



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

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

Minutes - Draft City and Borough Assembly

*Mayor Cheryl Westover
Deputy Mayor Pete Esquiro
Vice-Deputy Mayor Thor Christianson,
Phyllis Hackett, Mim McConnell, Mike Reif and Bill Paden*

*Municipal Administrator: Jim Dinley
Municipal Attorney: Theresa Hillhouse
Municipal Clerk: Colleen Ingman, MMC*

Thursday, August 30, 2012

6:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

SPECIAL MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: 5 - Westover, Paden, Christianson, Esquiro, and Hackett

Absent: 2 - McConnell, and Reif

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. ROLL CALL

IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

V. NEW BUSINESS:

12-120 Fiscal Year 2013 Non-Profit Grant Requests and Awards

Beverly Revard, a volunteer for Braveheart spoke in support of the motion. Charles Horan, Sitka Trail Works said their request will be well used. Kayla Betcher, Sitka Summer Music Festival supports the motion. She announced that the festival is now home in Sitka after being housed in Anchorage for the last ten years.

Hackett spoke to the economic stimulation and what an incredible bang for the municipalities buck. She has a little difficulty using any of the emergency funding. Christianson pointed out that it isn't often when the total amount requested is less than what there are available. If a true emergency arouse, he doesn't think it would be out of the realm of possibilities to allocate the funds.

Westover brought up that there are fewer requests than normal and perhaps the non-profits that already get a property tax exemption from the municipality took that into consideration this year and didn't apply as she had previously suggested.

Christianson moved to pool all the available grant funds and fund all the FY13 non-profit grant requests leaving the remainder in the Special Emergency Fund.

Hackett expressed concerns with the Youth Advocates application. She also believed they receive the property exemption. According to their submittal the funds were for snack food. Their request is for \$4,500, yet they get reimbursed by Medicare for \$2,000 which for her, puts a cloud on this particular request.

Hackett moved to AMEND the main motion by transferring the grant funds of \$4,500 intended for Youth Advocates into the Emergency Fund.

Yes: 5 - Westover, Paden, Christianson, Esquiro, and Hackett

Absent: 2 - McConnell, and Reif

VI. PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

Jeff Budd was pleased with the Assembly's support. Michelle Mahoney and Elaine Gustavson expressed appreciation for fully funding SAFV's request. Whitney Johnson introduced herself as the new director of SAIL and thanked the Assembly for awarding SAIL's grant request.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Christianson that this meeting be ADJOURNED. The meeting ADJOURNED at 6:23 PM by unanimous consent.

ATTEST:

Colleen Ingman, MMC
Municipal Clerk



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Tuesday, August 28, 2012

6:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

WORKSESSION 5:00 - 5:50 PM

John Holst, Chair of the Adhoc Benchlands group and members Garry White, Roger Higley, Roger Hames, Steven Reifentstahl, and Hugh Bevan presented various options for the Assembly to consider with regard to the sale of the Benchland's properties. It was decided later in the meeting to hold another worksession on this topic.

REGULAR MEETING

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. FLAG SALUTE
- III. ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Westover, Paden, Christianson, Esquiro, Reif, and Hackett

Telephonic: 1 - McConnell

- IV. CORRESPONDENCE/AGENDA CHANGES

School Update - Tim Fulton

- A 1 12-118 Mathematics Audit Report

School Board Member, Tim Fulton, announced that student enrollment was up, including Special Education. Secure Rural Schools funds extended one year. Blatchley remodel is nearing completion, there are concerns with carpet in the locker rooms and water issues. If it doesn't improve they will be removing it. A discussion ensued on absenteeism. Christianson wondered if the school plans to address measures to counteract. To date, they have not. Westover pointed out that many parents are not able to help their children with core math. Reif mentioned the ability

for teachers to become more proficient at core math. The Math Audit is available online at sitkaschools.org.

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Heidi Morrison, spoke about essential oils - an extract from plants. Michelle Putz invited all to take part in an opportunity to get 1 Compost bag per family for a donation this Saturday during the Farmers Market. There is also an Open House at BIHA on September 15th from 11-1. Utility Director, Chris Brewton relayed that Sitka hosted the National Hydro Conference with 130 attendees. He extended his appreciation to the Visitors Bureau and the Harrigan Centennial Hall staff for all they did to contribute to its success.

VI. REPORTS

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

Mayor - Was in Bethel attending the Summer AML. She learned there will be little to no federal, Denali or state funding available next year. She welcomed folks to the NHA Convention last week. Meets with Garry White and Alaska Business Monthly tomorrow. Mayor had requested that the Blue Lake Dam Expansion worksession on September 10 be televised to better inform the public. Thanked Public Works crew for their work around town.

Administrator - Last Saturday attended the Farmers Market and noted the Travel Channel was there and on Sunday at the Sitka State Fair. Monday attended the hydro reception at the Raptor Center. Met with Senator Stedman and discussed legislative priorities. Wednesday went to the Library Feasibility meeting. Thanks to both Dave Wolff and Jay Sweeney, the city should have some revenue refunding on the city bonds - approximately \$135,000.

Liaison Representatives - Hackett attended the Library Feasibility Committee, which is moving right along. Also attended the Mt.Edgecumbe Pool, meeting there was a lot of interest. Three different sites have been identified. The price tag has increased dramatically.

Clerk - Announced that for the State primary election all voting would be taking place at Harrigan Centennial Hall and that people have until 8:00 PM to cast their ballot.

Other - Mayor would like an update from Government Relations Director Campbell on the Tunicate species in the near future.

VII. CONSENT AGENDA

A 2 12-117 Approve the minutes of the August 14, 2012 Assembly meeting.

This item was APPROVED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

B ORD 12-21A Amending SGC Section 13.06.010 entitled "Moorage Charges and

Fees".

Reif pointed out that this was only a portion of the proposed increases. He hopes the commercial fisherman will attend meetings this fall and offer ideas. Sitka has the largest harbor system in the state.

A motion was made by Christianson that this Ordinance be PASSED ON FINAL READING. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 6 - Westover, Paden, Christianson, Esquiro, Reif, and Hackett

No: 1 - McConnell

C ORD 12-25 Authorizing the sublease of space by Alaska Airlines, Inc. at the Sitka Rocky Gutierrez Airport Terminal Building.

Municipal Attorney Hillhouse pointed out this was a sample Consent to Sublease, it is a Department of Transportation document and it may be changed or modified but not substantially.

A motion was made by Hackett that this Ordinance be PASSED ON SECOND READING. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 7 - Westover, McConnell, Paden, Christianson, Esquiro, Reif, and Hackett

D ORD 12-26 Vacating the Right of Way at USS 3475 Carlson Subdivision Adjacent to Southeast Side of Lots 58C and 58D at 4624/4626 Halibut Point Road

Sponsors: Christianson and Reif

Municipal Clerk Ingman announced that the Nelsons could be available by phone if questions arose. Christianson confirmed that the Nelsons were called out of town due to critical illness of a family member.

Reif thinks this was a nice compromise. Christianson pointed out there are also physical limitations that give the property less value. Mayor was concerned with setting a precedent.

A motion was made by Christianson that this Ordinance be PASSED ON SECOND READING. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 7 - Westover, McConnell, Paden, Christianson, Esquiro, Reif, and Hackett

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

E 12-115 Appoint Don Jones and Rick Armstrong to terms on the Police and Fire Commission

The Assembly thanked both for their willingness to serve.

Reif moved to appoint Rick Armstrong to the three-year term and Don Jones to the unexpired term on the Police and Fire Commission. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 7 - Westover, McConnell, Paden, Christianson, Esquiro, Reif, and Hackett

F 12-116 Request to waive untimely filing of the 2011-2012 Senior Citizen real Property Tax Exemption applications submitted by Leo E. Evans

Gail Roderick read a prepared statement on behalf of the Evan's, where it was pointed out that the Senior Application that the Evan's initially submitted was intended and titled for both "Sales Tax and Property Tax Exemption."

Lindsey Evans believes this was something that needed to be better publicized. Gail Roderick also would like to see this benefit published. Hackett doesn't feel it is city's responsibility to put ads in the paper, but the city does need to make it clearer.

Municipal Assessor, Randy Hughes, stated the packet material was clear, but as far as the additional materials that were presented tonight the city may need to step back.

Municipal Attorney Hillhouse stated the Assembly has the option to send the request back to the Assessor as it now appears it would have been filed timely.

Christianson moved to REMAND Evan's Property Tax exemption back to the Assessor's office. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 6 - Westover, McConnell, Paden, Christianson, Reif, and Hackett

No: 1 - Esquiro

G 12-119 Discussion/Direction to Municipal Administrator on development of city property

Sponsors: McConnell and Hackett

Barth Meyer had seen the city make a number of attempts in increasing the housing that is available. He expressed his concern with the Planning Commission setting lots at fair market value. The Planning Commission needs a good understanding of their flexibility before bringing things to the Assembly. Reif suggested SEDA's Option No. 2 which supports a Generic RFP.

Hackett would like someone to say we need "x" number of homes in this price bracket etc. She would also like to see a very specific proposal for a City Land Trust.

Benchlands - John Holst clarified that market value is set by sales, not by people sitting in an office.

The Assembly decided they needed a worksession dedicated to the Benchlands options. It was set for 5:30 PM on Thursday, September 20, 2012.

Motion by Reif to direct CBS to develop and release a generic RFP by the meeting of September 25th to create affordable housing to the greatest extent possible for the Old City Shops property. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 6 - Westover, Paden, Christianson, Esquiro, Reif, and Hackett

Recused: 1 - McConnell

X. PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

None.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Christianson that this meeting be ADJOURNED. The motion PASSED by an unanimous vote and the meeting ADJOURNED at 8:05 PM.

ATTEST

**Colleen Ingman, MMC
Municipal Clerk**