

CONSENT AGENDA

POSSIBLE MOTION

**I MOVE TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA
CONSISTING OF ITEMS A, B, & C**

I wish to remove Item(s) ____, ____, ____

Roll call vote required

**REMINDER – Read aloud a portion of each item being
voted on that is included in the consent vote.**

If this item is pulled from the consent agenda the following motion would be in order:

POSSIBLE MOTION

I MOVE TO approve the minutes of the September 9, 2014 Assembly meeting.



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

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

Minutes - Draft City and Borough Assembly

*Mayor Mim McConnell
Deputy Mayor Matt Hunter
Vice-Deputy Mayor Phyllis Hackett, Pete Esquiro, Mike Reif,
Benjamin Miyasato and Aaron Swanson*

*Municipal Administrator: Mark Gorman
Municipal Attorney: Robin L. Koutchak
Municipal Clerk: Colleen Ingman, MMC*

Tuesday, September 9, 2014

6:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - McConnell, Hunter, Hackett, Esquiro, Reif, Swanson, and Miyasato

IV. CORRESPONDENCE/AGENDA CHANGES

Hackett noted she had received an email from a citizen regarding the dangers of cell phone use while driving. Hackett suggested the Health Needs Commission and Police and Fire Commission look into this matter and provide a recommendation to the Assembly.

Administrator Gorman provided a status report on the Baranof Warm Springs Dock project, administration of fees and management of the dock.

Michael Harmon, Public Works Director, answered questions regarding the Edgecumbe Drive Reconstruction project.

- A 14-180 Reminders and Calendars
- B 14-181 Public Works Monthly Report
- C 14-182 Electrical Department Monthly Report

V. CEREMONIAL MATTERS

- D 14-183 Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

Mayor McConnell read a proclamation recognizing September as Childhood Cancer Awareness month.

VI. SPECIAL REPORTS: Government to Government, Municipal Boards/Commissions/Committees, Municipal Departments, School District, Students and Guests (time limits apply)

With the start of a new school year, Tim Fulton, Sitka School Board Clerk, provided a report to the Assembly and gave a brief overview of new staff at the District. Fulton also reviewed Board goals and District goals.

VII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Richard James spoke to the issue of parking tickets and suggested an Assembly member had used their position as an to have a recent parking ticket dismissed. Hackett came forward and indicated she had followed the appeal process outlined in Sitka General Code and the ticket was dismissed due to no signage.

Bobbi Daniels expressed concern that the citizens and businesses of Sitka were struggling and reiterated her comments from the August 26 Assembly meeting.

VIII. REPORTS

Mayor - Reported she had met with Zuill Bailey and Kayla Boettcher about Sitka Summer Music Festival activities, met with new Library Director Robb Farmer and his wife, met with the playground committee members working on improving the playground between the Sage Building and tennis courts, met with Senator Begich and attended the Chamber lunch where he was the speaker, attended the monthly SEDA meeting, and a special SCVB meeting. Upcoming meetings/activities include: attending the Carnival Miracle inaugural visit September 12, attending Southeast Conference next week in Wrangell and then a CLT Conference.

Administrator - Reported a final draft from Municipal Solutions would be ready by September 25 and suggested an Assembly worksession on October 14, announced the new captain of Search and Rescue was Lance Ewers, reported the Blue Lake project was ahead of schedule, the Solar generator had been tested and was ready for use.

Municipal Attorney - reported Mike Gatti would have a report on taxation issues completed soon.

Liaisons - Swanson attended Police and Fire Commission and reported the Commission wanted to take a look at signage in the Harbors, Hackett attended the Sitka Community Hospital Board meeting and reported the new CEO would begin employment soon. Reif noted the Investment Committee would hold a meeting later this month. Hunter stated the Port and Harbors Commission would meet September 10.

Clerk - reported Absentee in-person voting for the municipal election would begin at City Hall on September 22 and continue through October 6.

Other - Hunter reiterated the implications of texting and driving. Mayor McConnell reported Alaska Housing Finance Corporation was offering a Home Choice class September 10 and 11. A certificate from this class was needed if interested in purchasing a Community Land Trust home.

a. Mayor, b. Administrator, c. Attorney, d. Liaison Representatives, e. Clerk, f. Other**IX. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A 14-175** Approve the Minutes of the August 26, 2014 Assembly Meeting
- This item was **APPROVED** on the Consent Agenda.
- B RES 14-12** Approving the submittal of an application to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) for grant funding to design improvements to the TSA screening room
- This item was **APPROVED** on the Consent Agenda.
- C RES 14-13** Requesting that the regulations covering the use of herbicides along Alaska Roadways be amended to provide for public comment
- Hackett urged the public to be informed of this issue. Mayor McConnell noted the subject would be talked about at the upcoming Southeast Conference meeting.
- A motion was made by Hunter that this item be APPROVED. The motion PASSED by the following vote.**
- Yes:** 7 - McConnell, Hunter, Hackett, Esquiro, Reif, Swanson, and Miyasato
- D RES 14-14** Approving CBS to submit an Alaska Energy Authority Renewable Energy Grant Application for a Heat Pump Project at the Wastewater Treatment Plant
- Public Works Director, Michael Harmon; Municipal Engineer, Dan Tadic; and Senior Engineer, David Longtin answered questions regarding the heat pump project. Harmon reported the present heat source for the building was diesel.
- A motion was made by Reif that this item be APPROVED. The motion PASSED by the following vote.**
- Yes:** 7 - McConnell, Hunter, Hackett, Esquiro, Reif, Swanson, and Miyasato
- X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**
- E ORD 14-27** ORD 14-27 A: Amending SGC at section 4.12.020 entitled "Property Subject to Tax" to increase the biennial motor vehicle registration tax to be used for municipal roads and municipal roads infrastructures such as sidewalks, gutters, bike lanes, sub grade and drainage systems. Alternatively, the Assembly will place on the October 2015 municipal election some form of a tax ballot measure (e.g. sales, fuel, and property) that will produce revenues commensurate with the fees that would be generated by this proposed vehicle tax registration fee ordinance. The increased tax revenues will be dedicated to supporting the maintenance of the CBS roads. If the tax ballot measure is passed

the vehicle registration fee outlined within this ordinance will not be implemented.

Sponsors: Reif, Hunter and Hackett

Wayne Dye spoke in support of the ordinance. He stated the tax would specifically be used for roads.

Richard Doland expressed concern that Sitka was losing site of its priorities. As a contractor, this would be an added cost he would need to pass on to his clients.

Bruce Conine spoke against the ordinance. Conine, operator of a seasonal tourist business, personally can't afford the additional tax and didn't want to have to pass it on to his clients.

Meg Williams spoke against the ordinance citing there was a certain demographic that didn't drive much but owned registered vehicles and could not afford the additional fees.

Reif asked what the yearly cost would be for all residential roads (not major roads) to be switched back to gravel. Public Works Director, Michael Harmon, noted to maintain the existing road system as it was today would cost \$2.7 million a year. If the residential roads were turned to gravel the amount would be reduced to \$1.6 Million, but Harmon reminded the quality of life would also be different.

Jay Sweeney, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer, noted between \$400,000 and \$500,000 would be generated from the tax and reminded there were a lot of determining factors to the final number.

Mayor McConnell suggested this issue would be a good task for the Strategic Planning Commission to explore, however, members were needed for the Commission and she encouraged folks to apply. She also stated she looked forward to Mr. Gatti's report on taxation issues.

Hackett urged the public to review the Public Works Road System Master Planning & Funding Strategies study created by Public Works Director, Michael Harmon. Hackett noted this topic had been a recurring issue since she had been an Assembly member and urged folks to become involved and work together to find solutions.

Reif shared this was an issue when he was on the Assembly 20 years ago and reminded the proposed ordinance was only a partial solution.

Miyasato reiterated if the ballot measure mentioned were to pass the tax would not be implemented. He encouraged citizens to offer their input and come together to work towards a solution.

A motion was made by Hunter to POSTPONE this ordinance until the Assembly meeting (tentatively October 14) after Mr. Gatti's report was presented. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 4 - McConnell, Hunter, Hackett, and Swanson

No: 3 - Esquiro, Reif, and Miyasato

Hackett felt there were better options and didn't want to settle for something that could be better.

Miyasato, Reif, and Esquiro spoke in opposition to the postponement.

XI. NEW BUSINESS:

New Business First Reading

F ORD 14-29 Authorizing the extension of the lease of the land at 323 Seward Street to November 1, 2046 to White Elephant Shop, Inc.

Jan Nelson, White Elephant Shop volunteer, spoke in support of the ordinance.

Reif asked what would happen in the future if the White Elephant Shop were no longer a non-profit and if there should be a clause in the lease. Municipal Attorney, Robin Koutchak, indicated she would need to research the issue.

Esquiro spoke to the letter received from nearby White Elephant Shop property owners and the problems with the use of the access easement. Planning Director, Wells Williams, stated while there was an issue with the easement the matter was unrelated to the lease renewal. Williams noted the easement could not be blocked. Jan Nelson said the Shop had gone to great efforts to lessen impacts to the nearby property owners.

Hackett reminded the community of the value of the White Elephant Shop.

A motion was made by Reif to POSTPONE this ordinance to allow time for the Municipal Attorney to research if the City would be protected in the event the White Elephant Shop ceased to exist as a non profit. The motion FAILED by the following vote.

No: 7 - McConnell, Hunter, Hackett, Esquiro, Reif, Swanson, and Miyasato

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

Yes: 7 - McConnell, Hunter, Hackett, Esquiro, Reif, Swanson, and Miyasato

G ORD 14-32 Proposing to amend Title 1, Administration, of the SGC by adding Section 1.04.90 Use of City Seal

Hunter expressed appreciation to the Municipal Clerk for being proactive.

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

Yes: 7 - McConnell, Hunter, Hackett, Esquiro, Reif, Swanson, and Miyasato

H ORD 14-31 Proposing to amend Title 2, Administration, of the SGC by amending Section 2.40.040 Initiative and Referendum to properly reflect the State of Alaska Constitution Article IX, Section 7 that citizen initiative

shall not be used to make or repeal appropriations; and proposing to amend the Home Rule Charter of the CBS, Article VI. Section 6.01 to properly reflect the State of Alaska Constitution Article XI, Section 7 that citizen initiatives shall not be used to make or repeal appropriations; and submitting to the voters that Charter amendment for ratification PULLED

This item was pulled from the agenda. No action was taken.

I RES 14-15 Submitting CBS FY 2016 State Legislative Priorities to the State of Alaska and 2015 Legislature

Hackett thanked Government Relations Director, Marlene Campbell, and Administrator Mark Gorman for redoing the layout and prioritization of projects.

A motion was made by Hackett that this item be APPROVED. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 7 - McConnell, Hunter, Hackett, Esquiro, Reif, Swanson, and Miyasato

Additional New Business Items

J 14-177 Discussion/Direction on a Community Playground

Hackett clarified the group would like to take one of the three tennis courts at Crescent Harbor and incorporate that into the playground and make it ADA accessible and safe. Hackett said it was the intent of the group to raise the funds on their own and the group was not asking the City for funds at this time.

Administrator Gorman stated this had been a priority of the City for years, however, there had not been funding available. If the Assembly was agreeable, Gorman suggested CBS staff engage the community in the planning process and come back together before the Assembly. With no objection, the Assembly agreed to have Gorman proceed.

K 14-176 Award FY15 General Fund Non-Profit Grants

Assembly members read their individual recommendations for each organization beginning with the Human Services category.

Mayor McConnell recused herself from the Cultural & Educational Services and Community Development categories.

A motion was made by Reif to award the following in the Cultural & Educational Services category and Community Development category:

Alaska Longline Fishermen's \$1,750
Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust \$1,000
Greater Sitka Arts Council \$4,667
Pioneers of Alaska Sitka Igloos 12 and 22 \$750
Sitka Sound Science Center \$3,083
Sitka Summer Music Festival \$4,417
The Island Institute, Inc. \$3,083
The SEER School \$1,250

Alaska Arts Southeast, Inc. DBA Sitka Fine Arts Camp \$9,167
 Sitka Community Development Corporation \$2,667
 Sitka Trail Works \$8,166

The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 6 - Hunter, Hackett, Esquiro, Reif, Swanson, and Miyasato

Recused: 1 - McConnell

Sitka Local Foods Network representative Maybelle Filler and Beth Kindig urged the Assembly to support their request.

A motion was made by Miyasato to award the following in the Human Services category:

Brave Heart Volunteers \$14,714
 Sitka Counseling and Prevention Services, Inc. \$7,714
 Sitka Local Foods Network \$3,429
 Southeast Alaska Independent Living \$8,357
 The Salvation Army Alaska Sitka Corps \$13,929
 Youth Advocates of Sitka, Inc. \$1,857

Yes: 7 - McConnell, Hunter, Hackett, Esquiro, Reif, Swanson, and Miyasato

Youth Advocates of Sitka Clinical Director, Libby Stortz, spoke in support of the their proposal.

L 14-179

Approve Gary Paxton Industrial Park (GPIP) Board of Directors request to reimburse the GPIP Enterprise Fund for expenses directly related to facilitating the sale of raw water - \$71,970 requested

Administrator Gorman reported it was his recommendation to go forward and look at the request at the end of the fiscal year.

A motion was made by Reif to approve this item. After hearing from staff, Reif withdrew his motion. No action was taken.

XII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

Dave Nuetzel commented the funding of roads should be generated from a gas tax or property tax. As Director of Southeast Alaska Independent Living he spoke against reverting roads back to gravel as this action would make roads inaccessible to some and reduce the quality of life in Sitka.

Beth Kindig wondered if there was a way to increase the width of the bike lane on Sawmill Creek Road. It was suggested she contact the Department of Transportation.

Maybelle Filler commented on the lack of ferry service for Sitka.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Miyasato to ADJOURN. Hearing no objection the meeting ADJOURNED at 9:03PM.

ATTEST: _____
Colleen Ingman, MMC
Municipal Clerk