



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

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

Minutes - Final City Assembly

MAYOR Scott McAdams
Jack Ozment, Deputy Mayor - Reber Stein, Vice Deputy Mayor
Cheryl Westover - Mim McConnell
Phyllis Hackett - Larry Crews

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR: Jim Dinley
MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY: Theresa Hillhouse
MUNICIPAL CLERK: Colleen Ingman, MMC

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

5:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

Worksession with School Board 5:00-5:30 PM
Worksession with Electric Department 5:30-6:00 PM

REGULAR MEETING

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

II. **FLAG SALUTE**

III. **ROLL CALL**

Present: 6 - McAdams, Ozment, Stein, Crews, Hackett, and McConnell

Excused: 1 - Westover

IV. **CORRESPONDENCE/AGENDA CHANGES**

A [10-043](#) Reminders/Calendars and Seaplane Base Final Siting Study

V. **SPECIAL MUNICIPAL/COMMITTEE/COMMISSION REPORTS:**

B [10-035](#) USFS Update District Ranger Carol Goularte

USFS District Ranger, Carol Goularte, updated the Assembly on a number of issues. Goularte informed their projected budget is \$44M, which is \$28M less than 5 years ago. The Sitka Ranger boat is being recommended for surplus due to a lack of both project dollars and justification of use. The Sitka District has the highest use of cabins in the Tongass with Allen Point and Starrigavan Creek topping the list. Goularte reported the new offices planned for Halibut Point Road are in final conceptual design stages of conceptual design - funding is still pending. Eighteen applications were submitted last year for Secure Rural Schools and Self Determination. Regarding the False Island Ocean Boulevard project, Goularte noted a wildlife thinning project is underway. Responding to comments from Mayor McAdams and Crews, Goularte said she didn't see the number of USFS employees in Sitka declining. She also

spoke to the importance of sustainable recreational programs and on another note added she would look into the possibility of a downtown USFS information site.

VI. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Garry White, speaking on behalf of the SEDA Board, said the group recently met to work on a Strategic Plan. Support for regional energy was at the top of their list. He announced the Sitka Conservation Society (SCS) is going to fund a sustainable finance intern, made possible through a donation of a SCS member. The hope is to explore what can be done as a community to keep capital and resources within the Sitka economy.

Andrew Thoms spoke to the continuing trend of job loss with the USFS in Sitka. Thoms stated Sitka's need to advocate for the USFS and be aware of their benefits to the community.

VII. REPORTS

a. Mayor

Recently attended meetings in Washington DC with the Administrator, Chris Brewton and Marlene Campbell for the purpose of moving forward Sitka's Legislative Priorities. Also recently attended Southeast Conference in Juneau where energy and transportation were the main focus. He promoted the upcoming Town Meeting scheduled for Friday March 12th on SB 881 and further mentioned March 15, 17, and 19 have been scheduled to discuss Sitka's 27 sales tax exemptions. He ended his report by mentioning the US Census and urged participation from the community. Each family member needs to be counted as this is how federal dollars get allocated. Failure to count one family member could mean a loss of \$56K for the community.

b. Administrator

Administrator announced the Benchlands subdivision is being revisited. He applauded Sitka Rotary for their work on Goddard Hot Springs and offered updates on all of Public Works on-going projects.

c. Attorney

Announced she will be in Anchorage next week for hearings on the Initiative Petition surrounding Sawmill Cove.

d. Liaison Representatives

Hackett announced that the Historic Preservation Commission has changed their next meeting to April 7. A review of the Sheldon Jackson College Subdivision request will be their major topic.

McConnell attended the housing forum and learned what Juneau is doing. Long Range Planning and Economic Development Commission met and are planning on how to proceed at their next meeting. The City Shops and Benchland properties top their list as a place to start with housing needs for Sitka. She attended the USFS workshop in Juneau and shared the USFS mandate to raise the bar on tourism recreation. Sitka and Cordova will be pilot projects.

Ozment reminded the Assembly of the invitation to attend the Climate Action Plan

Task Force on Friday March 26 to review their draft plan and added that the plan would be available to Assembly members prior to that date.

e. Clerk

Reminded the Assembly Financial Disclosure Statements are due March 15. Mentioned the possibility of holding a visioning session in April.

f. Other

Stein noted he didn't think there was a large public process on the Sawmill Creek Road realignment project. Administrator Dinley stated Public Works Director, Michael Harmon, is working with the State and has requested DOT come to Sitka and present the design to the Assembly. An Open House is not planned. Currently the State is working on environmental documents.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

C [10-037](#) Approve the minutes of the February 23, 2010 Assembly meeting.

This matter was APPROVED on the Consent Agenda

D [10-038](#) Appoint Steven Eisenbeisz to an unexpired term on the Police and Fire Commission; appoint Charles Howlett to a three-year term on the Local Emergency Planning Committee and appoint Tom Rogers to an unexpired term on the Planning and Zoning Commission.

This matter was APPROVED on the Consent Agenda

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

E [10-027](#) Approve a \$50,000 line of credit for Sitka Works funded under Sitka Economic Development Fund.

McConnell announced a conflict of interest and was recused.

MOTION by Stein to approve a \$50,000 line of credit for Sitka Works funded under Sitka Economic Development Fund. Motion PASSED on the following vote:

Yes: 5 - McAdams, Ozment, Stein, Crews, and Hackett

Recused: 1 - McConnell

X. NEW BUSINESS:

New Business First Reading

F [ORD. 10-01A](#) Amending SGC Section 11.13.02.295 entitled "Minimum Speed Regulation" to authorize low-speed electric vehicles on Sitka's highway's, roads and streets

Sponsors: Stein and Ozment

Frank Rogers voiced concerned with the low speed limit. He hoped the Assembly

would require lower speed vehicles to pull off to the side of the road when impeding traffic; it is a safety hazard.

Police Chief Schmitt spoke in support of the ordinance. Sitka is uniquely situated for these type of vehicles. He wondered if the City should be thinking about low speed vehicles in general and not just electric.

A discussion on adding additional language ensued.

Crews expressed concern with the mix of commercial traffic and low speed vehicles. Assembly members stressed there would be a need for education if this passed.

MOTION by McConnell to strike the word electric.

Motion PASSED on the amendment by unanimous voice vote.

MOTION by Stein to approve Ordinance 2010-01 on first reading.

Additional New Business Items

- G** [10-039](#) Approve Change Order #1 with Hatch Acres Corporation for the Detailed Design Study Blue Lake, obligate additional funds and authorize the Administrator to execute

Utility Director, Chris Brewton, explained by the time it was determined where they were on the project that they were already over their limit. Although it is a justifiable and legitimate expense, Brewton apologized for getting ahead of themselves. CBS will be paying up front for a little additional work that will save an estimated \$3M on the construction.

MOTION by Stein to approve Change Order 1 in the amount of \$534,752 with Hatch Acres Corporation to complete Task Order 1; authorize the Municipal Administrator to sign Change Order 1 and obligate additional project funds in the amount of \$534,752 from Blue Lake Third Turbine and Dam upgrade Capital Project No. 90594. The motion PASSED on the following vote:

Yes: 6 - McAdams, Ozment, Stein, Crews, Hackett, and McConnell

- H** [10-040](#) Approve a joint funding agreement with the USGS for stream gauging installations for the Takatz lake Hydroelectric Project, obligate funds and authorize the Administrator to execute

In response to a question by Hackett, Brewton noted there have been two meetings so far on Takatz - October 7, 8 2009 and then one in Juneau. Brewton informed the Assembly there would be several more opportunities for comment, primarily written. Brewton also announced there are plans for a project specific website to allow for comment. A public announcement will be made when the site is ready.

Grants in the amount of \$1.8M have been received to date, \$100K has been expended.

A Recess was taken from 7:47 PM until 7:55 PM

MOTION by Ozment to approve a Joint Funding Agreement in the amount of \$250,183 with USGS for stream gauging installations for the Takatz Lake Hydroelectric Project; authorize the Municipal Administrator to sign the agreement; and obligate project funds in the amount of \$250,183 from the Takatz Lake Hydroelectric Project No. 90614. The motion PASSED on the following vote:

Yes: 6 - McAdams, Ozment, Stein, Crews, Hackett, and McConnell

- I [RES 10-08](#) A resolution of the CBS authorizing the Municipal Administrator to submit to the State of Alaska an application for a federal grant under the Historical Preservation Fund Program in support of a \$10,000 grant application for Sitka Cultural Center.

Hackett pointed out that there are now three organizations that have received grants through this program.

A couple minor clerical edits were suggested and approved.

MOTION by Hackett to amend by inserting the words “not need to” on Line 37 and to insert on Line 10 “acting on behalf of the Sitka Historical Consortium.”

Motion on the amendment PASSED by a unanimous voice vote.

MOTION by Stein to approve Resolution 2010-08 authorizing the Municipal Administrator to submit to the State of Alaska an application for a federal grant under the Historical Preservation Fund Program in support of a \$10,000 grant application for Sitka Cultural Center. The motion PASSED as amended on the following vote:

Yes: 6 - McAdams, Ozment, Stein, Crews, Hackett, and McConnell

- J [RES 10-09](#) A resolution supporting a grant application to the Coastal Impact Assistance Grants Program for rehabilitation of Swan Lake

Marlene Campbell, Government Relations Director, explained the grant process which is a statewide competitive program.

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

Yes: 6 - McAdams, Ozment, Stein, Crews, Hackett, and McConnell

- K [10-036](#) Discussion/Direction of adding a donation section to Utility Bills for Parks and Recreation

Hackett explained she has done research on creative ways to fund recreation and this is an idea she came across. It is not designed to bring in huge amounts of money but it can bring in modest amounts and provide public awareness of our recreational programs.

McConnell clarified folks who pay with a credit card with auto pay would not be able to roundup. Hackett explained the round-up was just one option she ran across.

Mayor McAdams asked Attorney Hillhouse if it was possible to set up a service authority within the Borough. Hillhouse responded that they are primarily used for police and fire and roads. She would have to research.

XI. PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by McConnell to adjourn the meeting. The meeting Adjourned at 8:25 PM by unanimous consent.

ATTEST:

**Colleen Ingman, MMC
Municipal Clerk**