A RESOLUTION OF THE THORNE BAY CITY COUNCIL SUPPORTING THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSIONS RESOLUTION NUMBERED 20-03-09-01-PZ PROVIDING THE CITY OF THORNE BAY’S OFFICIAL POSITION ON THE PROPOSED BAY VIEW TIMBER SALE

WHEREAS, the City Council is the governing body for the City of Thorne Bay, and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Commission for the city was established to constitute a department of the city and to perform the city-wide functions of planning, platting and zoning for the city, and to advise the chief executive officer and city council of them; and

WHEREAS, the Planning and Zoning Commission met on Monday March 9, 2020, to discuss the potentially negative impacts that the State’s Bay View Timber Sale would have on the community of Thorne Bay; and

WHEREAS, the Thorne Bay City Council agrees fully with the statements approved in the Planning and Zoning Commission Resolution 20-03-09-01PZ; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The City Council for the City of Thorne Bay fully supports, accepts and states as the City’s official position on the proposed Bay View Timber Sale, Resolution 20-03-09-01PZ.

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL on this 7th day of April 2020

Lee Q. Burger, Mayor

ATTEST:

Teri Feibel, CMC
WHEREAS, the City of Thorne Bay supports the State of Alaska, Division of Forestry’s (DOF) right to plan and offer the Bay View Timber Sale and plan for the eventual disposal and divestiture from State ownership of a portion of the lands; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Thorne Bay recognizes that the sustainability of the future of Thorne Bay’s economy, the livelihoods of our citizens, the recreation and visitor-based industry are highly dependent on a natural setting surrounding the community; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Thorne Bay wishes to ensure sustainability and economic viability of our local sawmills, which are dependent on a reliable supply of local timber; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska in development of the Bay View Timber Sale has the responsibility to consider potential negative economic impacts of the proposed sale to the community of Thorne Bay. The visual effects of the proposed harvest would lessen visitor experiences, damaging the natural aesthetics, and threaten the livelihood of guest lodges and businesses that rely on a visitor-based economy; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the best economic interests of the City of Thorne Bay to protect the community viewshed, including the entrance to the Bay; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska needs to openly advertise the sale of timber from the Bay View Timber Sale to all sawmill operators; and,

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the City of Thorne Bay to maintain roads of a City subdivision. The roads proposed to access the Bay View Timber Sale and subsequent subdivision need to be built to residential standards and grades. The DOF has indicated that these roads would eventually become the property and
responsibility of the City of Thorne Bay which is limited in funding to rebuild substandard roads; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska proposes permanent access to the new subdivision by an extension of Shoreline Drive. The proposed access would skirt the City’s Wastewater Treatment Facility, paralleling the beach for a short distance and climbing a 12-13% grade to the constructed timber harvest road above. The State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), Lagoon Construction Guidelines (2009) require that a lagoon shall be placed a minimum of 330 feet (100 meters) from all roads. The distance between the lagoon and the mean high tide line is 100.8 feet (30.7 meters). There is no room to extend Shoreline Drive and meet those requirements; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska proposes road extension access to the Bay View Timber Sale and subsequent subdivision via Shoreline Drive which would cross the current sewer outfall thus complicating matters; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska will be creating a subdivision without power and no potential for future connection to City provided utilities. The State of Alaska should provide power to the subdivision utilizing a portion of the timber sale receipts; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Thorne Bay is responsible for the safety of citizens and must maintain access to the City Wastewater Treatment Facility at all times, it recognizes that the areas facing Thorne Bay include zones of possible slope instability. No timber harvest should occur on the slopes immediately above and adjacent to private properties along Shoreline Drive and the Wastewater Treatment Facility; and,

WHEREAS, the Thorne Bay Municipal Watershed Boundary, based upon LiDAR information, is out of date and needs to be updated to reflect the precise watershed boundaries; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Thorne Bay believes that the design of the proposed subdivision, access, and lot placement should be developed with the help of the City of Thorne Bay and the City’s Planning and Zoning Commission.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The City of Thorne Bay supports a modification to the Bay View Timber Sale to protect the viewshed of the community and entrance to the Bay; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, access to the proposed subdivision should be along State logging roads and the Sandy Beach Road (USFS 3000 RD) on the Prince of Wales road system; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that roads proposed to access the Bay View Timber Sale and subsequent subdivision be constructed to residential standards and grades; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that accessing the new subdivision by an extension of Shoreline Drive does not meet ADEC guidelines; and,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the City of Thorne Bay encourages the State of Alaska, DOF to openly advertise the sale of timber from the Bay View Timber Sale to all sawmill operators by competitive bid, not by negotiated sale.

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Thorne Bay, Alaska on this 6th day of March 2020.

Jim Baichtal, Vice-Chairman

ATTEST:

Dana Allison, Planning & Zoning Clerk