



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

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

Minutes - Final City and Borough Assembly

*Mayor Mim McConnell
Deputy Mayor Pete Esquiro,
Vice Deputy Mayor Thor Christianson,
Phyllis Hackett, Matthew Hunter, Mike Reif and Michelle Putz*

*Interim Municipal Administrator: John P. Sweeney III
Municipal Attorney: Robin L. Koutchak
Municipal Clerk: Colleen Ingman, MMC*

Tuesday, June 25, 2013

6:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

WORKSESSION

The meeting was preceded by a worksession to discuss the South Benchlands Development proposal with the Benchlands Ad Hoc Committee and the proposers Jeremy Twaddle and Todd Fleming.

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Christianson, Esquiro, Reif, Hunter, McConnell, and Hackett

Absent: 1 - Putz

IV. CORRESPONDENCE/AGENDA CHANGES

None.

13-133 Correspondence.

V. CEREMONIAL MATTERS

None.

VI. SPECIAL REPORTS: Government to Government and Guests (time limits apply)

Government to Government - Sitka Tribe of Alaska (STA) Vice Chairman Benjamin Miyasato mentioned the ammonia leak that happened on a fishing tender tied to Sitka Sound Seafoods dock. STA felt there could

have been better communication.

Special Reports - Sitka Sound Science Center Director, Lisa Busch, gave an update on their research, education programs and their facility.

VII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Chair of the Tourism Commission, Jennifer Robinson, displayed one of the temporary signs that would be mounted through the 2013 year. Parks and Recreation Manager, Lynne Brandon, did the art work.

Lydia McGraw disputed a portion of a municipal billing in the amount of approximately \$98. She would like to appeal before the Assembly. The Assembly planned to consider on July 9, 2013.

VIII. REPORTS

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

Mayor - McConnell participated in a recent clean up of Murder Cove as part of the Southeast Conference Conservation Counsel. She attended a Sitka Convention and Visitors Bureau meeting and reported they were looking into forming a 501c3.

Administrator - Sweeney attended another self insurance meeting with Steve Bradshaw, Paula Scott and Hugh Hallgren. Sweeney also provided an update on activities within other Departments.

Attorney - Koutchak announced she had completed her first 90 days on the job. Most of her time had been spent on day-to-day operations working with Department Heads and the Hospital.

Liaisons - Hackett provided an update on the recent activities of the Tree and Landscape Committee.

Clerk - Mentioned candidate filing for the October election begins July 15; two Assembly seats and one School Board seat are to be filled.

Other - Reif reminded the reason many of the community projects were happening right now was because of the CPET funding, which he attributed to our State representatives and tourists. Recognition was also given to go to the Public Works crew and contractors for carrying out the projects.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

- A** [13-119](#) Approve the minutes of the June 11, 2013 Assembly meeting.
- This item was **APPROVED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.**
- B** [13-120](#) Approve a new liquor license and Restaurant Designation Permit for J L Totem Inc. at 201 Katlian Street.
- This item was **APPROVED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.**
- E** [13-132](#) Authorize the Interim Administrator to execute a temporary month to month lease with Coastal Excavation to lease space at Granite Creek Industrial Area Pit Run site for temporary storage
- This item was **APPROVED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.**
- C** [13-130](#) Award the Fisheries Enhancement Funds (\$31,000) for FY2013 to Sitka Sound Science Center.
- A motion was made by Christianson that this item be **APPROVED**. The motion **PASSED** by the following vote.
- Yes:** 6 - Christianson, Esquiro, Reif, Hunter, McConnell, and Hackett
- Absent:** 1 - Putz
- D** [13-128](#) Approve and direct the Interim Administrator to restructure the two outstanding Southeast Alaska Economic Development loans into one new loan for Betty Eliason Child Care Center (BECCC).
- Interim Administrator, Jay Sweeney, noted the Center was unable to consistently meet the amount of their monthly obligation. Staff had met with the BECCC Board and Director. The new schedule would allow for BECCC to make their payments timely.
- A motion was made by Hackett that this Item be **APPROVED**. The motion **PASSED** by the following vote.
- Yes:** 6 - Christianson, Esquiro, Reif, Hunter, McConnell, and Hackett
- Absent:** 1 - Putz
- F** [13-124](#) Authorize the Interim Administrator to advertise a Request for Qualifications and select a consultant to assist Public Works in developing a Solid Waste Management Plan.
- Dorik Mechau and Klaudia Leccese spoke in support of the proposed action.
- Public Works Director, Michael Harmon, noted the ad hoc group would be utilized as well as anyone who would like to be involved.

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

Yes: 6 - Christianson, Esquiro, Reif, Hunter, McConnell, and Hackett

Absent: 1 - Putz

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

XI. NEW BUSINESS:

New Business First Reading

- G** [RES 13-10](#) Supporting amendments to the U.S. Forest Service 2008 Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) to facilitate the development of adequate and reliable sources of renewable energy for Sitka and Southeast Alaska.
- Interim Administrator, Jay Sweeney, stated the resolution was requested by Utility Director, Chris Brewton and noted the need for access corridors to be allowed in the Plan.

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

Yes: 6 - Christianson, Esquiro, Reif, Hunter, McConnell, and Hackett

Absent: 1 - Putz

Additional New Business Items

- H** [13-125](#) Discussion/Direction/Decision whether to continue to allow experimenting with temporary closures of portions of Lincoln Street.
- John Welsh spoke in support of the downtown closures.
- Downtown Revitalization Chair Doug Osborne informed they received both positive and negative feedback. Transportation issues with tour buses, Community Ride, cabs and delivery services were of great concern and Osborne felt these concerns were being addressed. The booths set up in the street were unexpected; they would like to try the closure again on July 12th.
- Rich McClear spoke to the zones of sidewalks relaying it was impossible to get the three zones in Sitka.
- Sandra Rudd, from Sitka Lutheran Church, spoke in support of a vibrant downtown but expressed concerns of access to their building for weddings, funerals, worship, etc. They would like to request exemption

from the closure.

Mary Stephenson mentioned no plans had been brought up for 2014; the Assembly should set up some boundaries. She contended all of Lincoln Street should be considered and wondered what compensation would be offered to businesses.

Harvey Brandt applauded any activity that would lead to an increase in Sitka's economy. He mentioned parking continued to be an issue in Sitka and urged the Assembly to look into multi tier parking. He spoke in favor of temporary closures but reminded there were people who live downtown.

Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, Jennifer Robinson, reported the majority of businesses she spoke to had mixed opinions - from indifferent to strongly opposed, no raving reviews. In general, Robinson stated downtown businesses agreed with minimal downtown closures such as Trick or Treating and the End of Season Celebration. Businesses at the far end of downtown felt strongly disadvantaged and contended they lost substantial sales; locals were not happy; visitors were confused, and it affected traffic flow. With all of the construction going on there was even less parking available.

Reif mentioned the reason he supported suspending any more trials for 2013 is the group needed to get it right and he was unsure that could be accomplished by the end of this season. Reif believed with folks working together it could be worked out for 2014. Esquiro also supported the 2013 suspension for many of the same reasons. He was under the impression more planning was going to happen before the closures occurred. Christianson agreed and while willing to try it again, noted it was time to go back to the drawing board. Hunter pointed out it was a valid idea and appreciated the groups willingness to work with merchants. He would support a future closure but would like all of downtown to be included. Hackett supported the closure. The Mayor would like the group to come forward with a plan to be vetted by the Assembly and supported by a majority of downtown businesses and people that use Lincoln Street, and have it come back to the Assembly for 2014.

A motion was made by Reif to support suspension of any further closing portions of Lincoln Street as requested and organized by the Downtown Revitalization Group until a plan has been submitted and approved by the Assembly.

An amendment was offered and withdrawn. The primary movers accepted "friendly amendments" which are reflected in above motion.

Yes: 4 - Christianson, Esquiro, Reif, and McConnell

No: 2 - Hunter, and Hackett

Absent: 1 - Putz

- I [13-131](#) Discussion/Direction on RFP submitted by Sound Development, LLC for the South Benchlands.
- Mayor reported one proposal was received from Sound Development LLC. Esquiro stated he had a business relationship with Jeremy Twaddle and recused himself.
- Interim Administrator, Jay Sweeney, informed this matter had moved from the Planning Department to the Benchlands Ad Hoc Committee and back to the Assembly. He felt it was important staff would have an opportunity to have a formal review process. Reif was very interested in the proposal but agreed the City would need to do its due diligence and review the proposal to make sure it would work. Hackett agreed but had some questions that needed answers. One of the concerns was the time element when staff got involved.
- Twaddle's main concern was to continue to move things forward. Fleming advised that they would like to get started this construction season. They offered their availability to answer questions and work with the City.
- The Assembly formed a consensus that the proposal has merit and directed the Interim Administrator to direct staff to conduct a comprehensive evaluation from a municipal perspective and bring back a report with recommendations and possible ordinance for introduction in late July.**
- J [13-117](#) Discussion/Direction/Decision on a request from the Tourism Commission and Destination Sitka Working Group to move forward with the Wayfinding Signs Project so that they can be installed prior to the 2014 Visitor Season.
- Hackett wondered whether \$300,000 would be adequate. Sitka Convention and Visitors Bureau Director, Tonia Rioux, offered it was an estimate. Esquiro commented it would be helpful to have a schedule of the CPET Funds stating what was either committed, earmarked or planned for.
- Jennifer Robinson, Chair of the Tourism Commission, spoke to the Resolution submitted by the Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce. She stressed the community needed permanent signs for 2014. There is a significant costs savings by hiring one firm. She recommends appointing Sitka Convention and Visitor's Bureau to manage the project.
- John Stein, a member of the Tourism Commission, spoke in support saying it was important to present the city in the best possible way. Stein noted the subject was addressed in the Comprehensive Plan.
- Mary Stephenson, a 30-year tour director, emphasized the importance of the project. She urged the Assembly to look at Ketchikan's 2013 Guide

Book.

Christianson recalled this had been a discussion for years. Reif inquired about the CPET balance. Interim Administrator, Jay Sweeney, recapped every dollar in the fund had been spoken for and some in multiple ways. Public Works Director, Michael Harmon, reiterated CPET funding was very tight.

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

Yes: 5 - Christianson, Reif, Hunter, McConnell, and Hackett

No: 1 - Esquiro

Absent: 1 - Putz

K [13-129](#)

Award a Professional Services Contract to Northern Economics Inc. for the Sawmill Cove Industrial Park Feasibility and Planning study on a time and materials basis with a not-to-exceed amount by phase: Phase 1 - \$37,901.89; Phase 2 - \$135,423.70 and authorize the Interim Administrator to execute.

Sawmill Cove Industrial Park Director, Garry White, pointed out the City had received funding from the Federal Government and immediately put that to work to get some revenues for the Park. Hackett had a few questions as to the proposed timeline and reference made to a cruise ship dock. White reiterated the plans include: 1) a boat haul out, 2) increased vessel morrage, and, 3) a deep water bulk head dock.

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

Yes: 6 - Christianson, Esquiro, Reif, Hunter, McConnell, and Hackett

Absent: 1 - Putz

L [13-123](#)

Approve award of a contract to Transpac Marinas, Inc. for the completion of ANB Harbor Float replacement - \$2,698,870.00

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

Yes: 6 - Christianson, Esquiro, Reif, Hunter, McConnell, and Hackett

Absent: 1 - Putz

M [13-121](#)

Appointments: 1) Reappoint Mary Ann Hall to a term on the Hospital Board, 1) Appoint Paul Bahna, MD to a term on the Sitka Community Hospital Board, and 2) Appoint John Welsh to an unexpired term on the Tourism Commission

Hospital Appointments - Hackett, as liaison to the Hospital Board, reported she had spoken to Sitka Community Hospital CEO Hugh Hallgren and he was happy with both applicants.

Tourism Appointment - Mayor McConnell expressed concern with Mr. Welsh. She felt it was possible he had a particular agenda in mind. She further stated, it was important not to seek appointment with an agenda in mind, but rather to be open. Hackett agreed.

A motion was made by Hunter to reappoint Mary Ann Hall and appoint Paul Bahna to three year terms on the Sitka Community Hospital Board. The motion PASSED on the following vote.

Yes: 6 - Christianson, Esquiro, Reif, Hunter, McConnell, and Hackett

Absent: 1 - Putz

A motion was made by Christianson to appoint John Welsh to an unexpired term on the Tourism Commission expiring October 2013.

Yes: 4 - Christianson, Reif, Hunter, and Hackett

No: 2 - Esquiro, and McConnell

Absent: 1 - Putz

N [13-122](#)

Appoint one to the Planning Commission: 1) Debra Poulman or 2) John Welsh

John Welsh, one of the applicants, believes he had an "equal opportunity" agenda. He said he was fair, critical and possibly overly critical and as a result he would like to do some of the work. He has learned a lot about the town and overall sees it as a productive, hard working and reasonable town.

A motion was made by Hunter to nominate Dr. Debra Pohlman and John Welsh to a term on the Sitka Planning Commission. Dr. Pohlman received the majority of votes and was appointed.

XII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Hunter to go into Executive Session to be advised by our Interim Municipal Administrator, Municipal Attorney, Human Resource Director, and Police Chief concerning confidential strategy surrounding the PSEA and ASEA negotiations that led to the proposed agreements that are before us tonight; all of which have legal and financial consequences for the City and Borough of Sitka and involve matters that are required by law to be confidential. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 6 - Christianson, Esquiro, Reif, Hunter, McConnell, and Hackett

Absent: 1 - Putz

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Hunter to reconvene as the Assembly in regular session. The motion PASSED unanimously.

- O** [13-126](#) Approve the 2013-2016 Alaska State Employees Association (ASEA) Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- Assembly members expressed their heightened concerns that agreeing to both these contracts was difficult as they did not see them as sustainable nor did they believe the City would be able to maintain this level of funding and benefits. They thanked Human Resources Director, Mark Danielson, for his efforts.

A motion was made by Christianson to approve the 2013-2016 Alaska State Employees Association (ASEA) Collective Bargaining Agreement with the City and Borough of Sitka. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 5 - Christianson, Esquiro, Reif, Hunter, and McConnell

No: 1 - Hackett

Absent: 1 - Putz

- P** [13-127](#) Approve the 2013-2016 Public Safety Employees Association (PSEA) Collective Bargaining Agreement.

The Assembly continued to express their concerns that these contracts were not sustainable and costly benefit packages needed to be addressed.

A motion was made by Hunter to approve the 2013-2016 Public Safety Employees Association (PSEA) Collective bargaining Agreement with the City and Borough of Sitka. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 4 - Esquiro, Reif, Hunter, and McConnell

No: 2 - Christianson, and Hackett

Absent: 1 - Putz

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Christianson to ADJOURN. Hearing no objections the meeting ADJOURNED at 10:18 pm.

ATTEST:

Colleen Ingman, MMC
Municipal Clerk