

# SITKA POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 28, 2017  
Harrigan Centennial Hall

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## Regular Meeting Minutes

### A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Platson called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Present: Loyd Platson, Aubrey Vaughan, Lorraine Lil, James Mellema  
City Staff: Chief Miller, Chief Ankerfelt, SPD Executive Assistant Serena Wild

### B. AGENDA CHANGES/CORRESPONDENCE

Added under New Business – New Police Building Discussion

### C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 24, 2017

**Motion: M-Vaughan/S-Platson approve the May 24, 2017 minutes.**

**Action: Motion passed by unanimous consent.**

### D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

### E. PARKING CITATION HEARING BOARD

1. David Brown – appeal was reheard and granted

### F. REPORTS

1. Chief Ankerfelt – reported that they are close to filling another officer position. A sworn officer position was cut from the FY18 budget, bringing the authorized strength down to 16, which is below average for communities of comparable size. Dispatch still has two open positions and the jail will have one open position with the retirement of one officer.
2. Chief Miller – FD is still low on staff as 2 engineers are still in training. EMS numbers are still up for the year, in level with last year's numbers.

### G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Proposed revision of Sitka General Code 10.24 - Fireworks  
Connie Laperriere - came forward and spoke against the changes to the ordinance. She shared that she would only like to see fireworks on the day the Municipal display takes place. And if the City allowed fireworks other days would they be liable for any accidents. She also questioned how the enforcement of the new changes would happen.  
Gerald Gangle - came forward and spoke against the changes to the ordinance. He has 20 years' experience with SAR and they investigate all flare sightings and it can be difficult to tell the difference between flares and fireworks at times. If fireworks were allowed more often, that could put more stress on SAR to investigate sightings. Furthermore, with the house density in Sitka, the chances of

a firework landing on a roof is very high. As of now, only an elite group of people bring fireworks into town but with them being legalized it would create a greater demand.

Kathleen McCrossin - came forward and spoke against the changes to the ordinance. She shared her concerns about enforcement of the new changes as it is already hard to enforce the current ordinance. She questioned if there would be a way for a neighborhood to prevent someone who habitually sets off fireworks to stop or be held accountable for it.

The Commission expressed concerns about enforcement of the new ordinance and believes that the ordinance is going in the wrong direction. The Commission would like to see fireworks banned with the exception of licensed pyrotechnics. Fireworks, if not used properly, can cause major injuries and safety is a big concern. Safety of usage and safety of proper storage of the fireworks. It is illegal to discharge a firearm within city limits and fireworks can be just as dangerous as a firearm.

**Motion: Police and Fire Commission recommend to the Assembly to not adopt the proposed changes of SGC 10.24 titled Fireworks.**

**Action: Motion passed by unanimous consent.**

But if the proposed changes are being carried forward they did have some recommended changes to the ordinance. They are as follows:

Increase the fine schedule to a minimum of \$200 for first offense,

Banning all possession and use of fireworks,

Allowing neighbors to identify someone who habitually sets off fireworks and execute something such as a citizen's arrest.

## 2. New Police Building Discussion

Chief Ankerfelt is very heartened by the support being shown for a new facility. Hoping to get create a strong grassroots support in the community and wants the Police & Fire Commission to take on the drumming up of support as a project. Working with other department heads within the City to select an architect and site location. Will be setting up a work session for the Assembly at the PD so they can see the state that their community asset is in.

## **I. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

## **J. NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS**

Next meeting: **Wednesday, July 26, 2017 @ Harrigan Centennial Hall**

Agenda items:

## **K. ADJOURNMENT**

Platson adjourned the meeting at 7: 34 pm.