

Absent: 1 - Reif

Non-voting: 1 - Hackett

XI. PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

Larry Edwards addressed vehicle taxation and suggested a per axle load limit.

Libby Stortz objected to the inclusion of names on the executive session portion of the agenda.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

This item was deferred until next meeting.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Christianson moved to ADJOURN. The meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.

ATTEST:

Colleen Ingman, MMC
Municipal Clerk