



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

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

Minutes - Final

City and Borough Assembly

Mayor Steven Eisenbeisz
Deputy Mayor Thor Christianson,
Vice Deputy Mayor Valorie Nelson,
Kevin Knox, Kevin Mosher, Crystal Duncan, Rebecca
Himschoot

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

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

6:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Christianson, Knox, Mosher, Nelson, Eisenbeisz, Himschoot, and Duncan

IV. CORRESPONDENCE/AGENDA CHANGES

No agenda changes.

[21-086](#)

Reminders, Calendars, and General Correspondence

V. CEREMONIAL MATTERS

None.

**VI. SPECIAL REPORTS: Government to Government, Municipal
Boards/Commissions/Committees, Municipal Departments, School District, Students
and Guests (five minute time limit)**

Police Chief Baty recognized retiring employee Ken Buxton for his service as Animal Control Officer.

[21-082](#)

1) SEARHC President Charles Clement: Sitka's Integrated Health Care System - 6 Month Report, and 2) Republic Services

Matthew Pederson of Republic Services, the City's solid waste contractor, spoke about the City's options for future garbage shipments and recommended changes. SEARHC President, Charles Clement, provided an update: expansion and enhancement of

specialty care, COVID-19 mitigation efforts continue, and project timeline for the new Mt. Edgumbe Medical Center.

VII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Richard Wein spoke to the expansion of telemedicine, cost of medicine, and thanked Ken Buxton and Dan Etulain for their service to the community.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Nelson that the Consent Agenda consisting of items A & B be APPROVED. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 7 - Christianson, Knox, Mosher, Nelson, Eisenbeisz, Himschoot, and Duncan

A [21-084](#) Approve the minutes of the April 27 Assembly meeting

This item was APPROVED.

B [21-085](#) Approve liquor license renewal applications for 1) Mean Queen upstairs and downstairs at 205 Harbor Drive, and 2) Trinity Business Services LLC dba Halibut Point Crab & Brew at 4513 Halibut Point Road

This item was APPROVED.

IX. BOARD, COMMISSION, COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

None.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

C [ORD 21-08](#) Making supplemental appropriations for fiscal year 2021 (Sitka Community Hospital Dedicated Fund)

Richard Wein spoke to the amount and purpose of the Ordinance.

Knox stated the supplemental appropriation was for \$425,000 to cover long-term contracts, legal expenses, and increased unemployment costs.

A motion was made by Knox that this Ordinance be APPROVED on SECOND AND FINAL READING. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 6 - Christianson, Knox, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Himschoot, and Duncan

No: 1 - Nelson

XI. NEW BUSINESS:

New Business First Reading

D [ORD 21-09](#) Adopting budgets and capital improvement plan for the General Fund, Internal Service Funds, and Special Revenue Funds for the fiscal year

July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022

Richard Wein spoke to the budget and encouraged to stop living paycheck to paycheck.

Assembly Members thanked staff for their work on the budget and complimented them on the process. Nelson spoke in opposition citing additional positions and wage increases.

A motion was made by Himschoot that this Ordinance be APPROVED on FIRST READING. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 6 - Christianson, Knox, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Himschoot, and Duncan

No: 1 - Nelson

E [ORD 21-10](#)

Adopting the budget and capital improvement plan for all Enterprise Funds for the fiscal year July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, amending rates in Title 15 "Public Utilities" of the Sitka General Code and adopting moorage rates and other harbor fees

Richard Wein thanked staff for their work in a difficult situation.

Nelson spoke to the increase in Electric Department staffing. Eisenbeisz reminded of the rate studies and long range plans included in the budget.

A motion was made by Christianson that this Ordinance be APPROVED on FIRST READING. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 6 - Christianson, Knox, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Himschoot, and Duncan

No: 1 - Nelson

Additional New Business Items

F [21-083](#)

Discussion / Direction / Decision on the Harbor Mountain Bypass Cell Tower Parcel Lease

Administrator Leach summarized the item stating the City had been approached by Vertical Bridge/New Horizons, contractors for Verizon Wireless, to lease municipal land in the Harbor Mountain Bypass Road area. The Assembly had directed staff to issue a Request for Proposals to lease a site on Harbor Mountain Bypass Road for the purpose of the cell tower development. The terms of the lease were in the packet memo. Planning Director Amy Ainslie stated the item was brought forward to ensure the Assembly was comfortable with the terms prior to bringing forward a lease ordinance for approval.

Consensus was to bring an ordinance forward for approval.

G [21-080](#)

Approve the RFP for the sale of the former Sitka Community Hospital site and associated properties (possible executive session)

Richard Wein suggested giving the building to SEARHC and leasing the property.

A motion was made by Christianson to go into executive session with Planning Director Amy Ainslie to discuss the independent appraisal for the former Sitka

Community Hospital building and surrounding properties and its potential incorporation into the RFP under the statutory category of discussing matters, the immediate knowledge of which would adversely affect the City and Borough of Sitka. The motion **PASSED** by the following vote.

Yes: 7 - Mosher, Nelson, Knox, Christianson, Duncan, Eisenbeisz, and Himschoot

Richard Wein spoke in opposition to executive session.

Nelson believed there were two members with biases and reason to advance the item.

The Assembly was in executive session from 7:48pm to 9:00pm.

A motion was made by Mosher to reconvene as the Assembly in regular session. The motion PASSED by unanimous consent.

A motion was made by Knox to APPROVE the RFP for the sale of the former Sitka Community Hospital site and associated properties with direction given in executive session. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 7 - Christianson, Knox, Mosher, Nelson, Eisenbeisz, Himschoot, and Duncan

H [21-081](#)

Approve first amendment to employee agreement between the City and Borough of Sitka and Brian E. Hanson (possible executive session)

Christianson stated the changes to the amendment were well deserved. Knox and Eisenbeisz reminded Hanson had not received any adjustments in salary for the last several years, including cost of living adjustments.

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

Yes: 7 - Christianson, Knox, Mosher, Nelson, Eisenbeisz, Himschoot, and Duncan

XII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

None.

XIII. REPORTS

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

Mayor - Eisenbeisz told of meetings and events held during Senator Sullivan's recent visit to Sitka.

Administrator - Leach spoke to Senator Sullivan's visit, told of potential changes to masking requirements in City facilities, and thanked the public for their overwhelming participation in the Spring-Clean Up event.

Attorney - Hanson congratulated Jay Sweeney on his retirement and commended Sweeney for his service.

Liaison Representatives - Christianson announced about the upcoming Gary Paxton Industrial Park Board meeting and reported on the Planning Commission meeting. Mosher spoke to the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting, Himschoot thanked the Tree and Landscape Committee for their landscape work at the Fire Hall, Knox told of the upcoming Port and Harbors Commission meeting, and Duncan reported on the recent Health Needs and Human Services Commission meeting.

Clerk - Peterson reviewed the Board/Commission vacancies.

Other - Nelson clarified comments she made at a previous meeting regarding possible school requests for the use of the donation from Norwegian Cruise Lines.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

See item G.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Christianson to ADJOURN. Hearing no objections, the meeting ADJOURNED at 9:20pm.

ATTEST: _____
Sara Peterson, MMC
Municipal Clerk