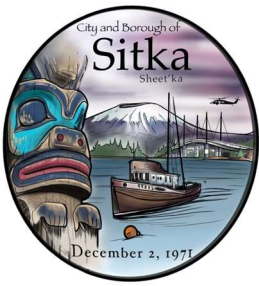


Discussion / Direction / Decision
on filling the Community and Government Affairs
position and ongoing lobbying efforts.




City and Borough of Sitka

PROVIDING FOR TODAY...PREPARING FOR TOMORROW

Coast Guard City, USA

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Eisenbeisz and Assembly Members

From: John Leach, Municipal Administrator 

Date: January 19, 2021

Subject: Community & Government Affairs Position and Ongoing Lobbying Efforts

Background

On December 4, 2020, I offered the position of Community & Government Affairs Director to a CBS employee as a promotion. Since that offer, there has been some question as to whether the position was funded in the FY21 budget. There may have been an understanding that the Community & Government Affairs salary would be repurposed to fund the lobbying firm Blank Rome who is currently working for the CBS under contract. Due to the lingering questions, I pulled the promotion offer from the January 12, 2021 Assembly agenda.

Analysis

During the March 5, 2020 Special Budget Meeting, the Community Affairs position was included in the FY21 budget. During the presentation, a motion was made to fund our current lobbyists in addition to the Community Affairs Director position (agenda item 20-057). The motion passed by a vote of 4 -2 with one Assembly member being absent.

Since that meeting, much has changed with our financial picture due to the impacts of COVID. Given the budget challenges, it was brought to my attention that although this position is currently funded in the FY21 budget, the Assembly may consider not filling the Community & Government Affairs position to save money in the General Fund.

Fiscal Note

The Community & Government Affairs position is currently funded in the FY21 budget at a grade 34 for an annual salary of approximately \$79,000.

Not filling this position would leave the funding appropriated in the General Fund for FY21.

Filling this position would not require a supplemental appropriation since it is already in

the budget.

Recommendation

I recommend that the Assembly evaluate the functions this position would perform and decide if they would like to move forward with filling this position in addition to our lobbyists given our current budget picture.

If this position is not filled in FY21, it will be a decision point for the Assembly in the upcoming FY22 budget development.