

Sponsors: Knox / Christianson

## **Discussion / Direction / Decision**

on adding select staff to the  
“assembly@cityofsitka.org” group email address.

Note:

At the March 26, 2019 Assembly meeting, the Municipal Administrator was directed by the Assembly to remove all department heads from the Assembly group email address.

While Wein was supportive of interim Police Chief Robert Baty he believed the hiring of Baty by the Administrator usurped and undermined the authority of the Assembly. Wein wished to be provided written plans from Baty on how he would approach the problem at the Police Department, prior to his arrival on April 1. In addition, Wein stated he was in support of holding off on choosing an investigator for now, however, wished to approve the appropriation in the event an investigation was warranted. Bean stated the intent was to bring forward recommendations for the body to consider and wished to proceed with the investigation. Mosher spoke in support of moving forward with the appropriation.

**No formal action was taken, however, the Assembly stated they would like this item to come back at the April 9 meeting for discussion / direction / decision.**

**L**     [ORD 19-10](#)

**Making supplemental appropriations for Fiscal Year 2019 (*Police Department Third Party Investigation*)**

Wein noted inclusion of a budget amendments report with the ordinance. Municipal Administrator Keith Brady explained the report listed what had been appropriated during the fiscal year. Chief Finance and Administrative Officer Jay Sweeney stated total supplemental appropriations to date for the General Fund in FY2019 totaled \$1,861,395 not including this supplemental appropriation.

From the public, Noah Shepard, stated the course of action was reasonable, however, expressed concern and told he had information the Assembly did not have and wished to speak with them.

Wein, appreciative of Shepard's concerns, was hopeful Baty would come in and revitalize the department or the Assembly would address the matter. Knox spoke in support of Baty's arrival, however, was not comfortable holding this over Baty. He wished to revisit at a later date.

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

**Yes:** 4 - Bean, Wein, Mosher, and Nelson

**No:** 1 - Knox

**Absent:** 2 - Eisenbeisz, and Paxton

**M**     [19-062](#)

**Discussion / Direction on the "assembly@cityofsitka.org" group email address**

Bean desired to have all department heads removed from the Assembly group email address and noted if the address was to the Assembly those members should be the only recipient. Wein believed it to be a breach of confidentiality, not transparent, and disingenuous. He offered people sending emails to that address were under the impression the only recipients were the duly elected Assembly members. Municipal Administrator Keith Brady stated department heads had been on the email group address for over a decade in an effort to possibly help answer questions. Brady noted there was a disclaimer online stating the department heads were included on the Assembly group email address. Wein reminded the Assembly should have the right to refer those emails to the Administrator or department heads at their discretion, not without their consent.

**A motion was made by Bean to direct the Administrator to remove all department heads from the Assembly group email address. The motion**

**PASSED by the following vote.**

**Yes:** 5 - Knox, Bean, Wein, Mosher, and Nelson

**Absent:** 2 - Eisenbeisz, and Paxton

**XIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD:**

Ken Buxton expressed the need for leadership at the Police Department.

Mary Ferguson stated the need for a new Police Chief and wondered why an interim Police Chief was being brought in before the current issues were resolved.

**XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**N**     [19-059](#)           Update from legal counsel regarding the status of the litigation arising out of the August 18, 2015 landslide events

**A motion was made by Knox to EXTEND to 10:45pm. The motion PASSED by the following vote.**

**Yes:** 5 - Wein, Knox, Mosher, Nelson and Bean

**Absent:** 2 - Paxton and Eisenbeisz

**A motion was made by Knox to go into executive session to receive and discuss an update from legal counsel, David Bruce, regarding the status of litigation arising out of the August 18, 2015 landslide events. The motion PASSED by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Nelson, Mosher, Wein, Bean and Knox

**Absent:** 2 - Paxton and Eisenbeisz

The Assembly was in executive session from 10:15pm to 10:44pm.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

**The meeting ADJOURNED at 10:45pm.**

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
              Sara Peterson, MMC  
              Municipal Clerk