



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

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

Minutes - Final

City and Borough Assembly

*Mayor Steven Eisenbeisz
Deputy Mayor Thor Christianson,
Vice Deputy Mayor Valorie Nelson,
Kevin Knox, Kevin Mosher, Crystal Duncan, Rebecca
Himschoot*

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

Tuesday, October 12, 2021

6:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. ROLL CALL

Outgoing Assembly Member Nelson presided through Unfinished Business. Assembly Members Mosher (re-elected) and Miller were sworn in at the beginning of New Business and presided through the remainder of the meeting.

Present: 8 - Christianson, Knox, Mosher, Nelson, Eisenbeisz, Himschoot, Duncan, and Miller

IV. CORRESPONDENCE/AGENDA CHANGES

None.

[21-159](#)

Reminders, Calendars, and General Correspondence

V. CEREMONIAL MATTERS

None.

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

[21-151](#)

Special Report - Sitka Landslide Warning System Update

Sitka Sound Science Center Director Lisa Busch and Annette Patton Geoscientist at the University of Oregon provided a landslide research update. Busch told of next

steps, monitoring, and the development of a community landslide risk dashboard.

VII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Valorie Nelson spoke to her compilation of emails regarding the mask mandate. 191 emails had been received in support and 258 in opposition. Richard Wein spoke to affordability in Sitka and the breakthrough vaccination rates. Brett Wilcox told of the differences in health issues between those vaccinated and unvaccinated.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

- A [21-150](#) Approve the minutes of the September 14, 23, and 28 Assembly meetings

A motion was made by Nelson that this Item be APPROVED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 7 - Christianson, Knox, Mosher, Nelson, Eisenbeisz, Himschoot, and Duncan

Non-voting: 1 - Miller

IX. BOARD, COMMISSION, COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

See item I.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- B [ORD 21-29](#) Authorizing the sale of the former Sitka Community Hospital Site located at 209 Moller Drive, 202 Brady Street, 204 Brady Street, and 302 Gavan Street to the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC)

From the public, Richard Wein and Carin Adickes spoke in opposition of a sale.

A discussion of the Assembly ensued. Nelson spoke in opposition stating she supported a lease option. Himschoot hoped the City would see tax revenue from the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium (SEARHC) and expressed disappointment in SEARHC using the same appraiser as the City. Duncan disclosed her office space was provided by SEARHC. Based on the outcome of the advisory vote, Christianson, Mosher, and Eisenbeisz expressed support for moving forward with the sale.

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

Yes: 6 - Christianson, Knox, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Himschoot, and Duncan

No: 1 - Nelson

Non-voting: 1 - Miller

- C [ORD 21-36](#) Making supplemental appropriations for Fiscal Year 2022 (FY2021 Open Purchase Orders)

A motion was made by Himschoot that this Ordinance be APPROVED on SECOND AND FINAL READING.

Yes: 6 - Christianson, Knox, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Himschoot, and Duncan

No: 1 - Nelson

Non-voting: 1 - Miller

D [21-152](#) Approve the Municipal Clerk's Certificate of Election

A motion was made by Knox to formally ACCEPT the Certificate of Election for the October 5, 2021 Regular Municipal Election according to the results set forth in the attached election certification prepared by the Municipal Clerk and request that the official tally be included in the minutes as part of the permanent record. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 7 - Christianson, Knox, Mosher, Nelson, Eisenbeisz, Himschoot, and Duncan

Non-voting: 1 - Miller

E [21-153](#) Recognize outgoing Assembly Member(s) - followed by a short recess

The Assembly took a short recess to recognize outgoing Assembly Member Valorie Nelson.

XI. NEW BUSINESS:

F [21-154](#) Oath of Office - Newly Elected Officials

Kevin Mosher and David Miller were sworn in as Assembly Members for three-year terms.

G [21-157](#) Discussion / Direction on leasing city tidelands adjacent to 1406 Sawmill Creek Road to Sharon and Lisa Williamson

Planning Director Amy Ainslie explained the current owners were in the process of marketing their property and were interested in leasing the adjacent municipal tidelands to make the property more desirable. Once the property was sold, the tidelands lease would be assigned to the new owner. Ainslie hoped for guidance on the lease terms and whether competitive bidding was inappropriate. A discussion ensued. The Assembly determined it to be non-competitive and agreed on a 6% rate.

H [21-155](#) Approve a standard marijuana cultivation facility license renewal application for Darren H. Phillips dba Fiberflite at 120 Jarvis Street Unit C

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

Yes: 7 - Christianson, Knox, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Himschoot, Duncan, and Miller

Non-voting: 1 - Nelson

- I [21-156](#) Appoint 1) Karen Lucas to a three-year term on the Historic Preservation Commission, and 2) Thomas Martin to an unexpired term on the Library Commission

From the public, Richard Wein spoke in support of Karen Lucas.

Christianson thanked both individuals for applying.

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

Yes: 7 - Christianson, Knox, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Himschoot, Duncan, and Miller

Non-voting: 1 - Nelson

- J [ORD 21-37](#) Amending Title 2 “Administration” of the Sitka General Code by updating Chapter 2.04 “City and Borough Assembly” to include a land acknowledgment to the agenda

Knox, a sponsor, told of his work on this item. He relayed the topic had been mentioned at government to government meetings, had been mentioned to tribal members, and believed it to be an acknowledgement of the place we stand and do business; a small gesture in the work done with the First Nations people of Sitka. Mosher, a sponsor, agreed. He said it was a simply written expression of gratitude. Duncan thanked the sponsors for bringing the item forward. Eisenbeisz noted he would read the acknowledgement at the October 20 Tribal Council meeting.

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

Yes: 7 - Christianson, Knox, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Himschoot, Duncan, and Miller

Non-voting: 1 - Nelson

- K [21-158](#) Assignments: Deputy Mayor, Vice-Deputy Mayor, and Assembly Liaisons

Knox was nominated for Deputy Mayor. Hearing no other nominations, Knox was appointed.

Mosher was nominated for Vice Deputy Mayor. Hearing no other nominations, Mosher was appointed.

The following liaison appointments were made:

Climate Action Task Force - Mosher / Himschoot
Gary Paxton Industrial Park Board - Christianson / Eisenbeisz
Health Needs and Human Services Commission - Duncan / Christianson
Historic Preservation Commission - Miller
Investment Committee - Christianson
Library Commission - Himschoot / Christianson
Local Emergency Planning Commission - Miller / Duncan
Parks and Recreation Committee - Knox / Mosher
Planning Commission - Christianson / Duncan
Police and Fire Commission - Duncan / Miller
Port and Harbors Commission - Knox / Eisenbeisz

Tree and Landscape Committee - Himschoot / Miller
 SEDA - Eisenbeisz / Mosher
 Sitka Tribe of Alaska - Eisenbeisz / Miller
 School Board - Himschoot / Mosher

XII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

Carin Adickes spoke to a current Assembly Member making an inflammatory statement at an Emergency Operations Center meeting regarding unvaccinated individuals. She requested an investigation. Richard Wein spoke in support of the land acknowledgement and spoke to the lack of negotiation of the hospital sale price. Kevin Knox read a statement from Kevin Mulligan in support of a Seaplane Base.

XIII. REPORTS

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

Administrator - Leached thanked Municipal Clerk Sara Peterson and election officials for conducting a clean and efficient election.

Clerk - Peterson read through the Board/Commission/Committee vacancy list, expressed gratitude to Deputy Clerk Jess Earnshaw, Administrative Coordinator Holley Dennison, and all election officials for a job well done in the municipal election, and thanked Sitka High student Nik Calhoun for making assembly name plaques with the new city seal.

Other - Mosher reminded liaisons to meet with their respective commissions to talk about streamlining duties.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mosher to ADJOURN. Hearing no objections, the meeting ADJOURNED at 7:53pm.

ATTEST: _____
Sara Peterson, MMC
Municipal Clerk