



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

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

Minutes - Final

City and Borough Assembly

*Mayor Gary Paxton
Deputy Mayor Steven Eisenbeisz,
Vice Deputy Mayor Kevin Mosher,
Kevin Knox, Dr. Richard Wein, Valorie Nelson, Thor
Christianson*

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

Thursday, September 24, 2020

6:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

JOINT WORK SESSION WITH SITKA SCHOOL BOARD 5:00 P.M.

[20-194](#)

Joint Work Session: Assembly and School Board

The Assembly and Sitka School Board met from 5:00pm to 5:45pm.

SPECIAL MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. ROLL CALL

Assembly Members Knox and Nelson participated by videoconference.

Present: 7 - Christianson, Eisenbeisz, Knox, Wein, Paxton, Mosher, and Nelson

IV. CORRESPONDENCE/AGENDA CHANGES

None.

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A [20-182](#)

Award FY21 General Fund Non-Profit Grants

Nelson provided an explanation for allocation amounts of zero and expressed a desire

to know how many of the applicants had received CARES Act funding and the amount received. Wein told of the need for fiscal responsibility and stressed retaining as much money in the General Fund as possible. He suggested the School District return the Secure Rural Schools funding to the City and apply for CARES Act funding. Christianson noted he hadn't made allocations to some categories because of the receipt of CARES Act funding. Knox reminded CARES Act money was meant to react to what the Nation was going through and reminded the annual General Fund grants provided leverage for organizations. To delay funding could hamper their ability to find additional funding.

A motion was made by the Assembly to postpone. Those from the public speaking in opposition to postponement were Lynne Brandon, Anne Bills, Michelle Friedman, George Paul, and Rick Petersen.

Municipal Administrator John Leach relayed additional time was needed to gather information related to those organizations who had received CARES Act funding. Knox spoke in opposition to postponement. Christianson and Mosher, while understanding of the disappointment in delaying the awards, reminded it was a postponement not a motion to cancel the awards. Nelson wished to have more information to make an informed decision. Wein stressed fiscal responsibility.

A motion was made by Christianson to POSTPONE the award of the FY21 General Fund Non-Profit Grants to the 1st meeting in November (November 10). The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 4 - Christianson, Wein, Mosher, and Nelson

No: 3 - Eisenbeisz, Knox, and Paxton

B [20-195](#)

Discussion/Direction/Decision on 1) the Phase 2 CARES Act Small Business and Nonprofit Relief and Recovery grant application, and, 2) the reallocation between funding categories

Municipal Administrator John Leach told of the remaining \$3.8 million CARES Act funds available to allocate to other programs. He recommended allocating \$3 million to category 2 for a second phase of business relief and recovery/stabilization grants and provided an overview of the draft applications. Nelson and Wein expressed a desire to have a second round of utility subsidization.

George Paul spoke in support of another round of utility subsidization.

A motion was made by Eisenbeisz to approve both applications and the suggested allocation amounts (\$3 million total) as provided by the Administrator. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 5 - Knox, Paxton, Mosher, Christianson, and Eisenbeisz

No: 2 - Wein and Nelson

A motion was made by Mosher to allocate \$800,000 for another round of utility subsidization for residential accounts.

An amendment was made by Christianson to add the remaining \$200,000 from the CARES Act homeless program to the remaining \$800,000 (part of the \$3.8 million referenced above) to make \$1 million available for utility subsidization.

Wein spoke to the need to provide assistance to the homeless community and spoke in opposition to the amendment.

The AMENDMENT PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 4 - Eisenbeisz, Mosher, Nelson, and Christianson

No: 3 - Wein, Knox, and Paxton

The main motion as amended PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 7 - Christianson, Wein, Eisenbeisz, Nelson, Knox, Mosher, and Paxton

VII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

George Paul thanked the Assembly and CARES Act Working Group for their time and advocating for those in need. Richard Wein thanked George Paul for his comments and reminded of the need for life to return to normal.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Christianson to ADJOURN. Hearing no objections the meeting ADJOURNED at 7:50 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Sara Peterson, MMC
Municipal Clerk