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CONSENT AGENDA

POSSIBLE MOTION

**I MOVE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA
CONSISTING OF ITEM A**

I wish to remove Item(s) _____

**REMINDER – Read aloud a portion of each item being
voted on that is included in the consent vote.**

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Should this item be pulled from the Consent Agenda the following motion is suggested:

POSSIBLE MOTION

I MOVE TO approve the minutes of the
April 23, April 28, and May 5
Assembly meetings.



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

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

Minutes - Draft

City and Borough Assembly

Mayor Gary Paxton
Deputy Mayor Steven Eisenbeisz,
Vice Deputy Mayor Kevin Mosher,
Kevin Knox, Dr. Richard Wein, Valorie Nelson, Thor Christianson

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

Thursday, April 23, 2020

6:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

EMERGENCY MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. ROLL CALL

Members participated by videoconference.

Telephonic: 7 - Christianson, Eisenbeisz, Knox, Wein, Paxton, Mosher, and Nelson

IV. CORRESPONDENCE/AGENDA CHANGES

None.

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Fire Chief Dave Miller thanked staff and the community. He reminded to wash hands, hunker down, wear masks, and stay 6 feet apart to avoid the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Marsha Howard expressed her disappointment at the outcome regarding extending the deadline for filing or paying city sales tax.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A 20-094

Discussion / Direction / Possible Action in response to revised / new State Mandates (including rescinding Emergency Ordinance 2020-14 and Resolution 2020-08). Discussion can center around the Governor's phases for reopening the economy and how they affect Emergency Ordinance 2020-14 and Resolution 2020-08.

Municipal Administrator John Leach stated this emergency meeting was being held in response to State Mandate 16 and he felt there may be conflicts with it and ordinance

2020-14 and resolution 2020-08.

Public Comment:

Mary Magnuson said that 20% capacity was not sustainable in the restaurant industry and felt to reevaluate on May 12th as originally noted in the ordinance. Eric Jordan asked the Assembly to stay the course and to do whatever it took to protect Sitkans. Rachel Roy Executive Director of the Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce and Visit Sitka relayed a virtual Chamber luncheon of over 50 individuals that shared ways businesses were conducting business. She stated businesses were putting plans in place. Linda Marlin stated that the hunker down resolution should not be until May 12th and that businesses were suffering and living paycheck to paycheck. Ariane Goudeau stated that she saw fear for the city opening back up. She would like to see more transparency and data and felt that information would be helpful. Marian Allen told of her concerns for overwhelming the health care system. She urged to maintain what was in place with seasonal workers coming to town. Bradley Shaffer told of the opportunity to place efforts on structured testing. He suggested standardized testing for travel of five days before departure and five days upon arrival. Tony Buak owner of the Bayview Pub, LLC pleaded to allow businesses to open under State Mandate 16. He stated that it was vital to get the local economy up and running again even if limited in how to operate. Cory Baggen asked to rescind emergency ordinance 2020-14 and asked that Sitka follow the state health mandates. Theresa Weiser, Alaska Premier Charter, Inc. / Wild Strawberry Lodge stated the loss of revenues for each business represented similar percentages of loss of tax revenues to the city.

Paxton stated that State Mandate 16 was a controlled opening. He felt Sitka still needed to take precautions by wearing masks and social distancing. Nelson felt public health emergencies did not allow for civil liberties. She stated the emergency ordinance and hunker down resolution were contrary to state mandates. She was in support of rescinding. Christianson did not feel the Assembly was overreaching. He was not in support of rescinding. He recommended keeping the emergency ordinance and hunker down resolution in place and to let the state do what they were going to do. Knox did not feel that Sitka would be the only city in the state that would stand up against State Mandate 16.

Dr. Elliot Bruhl, SEARHC, updated with regards to testing in Sitka and the region noting that the situation continued to evolve rapidly. He stated that there was a slow decline in Alaska cases and encouraged those to find information from the Alaska Department of Human Health website. He told of concerns with the possibility of the influx of those from outside the state. He stated that SEARHC had 12 ventilators, 25 beds available currently but could ramp up to 40, and of the shelter and care for an additional 28 patients for quarantine and care for mild cases. He noted the ability to test continued to increase, that traditional testing had a 24 hour turn around time, and more testing supplies were available. He gave statistics for testing in Sitka of over 200 people with all negative results. He felt that the current hunker down situation kept Sitka safe.

Leach stated if the ordinance and resolution remained in place, city hall would remain closed. He had plans to stay closed and to open and was ready to execute either. He clarified state mandates and the action plan requirement. Municipal Attorney Brian Hanson mentioned that the state preempted the city and spoke to the risk involved against the city, businesses, and individuals but noted that the risk was not quantifiable. He spoke to indemnification.

Mosher thought to allow the current hunker down to expire as stated, May 12 and

noted the concern was fear of the influx of seasonal workers from out of state. He would like to align with what the state was doing. Wein told of mutation concerns and reminded with fisheries opening it would create a dynamic spread of COVID-19. Wein stated the ordinance accomplished what was needed in order to see plans of those coming into Sitka, and stated if it were removed, then there would not be standing to ask for the state to share the plans. Paxton felt that businesses should be allowed to open under the state mandate. Nelson spoke to the possible liability and told of her concerns with little public input. She stated she would like the city to get back to regular in person assembly meetings. She said small businesses knew how to be responsible, and that it should be their choice to open. Paxton and Mosher agreed with the concerns of public participation. Christianson spoke to setting an example, to model for Sitka and that open meetings were problematic. He gave concerns with being careful with people coming to town. Knox stated that the ordinance allowed the city to obtain plans since the state did not share them. He was not in support of rescinding, and felt that the ordinance reinforced the direction of the city and protected the community.

A motion was made by Nelson to rescind the motion at the April 14 Assembly meeting approving Emergency Ordinance 2020-14 requiring all people arriving in Sitka, without exception unless determined a critical healthcare worker, to self-quarantine for 14 days before working for critical workforce infrastructure businesses and requiring such businesses to submit a protection plan to the City and Borough of Sitka that must be approved by the Municipal Administrator. The motion FAILED by the following vote.

Yes: 3- Paxton, Nelson, Mosher

No: 4- Christianson, Knox, Eisenbeisz, Wein

VII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

Municipal Administrator John Leach stated that city hall would remain closed as the hunker down resolution remained in effect.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Christianson to ADJOURN. Hearing no objections, the meeting ADJOURNED at 7:52 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Melissa Henshaw, CMC
Deputy Clerk



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
330 Harbor Drive
Sitka, AK
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Minutes - Draft

City and Borough Assembly

Mayor Gary Paxton
Deputy Mayor Steven Eisenbeisz,
Vice Deputy Mayor Kevin Mosher,
Kevin Knox, Dr. Richard Wein, Valorie Nelson, Thor Christianson

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

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

6:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. ROLL CALL

Members participated by videoconference.

Absent: 1 - Eisenbeisz

Telephonic: 6 - Christianson, Knox, Wein, Paxton, Mosher, and Nelson

IV. CORRESPONDENCE/AGENDA CHANGES

No agenda changes.

20-102 Reminders, Calendars, and General Correspondence

V. CEREMONIAL MATTERS

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

School Board Vice President Amy Morrison reported that the final budget would be submitted to the city this week. She stated that Dr. Mary Wegner resigned as Superintendent as of June 30 and John Holst would serve as Interim Superintendent for the 2020/2021 school year.

VII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Charles Dean stated his concerns with the response to the COVID-19 virus. Karen Keating of Big Blue Charters told of concerns with the charter industry, state mandates, and the 14-day quarantine in Sitka.

VIII. REPORTS

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

Administrator - Leach pointed out Fire Chief Miller's last day was April 30 although he would be staying on as Temporary Interim Fire Chief.

Clerk - Peterson thanked the public for their patience with public participation for Assembly meetings. She told how to provide public comment through the hunker down order.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

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

Yes: 6 - Christianson, Knox, Wein, Paxton, Mosher, and Nelson

Absent: 1 - Eisenbeisz

A 20-096 Approve the minutes of the April 2, 9, and 14 Assembly meetings

X. BOARD, COMMISSION, COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

B 20-095 Reappoint Anne Pollnow to a three-year term on the Historic Preservation Commission in the category of At-Large (request by Assembly Members Mosher and Wein to rescind action taken April 14, 2020)

James Poulson was in support of rescinding the failed appointment and asked the Assembly to reconsider the last vote. Candace Rutledge stated her support to reinstate Ms. Pollnow to the Commission. Donald Lehmann was not in support to reconsider Mr. Pollnow to the Commission. Anne Pollnow stated her concerns of a project that went through the Commission that did not follow state and federal standards with regards to the historic property/building. She noted it was a National Historic Landmark and told of the possibility of destroying the landmark with their project.

Mosher was in support of rescinding. Nelson was not in support of rescinding. Knox was concerned of the process with rescinding. Wein felt the process was appropriate and was in support of rescinding. Paxton noted the importance of respecting those on the commissions and committees.

A motion was made by Wein to rescind the motion that failed at the April 14 Assembly meeting to reappoint Anne Pollnow to a three-year term on the Historic Preservation Commission in the category of At-Large. The motion FAILED by the following vote.

Yes: 4 - Christianson, Wein, Paxton, and Mosher

No: 2 - Knox, and Nelson

Absent: 1 - Eisenbeisz

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

C ORD 20-12 Making supplemental appropriations for Fiscal Year 2020 (Office of Inspector General Anti-Kickback Liability Settlement)

Wein was not in support and stated it was a waste. Christianson felt there could be consequences if not passed. Paxton felt that by not passing the ordinance, it would put the city at risk.

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

Yes: 4 - Christianson, Knox, Paxton, and Mosher

No: 2 - Wein, and Nelson

Absent: 1 - Eisenbeisz

D ORD 20-13 Amending Title 4 "Revenue and Finance" of the Sitka General code by adding Chapter 4.10 "Alaska Remote Seller Sales Tax"

Nelson was not in support and felt the amount collected was unknown. Wein noted that the city could back out as a member at any time and expenses would be deducted. He felt it was an opportunity to bring in more money. Christianson stated it supported local vendors. He told volunteer online vendors could be lost if they were not approved.

Chief Finance and Administrative Officer Jay Sweeney called attention to the fiscal note. He spoke broadly of potential revenue loss if not passed and stated a vendor could elect to terminate voluntary remittance.

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

Yes: 5 - Christianson, Knox, Wein, Paxton, and Mosher

No: 1 - Nelson

Absent: 1 - Eisenbeisz

XII. NEW BUSINESS:

New Business First Reading

E ORD 20-24 An Emergency Ordinance of the City and Borough of Sitka abating any penalties and interest for the first quarter sales tax 2020 filing period until June 30, 2020

Knox noted some businesses could pay on time but that it gave opportunity to delay if needed. He stated that paperwork still needed to be turned in on how much they owed. Nelson felt it went further than what she recommended of requesting penalty and interest be abated. She thought if the business could write a letter it would go far to show the need.

Municipal Administrator John Leach told that no money has been received from the CARES Act, but that the city was scheduled for May 1 as a first distribution. He stated there were three ways the money could be spent and noted it was not intended for lost revenue at this time.

A motion was made by Knox to amend the emergency ordinance to add, "penalties and interest shall only be abated if the filer (1) submits an abatement request through signed letter declaring need due to COVID-19 circumstances, to the Finance Director or designee, and remits all taxes due for the first quarter, both on or before June 30, 2020, and (2) in that request, certifies by signature financial need for the abatement of penalties and interest."

Yes: 5- Christianson, Knox, Paxton, Mosher, and Nelson

No: 1- Wein

Absent: 1- Eisenbeisz

Chief Finance and Administrative Officer Jay Sweeney read that the ordinance was a pure abatement for two months and penalty and interest would begin on July 1 if not paid.

A motion was made by Christianson that this emergency ordinance be APPROVED on FIRST READING AS AMENDED. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 5 - Christianson, Knox, Paxton, Mosher, and Nelson

No: 1 - Wein

Absent: 1 - Eisenbeisz

F ORD 20-17

Adopting budgets and capital improvement plans for the General Fund, Internal Service Funds, and Special Revenue Funds for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

Wein felt there were not enough adjustments made and reiterated the rate increases. Paxton felt that final numbers wouldn't be known but that a reassessment could take place to make the budget precise. Nelson didn't feel like it would be known how COVID-19 would affect the budget.

Controller Melissa Haley explained the reduction in projected expenses and change in working capital that must include depreciation which was an impact. Municipal Administrator John Leach stated that there had been \$3.2 million cut from the budget based on what was known as a loss in revenue. Chief Finance and Administrative Officer Jay Sweeney told that money from the CARES Act would be used to make payments directly to citizens that had been economically disadvantaged and gave the example of offsetting the electric rates.

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

Yes: 5 - Christianson, Knox, Paxton, Mosher, and Nelson

No: 1 - Wein

Absent: 1 - Eisenbeisz

- G ORD 20-18** Adopting the budget and capital improvement plan for the Electric Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021
- Chief Finance and Administrative Officer Jay Sweeney explained the projected change to working capital.
- A motion was made by Christianson that this ordinance be APPROVED on FIRST READING. The motion PASSED by the following vote.**
- Yes:** 5 - Christianson, Knox, Paxton, Mosher, and Nelson
- No:** 1 - Wein
- Absent:** 1 - Eisenbeisz
- H ORD 20-19** Adopting the budget and capital improvement plan for the Water Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021
- A motion was made by Christianson that this ordinance be APPROVED on FIRST READING. The motion PASSED by the following vote.**
- Yes:** 5 - Christianson, Knox, Paxton, Mosher, and Nelson
- No:** 1 - Wein
- Absent:** 1 - Eisenbeisz
- I ORD 20-20** Adopting the budget and capital improvement plan for the Wastewater Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 and amending Title 15 "Public Utilities" of the Sitka General Code to increase Section 15.04.320 "Rates and Fees"
- A motion was made by Christianson that this ordinance be APPROVED on FIRST READING. The motion PASSED by the following vote.**
- Yes:** 5 - Christianson, Knox, Paxton, Mosher, and Nelson
- No:** 1 - Wein
- Absent:** 1 - Eisenbeisz
- J ORD 20-21** Adopting the budget and capital improvement plan for the Solid Waste Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 and amending Title 15 "Public Utilities" of the Sitka General Code to increase solid waste disposal rates in Section 15.06.020 "Solid Waste Disposal Policy and Rates," Section 15.06.035 "Rates for Treatment and Collection," and Section 15.06.045 "Transfer Station Drop-Off Charges and Special Refuse Collection Charges"
- Wein stated the Solid Waste Fund was a long-term contract with a 5.5% increase and a 2.5% increase in the Transfer Station. Paxton told that staff did a professional job of laying out the budget and doing the best we could. Knox felt the community as a whole could bring down the cost. He noted that possible new paradigms had been explored which ended up being more expensive.
- A motion was made by Knox that this ordinance be APPROVED on FIRST READING. The motion PASSED by the following vote.**

Yes: 4 - Christianson, Knox, Paxton, and Mosher

No: 2 - Wein, and Nelson

Absent: 1 - Eisenbeisz

K ORD 20-22 Adopting the budget and capital improvement plan for the Harbor Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

Nelson was in support for first reading, but stated concerns with the increase. Christianson stated by raising rates now, it allowed for less of an increase later. He was inclined to follow the recommendations of the Port and Harbors Commission. Knox agreed to follow the recommendations of the Commission. He stated the rate increases were not sustainable through the current 30-year master plan but noted that other plans needed to be brought forward if the master plan was not going to be followed. He told of inflationary costs for postponing projects into the future. Wein said the harbor system should not be contracted, that it needed to be supported as fishing was part of the fabric of Sitka. He told though the raises were not sustainable, there were a lot of short-term current projects that needed support. Mosher felt the master plan was unsustainable but it didn't mean the harbors needed to be shut down, and stated the plans could be extended out.

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

Yes: 5 - Christianson, Knox, Wein, Paxton, and Mosher

No: 1 - Nelson

Absent: 1 - Eisenbeisz

L ORD 20-23 Adopting budgets and capital improvement plans for the Airport Terminal Fund, the Marine Service Center Fund, and the Gary Paxton Industrial Park Fund for the fiscal year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021

Controller Melissa Haley confirmed that the capital plan did not include a crane for the Gary Paxton Industrial Park. She clarified that the airport terminal information was prior to the reductions in deplanements in Sitka. Municipal Administrator John Leach confirmed that the state was getting money through the CARES Act for airports but was unsure if the money would be distributed to Sitka.

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

Yes: 5 - Christianson, Knox, Paxton, Mosher, and Nelson

No: 1 - Wein

Absent: 1 - Eisenbeisz

Additional New Business Items

M RES 20-10 Increasing permanent and temporary moorage rates and other harbor fees and charges (*Action on this item was postponed at the April 28 meeting*)

Matt Donohoe stated the fishing industry could not afford moorage rate increases and that the harbor infrastructure scheduled to replace harbors after only 30 years could be

delayed.

Mosher would like for rate increases to be heard more than one reading and suggested postponement in order to give the public more time to comment. Wein was in support for the postponement to allow for the public to weigh in. Knox reminded this was vetted through the Port and Harbors Commission. Nelson was in support of the postponement due to the circumstances with COVID-19.

A motion was made by Mosher that this resolution be POSTPONED to the May 12 regular Assembly meeting. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 6 - Christianson, Knox, Wein, Paxton, Mosher, and Nelson

Absent: 1 - Eisenbeisz

N RES 20-09

Authorizing the Municipal Administrator to apply for and execute a grant with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for \$36,000 to support the Peterson Storm Sewer Rehabilitation Project

Municipal Administrator John Leach commented that this was an additional grant to repair the Peterson Street culvert which would reduce the amount that would be taken from the General Fund.

A motion was made by Mosher that this resolution be APPROVED on FIRST AND FINAL READING. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 6 - Christianson, Knox, Wein, Paxton, Mosher, and Nelson

Absent: 1 - Eisenbeisz

O 20-097

Approve a liquor license renewal application for Sitka Moose Lodge #1350 dba Loyal Order of Moose #1350 at 337 Lincoln Street (possible executive session)

Chief Finance and Administrative Officer Jay Sweeney told of the money owed and of the promissory note. He noted that with the agreement, he was recommending no objection.

Nelson agreed with Sweeney and stated without their license, they wouldn't be able to pay.

A motion was made by Christianson to approve a liquor license renewal application for Sitka Moose Lodge #1350 dba Loyal Order of Moose #1350 at 337 Lincoln Street and forward this approval to the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board without objection. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 6 - Christianson, Knox, Wein, Paxton, Mosher, and Nelson

Absent: 1 - Eisenbeisz

P 20-098

Approve a month-to-month short-term lease between the City and Borough of Sitka and Maris Inc for space at Sealing Cove parking lot

Wein stated that during his tenure, leases had been favorable beyond fair market value. He found that it was another example to inability to price the city's assets correctly. Nelson felt that economic development was needed and was in support.

Municipal Administrator John Leach noted that the space was typically empty and felt

that some income from the space was better than none.

A motion was made by Nelson to approve a month-to-month short-term lease between the City and borough of Sitka and Maris Inc for space at Sealing Cove parking lot. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 5 - Christianson, Knox, Paxton, Mosher, and Nelson

No: 1 - Wein

Absent: 1 - Eisenbeisz

Q 20-099 Discussion / Direction on the distribution of Secure Rural Schools Funding

Municipal Administrator John Leach noted in the FY20 budget, Secure Rural Funding was not budgeted as it was not anticipated to receive any funding, however funds had been received. He told that the funding was traditionally split between the city and school and stated that the funds were only allowed for roads and/or schools.

Christianson stated the funding should be split with the schools. Mosher's opinion was to split it half less the PILT funding. Nelson suggested that disclosures should be made, and the school was in need of the funds as well as the roads. Wein wondered if the school district completed their budget process with or without the funding taken into consideration. He felt that the funding could be applied to roads that were in desperate need of remedial care. Christianson disclosed that his wife worked for the school district through a contract. Paxton felt the roads could use the funding.

Chief Finance and Administrative Officer Jay Sweeney clarified that the funds were for FY20 and if not expended would go to the General Fund. He told that if the funds were to go to the school district for their FY21 budget, a supplemental appropriation would be needed.

Consensus was to remain in reserves for now.

R 20-100 Discussion / Direction on amending the order of business for Assembly agendas by moving "Municipal reports from mayor, administrator, attorney, liaisons, clerk and other" to the end of the agenda

Nelson suggested moving reports toward the end of the agenda in the meeting. Wein felt the reports represented a public face and felt that the public was able to hear about the various meetings and what individuals were doing. He stated it was important to know what the Mayor and Administrator reported. Knox noted the value in both keeping it toward the beginning and moving it to the end of the meeting. However, his preference was to keep it toward the beginning of the meeting. Christianson saw value in both options. Mosher felt having reports toward the beginning of the meeting would be more efficient. Christianson and Nelson would bring forward an ordinance to the next regular meeting.

XIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

Mary Magnuson an owner of Mean Queen was appreciative for holding the hunker down resolution. She stated the 25% capacity rule needed to be addressed for reopening and offered allowing 50% capacity.

Paxton stated it would be good to get back to regular meetings at Harrigan Hall.

Municipal Administrator John Leach thanked Clerk Sara Peterson for her efforts on Assembly meetings and the extra workload she had.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Christianson to ADJOURN. Hearing no objections, the meeting ADJOURNED at 8:33 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Melissa Henshaw, CMC
Deputy Clerk



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
330 Harbor Drive
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Minutes - Draft

City and Borough Assembly

Mayor Gary Paxton
Deputy Mayor Steven Eisenbeisz,
Vice Deputy Mayor Kevin Mosher,
Kevin Knox, Dr. Richard Wein, Valorie Nelson, Thor Christianson

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

Tuesday, May 5, 2020

6:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

EMERGENCY MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. ROLL CALL

Members participated by videoconference.

Present: 7 - Christianson, Eisenbeisz, Knox, Wein, Paxton, Mosher, and Nelson

IV. CORRESPONDENCE/AGENDA CHANGES

No agenda changes.

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A ORD 20-25

An Emergency Ordinance of the City and Borough of Sitka amending Emergency Ordinance 2020-14 by adding an exception to the 14-day self-quarantine requirement when people arriving in Sitka are working at public works projects, community-based government functions and operations, or private construction projects as approved by the Municipal Administrator

Nelson recused herself due to a substantial financial interest.

Fran Hartman thanked the Assembly action to hunker down. She was not in support to

have some workers having to self quarantine and others not. Linda Marlin stated concern for those living paycheck to paycheck and felt the community needed to open up. Jeren Schmidt was in support of the self quarantine of 14 days with no exceptions. Cody Loomis was in support aligning with state mandates. Karen Keating told of concerns with the charter industry and the 14 day quarantine requirement. Jaylene Owen told of concerns for local businesses and shutting citizens in. She stated that the current public policies were narrowly focused on COVID-19 that they neglect the health risks that were more harmful. She implored to work towards a solution to open up. Nicole Bilinski stated that all should have to abide by the state health mandates and not get special treatment. Danielle Roberts gave her opinion that everyone traveling to Sitka, from in state or out of state should be required to self quarantine for 14 days to protect the community. Theresa Weiser felt that by allowing the exceptions, it sent a confusing message. She told of concerns with extending the 61 days expiration that was pre-scheduled for June 9. Samantha Hoffman stated that adding exemptions completely defeated the overall purpose. Luke Johnson felt that the changes portrayed the city valuing itself and its own projects over that of private individuals and businesses.

Nelson was not in support and felt that the charter industry was targeted. She stated she would like to rescind ordinance 2020-14. Paxton was in support and noted the projects that were stopped because of the ordinance. He felt Sitka had done what was asked, with masks and social distancing. He felt that ordinance 2020-14 needed to be rescinded. Mosher stated as a co-sponsor, the ordinance wasn't meant to show favoritism. He would like to see some discretion given to the Administrator. Christianson commented that this allowed a small number of businesses/contractors that could be isolated and monitored yet working. He told that charter clients were covered under the state mandate regardless of what the city had in place and noted that the state required self quarantining. Knox found it curious that ongoing projects had been put to a stop as the state mandate was in place. He told of concerns with bringing additional people to Sitka to work as they would still be mixing with the rest of the crew. He wondered how to mitigate or what the possible contamination or infection rate would be from it. He wasn't sure how it would dovetail with the state mandate. Eisenbeisz was not in support, felt that it showed these entities were more important than others, and that it gave special privileges. Wein was not in support as he felt this ordinance did not add anything and didn't state how many people. He saw an enormous array of contradictory rules that made it non functional and could understand why some felt targeted. He stated this situation was fluid, and we were not keeping up with it. He wondered what to do when a surge came to Sitka. He noted that processors would follow state mandates.

Municipal Administrator John Leach listed the projects that were stopped. He stated this exemption was not automatic and that a mitigation plan would still need to go through the process as stated in the original ordinance. He told that there was confusion when the state approved plans, yet the city didn't and that this could clear up confusion. Leach laid out impacts if not passed with regards to projects. He mentioned projects that were essential for harbor, roads, electrical, and for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Municipal Attorney Brian Hanson gave his opinion that the hunker down resolution would expire on May 12 and in order to extend, it would need to be placed on the agenda. He stated 2020-24 expired at a later date, although failed rescinding previously, it would need to be placed on the agenda as well.

A motion was made by Christianson that this emergency ordinance be APPROVED on FIRST READING. The motion FAILED by the following vote.

Yes: 3 - Christianson, Paxton, and Mosher

No: 3 - Eisenbeisz, Knox, and Wein

Non-voting: 1 - Nelson

VII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

None.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Christianson to ADJOURN. Hearing no objections, the meeting ADJOURNED at 7:09 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Melissa Henshaw, CMC
Deputy Clerk