







Whitcomb Heights Subdivision, Phase 1 Development Plan City and Borough of Sitka, Alaska



approved in a previous meeting on March 4th. The new plat secured access and utilities to an existing residential lot, allowed the right of way to be relocated to ensure proper usage, and created a new residential lot in a desirable low-density neighborhood. Ainslie noted that two new lots would be created with this subdivision, one of substandard size and one of standard size. She explained the substandard lot contained many complicated access and utility easements to maintain access to a neighboring lot. Platting a substandard lot allowed the state to convey the lot to the owner of the abutting lot, Mr. Meyer, and to be incorporated it into his lot and dissolve all but a shoreline access easement. Ainslie noted the standard lot, which would be sold via public auction, was ideal for residential development in size, location, access, and available utilities. She explained the creation of the standard lot added housing stock, residential space, and moved an exempt property onto the city tax roll. Staff recommended approval.

Jill Hirai, representative of North57 Surveying, a state designated applicant to the application, was present. Commission had no further questions. Bart Meyer, owner of the neighboring property attended telephonically. Meyer clarified that two city easements, sewer and powerline, would also remain if he acquired the property.

M-Hughey/S-Weaver moved to approve a final plat for a minor subdivision to result in two lots at Shotgun Alley, located in the SFLD single-family low-density zoning district. The property was also known as Lot 14, USS 3557. The applicant was the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources Division of Mining, Land, and Water and North57 Surveying. The owner of record was the State of Alaska. Motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.

M-Hughey/S-Weaver moved to adopt the findings as listed in the staff report. Motion passed 4-0 by voice vote.

Public hearing and consideration for a land sale request of a portion of Tract

A11 Whitcomb Heights Subdivision. The request is filed by Pioneer Land Development LLC. The owner of record is the City and Borough of Sitka.

<u>Attachments:</u> <u>LM 20-03 Pioneer Land Development LLC Kramer Ave Request to</u>

Purchase Staff Report

LM 20-03 Pioneer Land Development LLC Kramer Ave Request to

Purchase Aerial

LM 20-03 Pioneer Land Development LLC Kramer Ave Request to

Purchase Applicant Narrative & Proposal

LM 20-03 Pioneer Land Development LLC Kramer Ave Request to

Purchase DRC Feedback

Ainslie began the staff report with an explanation on the sales process for municipal property. She explained the applicant was not the buyer-inherent, but rather the person who started the process by requesting the land be sold. If the Assembly agreed to sell, the land would be sold through a competitive bid process, recommended by the Commission and determined by the Assembly. She noted the competitive bid process usually involved an auction/sealed bid process, which had low city involvement in the final usage of the lot, or a Request for Proposals (RFP) process which allowed the city greater involvement in the usage. Ainslie stated that following the decision of if and how the parcel should be sold, the Assembly would approve a survey and appraisal, set the minimum price, take bids and/or proposals, and pass a sales ordinance to approve the sale. The municipal administrator would execute the sale through a sales contract.

Ainslie described the property which was located on the corner of Cushing and Kramer



Avenue. She stated the requested property was just under one acre in size, fairly level for development with some elevation increase in the back and contained minimal wetlands with drainage occurring just north of the requested property line. The property had been deemed low risk by Shannon and Wilson's 2016 landslide assessment and the city's landslide risk ordinance. Utilities were available in the area, through public and private access. Ainslie asked the commission for recommendations on 1) If the property should be kept in municipal inventory or sold and 2) If sold, which competitive bid process should be used.

The applicant, Jill Hirai of Pioneer Land Development LLC, was present. She stated she would like to subdivide the lot into 3-5 lots, depending on the topography and utility costs. She would like to keep the lots smaller in size to make them as affordable as possible. Hirai stated she had looked at multiple privately-owned lots before approaching the city, but the others were not developable. When asked by the commission which sales method she would prefer she answered whichever process would be the most efficient and cost-effective.

Commissioners were all in agreement to sell the lot. Weaver and Windsor expressed concern for the longer time, greater management oversight, and lesser profit involved in the RFP process. Hughey asked if the auction/sealed bid process could include a stipulation for number of lots to be created and timeframe to complete. Ainslie clarified that the RFP process would have to be followed to legally stipulate conditions. Weaver pointed out that there was a seller who wanted to buy it and create the ideal number of lots in the desired time frame, and they should give her a chance to do so as quickly and efficiently as possible. Mudry and Windsor agreed.

M-Weaver/S-Mudry moved to recommend the approval the sale of a portion of Tract A11 Whitcomb Heights Subdivision through the auction/sealed bid process. Motion passed 4-0.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no objections, Acting Chair Windsor moved to adjourn at 8:18 PM.