

## **POSSIBLE MOTION**

**I MOVE TO** approve Resolution 2023-10 on first and final reading implementing a flat rate dockage fee and passenger wharfage fee for the Port Wall.




# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

A COAST GUARD CITY

## MEMORANDUM

**To:** Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members

**Thru:** John Leach, Municipal Administrator  (Acting)

**From:** Stan Eliason, Harbormaster

**Date:** March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Subject:** Increase dockage rates and implement passenger wharfage fees for the Port Wall.

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### Background

The Port Wall has accommodated many cruise ships over the years ranging from 145' to 267'. The ships call upon Sitka 15 to 20 times during the summer months.

### Analysis

The GPIP Tariff has been updated. A new tariff specific to cruise ships will be implemented this season. Ships that fall in the range of 250' to 400' will be charged a flat rate of \$3,000.00 per day (\$7.50 X 400'). The tariff also includes a passenger wharfage fee of \$5.00 per passenger. The GPIP rate will increase 8.3% in 2024 and 2025.

The maximum length for dockage at the Port Wall is 300'. Ships that range from 185' to 300' would pay \$2,250.00 (\$7.50 X 300') per day. By implementing the rates, this keeps the CBS comparative to GPIP and private enterprise. The Port and Harbors Commission approved the rates on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

### Fiscal Note

2023 season projected revenues for dockage \$20,250.00. Note: At the current rate of \$3.43 per foot of the ships length would generate \$7,556.29 for the season.

2023 projected passenger wharfage revenue. \$6,095.00.

Season totals. \$26,345.00.

**Recommendation**

Approve this Resolution implementing a flat rate dockage fee and passenger wharfage fee for the Port Wall.

Encl: Port and Harbors Commission meeting minutes.

# Sitka Port and Harbors Commission Minutes

Wednesday February 8, 2023, 6:00PM  
Harrigan Centennial Hall

## Port and Harbors Commission Members:

Dave Gordon, Jorgen Eliason, Shauna Thornton,  
Tyler Green, Michael Nurco, Tamy Stevenson, Andrew Callistini.  
Chris Ystad (Assembly Liaison)

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Thornton called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00pm.

### II. ROLL CALL

**Commissioners Present:** Andrew Callistini, Jorgen Eliason, Tyler Green, Shauna Thornton, Tamy Stevenson. Mike Nurco joined the meeting at approximately 6:05pm.

**Assembly Liaison:** Chris Ystad joined the meeting at approximately 6:15pm.

**Staff:** Harbormaster Stan Eliason, Deputy Harbormaster Jeremiah Johnson, Finance Director Melissa Haley.

### III. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

### IV. AGENDA CHANGES

None.

### V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None.

### VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of the January 11, 2023, meeting minutes.

M - Stevenson / S - Green motioned to approve the January 11, 2023, meeting minutes.

Motion passed unanimously.

### VII. REPORTS

**Harbormaster** – Harbormaster Eliason reported that most harbor staff had recently been recertified in CPR. A letter of understanding had been drafted for CLAA to perform port security duties at GPIIP. The harbor department was advertising the positions of Deputy Harbormaster, Port Security Officers, Operations and Maintenance temps. The results of the harbor matching grant program had been released, 3 project proposals were submitted, Sitka ranked 3 of 3. If the program was fully funded, it was still possible for Sitka to receive grant funding.

**City Staff** – Finance Director Melissa Haley provided a harbor fund financial presentation. Haley noted inflation was still higher than normal but was slowing down. Revenues showed a rebound in FY23 vs FY22, showing an %8.3 increase, which matched the increase to moorage rates made last year. The harbor condition assessment, part of the master plan update, was underway. Until the master plan was updated, old data was still being used for projections. Harbor revenues were hit harder during the pandemic than most, however the harbor revenues and raw fish taxes were rebounding. Haley made note that the harbor rates increased by %8.3 last year, and a projected %7.3 rate increase was proposed for this year; until the master plan was updated, it was unclear if that increase would be enough to keep the fund on track, but would be a step in the right direction.

**Chair** – None.

**Assembly Liaison** – None.

**Other (s)** – None.

## **VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**B. None.**

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

### **C. Flat rate dockage and passenger wharfage fees for the Port Facility.**

Eliason explained that the GPIIP tariff had been updated, a new tariff specific to cruise ships would be implemented. Ships that fall in the range of 250'

To 400' would be charged a flat rate of \$3,000 per day (\$7.50 x 400'). The tariff also included a passenger wharfage fee of \$5.00 per passenger. Eliason proposed a flat rate dockage fee of \$2,250 (\$7.50 x 300') at the Port Facility for ships that range from 185' to 300' per day, as well as adding the \$5.00 per passenger wharfage fee. By implementing these rates, it would keep the CBS comparative to the GPIIP and private enterprise.

**M - Stevenson / S - Nurco motioned to approve the recommended flat rate dockage fee and passenger wharfage fee at the Port Facility. Motion passed 6/0.**

### **D. Harbor parking fees.**

Tamy Stevenson spoke to the commission about revisiting implementation of harbor parking fees as a way to generate revenue for the harbor fund. Harbormaster Eliason would distribute the parking fee data previously discussed in 2021 to commission members for further discussion at the next scheduled meeting.

### **E. Dog waste on float systems.**

Item tabled.

### **F. Dock carts.**

Mike Nurco noted that harbor users had spoken to him regarding the lack of harbor dock carts. Eliason stated that he had budgeted funds to add two additional dock carts per harbor.

## **X. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS**

1. The next regular scheduled meeting would take place on March 8, 2023, at 6:00pm.
2. Harbor rate increase.
3. Harbor parking fees.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Thornton adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:45pm.

Attest: Jeremiah Johnson, Deputy Harbormaster

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-10**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA  
IMPLEMENTING A FLAT RATE DOCKAGE FEE AND PASSENGER WHARFAGE  
FEE FOR THE PORT WALL**

**WHEREAS**, Sitka General Code Section 13.06.010 Moorage charges and fees, subsection (A) states, Moorage fees and charges shall be established by resolution and approved by the Assembly; and

**WHEREAS**, the Port and Harbors Commission voted on February 8th, 2023, to approve a flat rate dockage fee of \$2,250.00 per day for passenger ships ranging from 185' to 300' that dock at the Port Wall; and

**WHEREAS**, the Port and Harbors Commission voted on February 8th, 2023, to approve a passenger wharfage fee of \$5.00 per passenger that disembark from ships ranging from 185' to 300' that dock at the Port Wall.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska, hereby approves the following dockage and passenger wharfage fees for the Port Wall, effective as stated:

Dockage and passenger wharfage fees (effective immediately):

\$2,250.00 per ship, per day for passenger ships ranging from 185' to 300' that dock at the Port Wall (increase by 8.3% for the CY24 & CY25)

\$5.00 per passenger wharfage fee

**PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED** by the Assembly of the City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of March 2023.

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Steven Eisenbeisz, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Sara Peterson, MMC  
Municipal Clerk

1<sup>st</sup> and final reading: 3/14/23

Sponsor: Administrator