



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 Kevin Mosher,
Vice Deputy Mayor Timothy Pike,
Thor Christianson, Chris Ystad,
JJ Carlson, Scott Saline*

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

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

6:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

WORK SESSION

5:00 P.M. - WORK SESSION - GREATER SITKA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISIT SITKA

[24-045](#) Visit Sitka - FY25 Annual Workplan & Budget Request

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. RECITAL OF LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

IV. ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Christianson, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Pike, Carlson, and Saline

Absent: 1 - Ystad

V. CORRESPONDENCE/AGENDA CHANGES

No agenda changes.

[24-042](#) Reminders, Calendars, and General Correspondence

VI. CEREMONIAL MATTERS

[24-044](#) Service Award - Mo McBride

Mayor Eisenbeisz read a service award for Mo McBride.

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

[24-036](#)

Sitka Community Land Trust - Randy Hughey, Executive Director

Randy Hughey, Sitka Community Land Trust Executive Director, shared an update on housing in Sitka.

Sitka Tribe of Alaska Tribal Chairman, Lawrence Widmark provided a summary of the February business meeting.

VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Annette Evans spoke on complete funding for the Blatchley pool. Richard Wein emphasized the significance of the Blatchley pool, commented on West Point's mission statement, and acknowledged the importance of Holy Week. Austin Cranford voiced full endorsement for funding the Blatchley pool and shared his comments on the Sitka Police Department's Facebook page.

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, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Pike, Carlson, and Saline

Absent: 1 - Ystad

A [24-037](#)

Approve the minutes of the March 12 Assembly meeting

This item was APPROVED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

X. BOARD, COMMISSION, COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

B [24-038](#)

Appoint 1) Thomas D'Uva to an unexpired term on the Tree and Landscape Committee, and 2) Gerry Hope to an unexpired term on the Sustainability Commission

Richard Wein commented.

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

Yes: 6 - Christianson, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Pike, Carlson, and Saline

Absent: 1 - Ystad

C [24-043](#)

Reappoint Dionne Brady-Howard to a three-year term on the Historic Preservation Commission under the category of Sitka Tribe of Alaska representative

Richard Wein commented.

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

Yes: 6 - Christianson, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Pike, Carlson, and Saline

Absent: 1 - Ystad

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- D [ORD 24-06](#) Making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2024 (Thomsen Harbor Lift Station Replacement)

Richard Wein commented.

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

Yes: 6 - Christianson, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Pike, Carlson, and Saline

Absent: 1 - Ystad

XII. NEW BUSINESS:

New Business First Reading

- E [ORD 24-07S](#) Amending Title 4 "Revenue and Finance" of the Sitka General Code by updating Chapter 4.85 "Driver Facility Charge"

Airport Terminal Manager Joe Bea provided an overview of the current ordinance 4.85.030 which currently levies a Driver Facility Tax of four percent to car rental companies that utilize the airport terminal building facility. He spoke to the proposed increase rate from four to eight percent. He mentioned this would ensure the airport would keep up with financial commitments for operating costs and matching funds as the terminal goes through different phases of the Airport Improvement Project. It would also guarantee the terminal can cover growing operating expenses as the building expands and have enough funds for repairs due to regular wear and tear, without needing external support.

Richard Wein and Austin Cranford commented.

A motion was made by Christianson that this Ordinance be APPROVED on FIRST READING.

Yes: 6 - Christianson, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Pike, Carlson, and Saline

Absent: 1 - Ystad

Additional New Business Items

- F [RES 24-09](#) Authorizing the Municipal Administrator to apply for the Denali Commission Grant in the amount of \$510,251.50 under the Infrastructure

Fund Program Area to use as leverage for future grant opportunities for the Gary Paxton Industrial Park (GPIP) North Boat Yard Electrical Project

Public and Government Relations Director Melissa Wileman, and SEDA Executive Director Gary White provided an overview of the grant opportunity for the Gary Paxton Industrial Park North Boat Yard Electrical Project.

Richard Wein commented.

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

Yes: 6 - Christianson, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Pike, Carlson, and Saline

Absent: 1 - Ystad

G [24-039](#)

Approve the Sustainability Commission 2024-2025 Goals and Work Plan

Sustainability Commission Chair Katie Riley, and Aurora Taylor Vice Chair covered various topics including development of the Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy, collaboration with city staff on strategic management of municipal solid waste, and support for electrification of the municipal fleet. Goals for the upcoming year support the same objectives as the 2023-2024 goals but have been reworked to reflect updates within CBS and the evolution of the operational and feasibility landscape around each goal in the past year.

Austin Cranford and Richard Wein commented.

Members Mosher, Carlson, and Eisenbeisz thanked the commission for their work.

A motion was made by Christianson to approve the Sustainability Commission goals and Work Plan for 2024-2025.

Yes: 6 - Christianson, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Pike, Carlson, and Saline

Absent: 1 - Ystad

H [24-040](#)

Discussion / Direction the development of a RFP for management of the Sitka Performing Arts Center

Planning and Community Development Director Amy Ainslie provided a background on the current management structure of the Performing Arts Center (PAC). She explained the original contract is a one year term with 4 annual extensions and is currently in the last extension year, to expire on June 2023.

The Assembly discussed the management and operation of the (PAC), considered issuing a Request For Proposal (RFP) to seek potential interest in managing the facility, and the need for funding to support and update the facility. Eisenbeisz stated the need to carefully structure the RFP to ensure it doesn't appear as sole sourced, and discussed the utility costs and long-term maintenance of the facility. Consensus of the Assembly was to issue an RFP, and based on a cooperative model, and include the current CBS contributions.

I [24-041](#)

Discussion / Direction / Decision on the commercial passenger vessel tax fund balance

Acting Administrator Ron Vinson provided an overview of the options. The Assembly discussed the search for more accurate sources of funding for various projects, with a focus on directing the Municipal Administrator to investigate.

XIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

Richard Wein provided remarks regarding the allocation of funds to St. Michael's Cathedral Church, informed about the retirement of Mount Edgecumbe's Boys Basketball coach Archie Young after twenty-five years of service, and extended congratulations to Marty Vinson for securing second place in the State Spelling Bee. Austin Cranford expressed gratitude to Joe Bea for clarifying Ordinance 2024-06 and discussed cruise ship power stations.

XIV. REPORTS

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

Mayor - Eisenbeisz announced he would be traveling to Washington DC from April 8th-April 12th.

Attorney - Hanson stated he would be back to Sitka on April 8th, and he continues to work remotely.

Liaison Representatives - Christianson told of the Investment Committee. Pike reported on the School Board. Carlson reported on the Tourism Task Force and Saline on the Library Commission.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Christianson to ADJOURN. Hearing no objections, the meeting ADJOURNED at 8:57 p.m.