

MINUTES
FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL
FOR THE CITY OF THORNE BAY, ALASKA
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2020
TIME: 6:00 p.m.

1) **CALL TO ORDER:**

Burger called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2) **PLEDGE TO FLAG:**

Council and audience stood for the pledge to the flag.

3) **OATH OF OFFICE**

- a) Greg Kerkof, Seat C
- b) Jon Stram, Seat E
- c) Wes Craske, Seat G.

The newly elected officers were sworn in and read the Oath of Office.

4) **ROLL CALL:**

Burger, Edenfield, Rhodes, Stram, Craske, Kerkof. Longbotham joined at 6:07 p.m.

5) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Move to approve the agenda. Edenfield seconded the motion. There was no further discussion.

MOTION: Move to approve the agenda

F/S: Burger/Edenfield

YEAS: Burger, Edenfield, Rhodes, Stram, Craske & Kerkof

NAYS: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

6) **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Burger commented on the following:

- Welcome to the three new councilmembers
- COVID-19 Virus is still out there and so I encourage everyone to continue social distancing, practicing proper hygiene and stay home if you are sick.

7) **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

a) City Administrator:

- The City has a reward out in the amount of \$1,000.00 for information leading to an arrest and conviction of the thieves that broke into the Solid Waste site and stole tools along with other items.

b) City Clerk Report:

- November 3rd, 2020, Mayoral Election. Polls will be at City Hall Council Chambers and Absentee Voting will be available at City Hall October 20-November 2nd and then again on November 3rd at Davidson Landing. Polls open at 7am and close at 8pm.
- Newly Elected Officials Training will be held via Zoom beginning November 9th and end the 10th.

- Read the resignation letter of Councilman Roger Longbotham:
 "Dear City Council Members and Citizens of Thorne Bay,
 I Roger Longbotham am hereby submitting my letter of resignation to be effective October 23rd, 2020 at 12:00PM. The reason for my resignation is I am outside the city of Thorne Bay taking care of my wife's elderly parents. Both are in there middle to upper 80's and are in 2 different locations. With them being married for over 68 years, the separation is difficult at best. We are doing everything we can for them to spend time together as often as possible. With the pandemic and travel restrictions in force, travel back and forth to and from Thorne Bay is very difficult. I don't want to put my family at risk by the extensive travel and extending myself to a higher exposure risk of the COVID 19.
 Our stay is going to be extended and I do not want to hold the seat in my absents from the city. It is with a heavy heart to submit this letter of resignation; however, I have been considering this for a long time. It has been my pleasure to serve the citizens of Thorne Bay.
 Sincerely, Roger Longbotham, Councilman Seat A"

8) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Sean Kaer commented on the following:

- Thanked Roger Longbotham for his time in office.
- Inquired about the following topics:
 - Will City Council meetings be done on Monday's from here on out?
 - Why did absentee voting at Davidson Landing start so late for October 6th Election?
- How does someone go about applying to be on the Council?

9) COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Eric Rhodes commented on the following:

- Appreciates Councilman Longbotham for honoring the Code on absences and thanked him for his time in office.

Wes Craske commented on the following:

- Requested that the City get the fire truck out of the fire hall at Davidson Landing prior to Election Day, November 3rd, 2020
- Requested also that the City move the Red Connex so there can be a Christmas Tree put up there.
- Explained that he was looking to have a Christmas tree decoration contest between both sides of the Bay and hoped it would be a fun event that would help join the community together. There will be winners and prizes for those who participate.
- Commented that he wanted to keep the joining of the community together and end the negativity that has gone on for so long.

Longbotham commented on the following:

- Heavy heart that he submits his resignation.

Craske commented on the following:

- Expressed condolences to Councilman Longbotham for what his family was going through.
- Thanked Councilman Longbotham for his service on the City Council.

Jon Stram commented on the following:

- Encouraged everyone to remember to get out and vote.

10) **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) Vacancy of a City Council Seat due to the physical absence from the city for a ninety-day period, without being excused by council, as required in Thorne Bay for longer than 90 days as per Thorne Bay Municipal Code 2.04.100, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to accept vacancy of council seat A due to physical absence. Kerkof seconded the motion. Edenfield requested clarification on the vacancy? Burger stated it would be effective immediately (October 19, 2020). Kerkof stated that the office was technically vacated when Councilman Longbotham had been absent longer than the 90 days. Rhodes commented that he agreed with the code but notes that when it was McDonald that was absent there were different views. Rhodes stated he would respect the resignation date effective October 23rd. Craske commented that he too would agree with the 23rd, there would be no negative effect.

Kerkof disagreed and added that by accepting the resignation date of the 23rd would allow Longbotham to vote on Vice Mayor.

Craske stated that in efforts to keep peace he was taking the stand to accept the resignation of Councilmember Longbotham effective October 23rd.

Stram stated that Longbotham participated in every meeting since his absence.

Kerkof stated he would agree to accept the resignation effective the 23rd if Longbotham would recuse himself from the Vice Mayor vote. There was further discussion.

MOTION: Move to declare council seat A vacant under Municipal Code 2.01.100

F/S: Burger/Edenfield

YEAS: Burger, Edenfield, & Kerkof

NAYS: Longbotham, Rhodes, Stram & Craske

STATUS: Motion Failed.

- b) Appointment of Vice Mayor of the City of Thorne Bay, discussion and action item:

Edenfield nominated Lee Burger as Vice Mayor. Rhodes nominated Jon Stram as Vice Mayor.

Edenfield stated that she felt Burger was best suited for the Vice Mayor because Lee has been on the council for many years and it was her opinion that a councilmember should serve for at least one year on the Council before serving either as Mayor or Vice Mayor.

The Clerk did a roll call for vote of the Mayor between Burger and Stram.

Edenfield – Burger

Rhodes – Stram

Burger – Burger

Stram – Stram

Kerkof – Burger

Craske – Stram

Longbotham – Stram

With a vote of 4/3, Jon Stram was appointed as the Vice Mayor for a term of one year.

- c) Amending the SISD Lease of City Tideland Lease to permit reduced rental rate for the months of November 2020 through May 31, 2021, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to approve the amended lease reducing the rate to 150 per month for November through May 31, 2020. Stram seconded the motion. Burger stated the restaurant has done everything they could to remain open during the times of COVID. Stram expressed thanks to AK-49 for all they do for the community and commented that they have done a wonderful job. Edenfield and Rhodes concurred with the comments from Stram.

MOTION: Moved to approve the amended lease reducing the rate to 150 per month for November through May 31st, 2021

F/S: Burger/Stram

YEAS: Burger, Edenfield, Longbotham, Rhodes, Stram, Kerkof & Craske

NAYS: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

- d) Resolution 20-10-19-01, amending authorized bank account signers for the City of Thorne Bay's First Bank and Tongass Federal Credit Union accounts, discussion, and action item:

This item was removed from the agenda. Clerk placed on the agenda prematurely as there will be a new Mayor elected in November.

11) CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Thom Cunningham commented on the following:

- Congrats to the City Councilmembers.

Brenda McDonald commented on the following:

- Would like to have the code clarified on the 90 absence. It was confusing and is confusing to the public.

Sean Kaer commented on the following:

- Agreed that the 90 days needs clarified.
- Congrats to all new councilmembers

12) CONTINUATION OF COUNCIL COMMENT:

Rhodes commented on the following:

- Community Development Block Grant opportunity. Informed the council and public that there would be public meetings held on Thursday, October 22nd at 6pm via WebEx and again on Saturday, October 24th at the Town side Fire Hall beginning at 2pm.

Longbotham commented on the following:

- Expressed his support for Eric Rhodes as Mayor

Craske commented on the following:

- Encouraged community growth and wellbeing. Commented that he wanted to start seeing positive coming from the community and less negative.

Stram commented on the following:

- Agreed with Councilman Craske and stated he would like to see more positivity. Continued that he loved this community and that he wanted to function solely as peace maker in his position as the Vice Mayor for the next year.
- Regardless to who is elected as Mayor, it will be a good choice and he is happy to work alongside whomever is elected as Mayor.

Rhodes commented on the following:

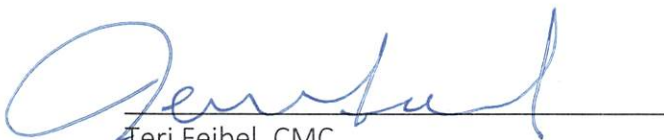
- Echoed both Wes and Jon's comment.

13) **ADJOURNMENT:**

Burger adjourned the meeting at 7:13p.m.


Lucinda Edenfield, Mayor

ATTEST:


Teri Feibel, CMC