

**MINUTES**  
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR  
THE CITY OF THORNE BAY, ALASKA  
TUESDAY, March 2, 2021  
TIME: 6:30 p.m.

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**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Edenfield called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE TO FLAG:**

The audience and council pledged to the flag.

**3. ROLL CALL:**

Those in attendance were:

Edenfield, Stram, Craske, Kerkof & Cunningham (Cunningham joined the meeting at 6:45p.m.)

Those absent were Burger & Rhodes

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

MOTION: Move to approve the agenda  
F/S: Edenfield / Kerkof  
YEAS: Stram, Edenfield, Kerkof, & Craske  
NAYS: None  
STATUS: Motion Passed.

**5. MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Edenfield reported that she had been out of town and just returned and has been working on issues that transpired while she was out of town.

**6. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

a) **City Administrator:**

Admin read report:

**Meetings Attended and Updates:**

- On February 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> I attended FEMA ICS-400 training for Advanced ICS for Command and General Staff.

**Tasks and Projects:**

- Village Safe Water (VSW) and the City are working on an update to our Intrusion and Infiltration (I&I) grant seeking additional funds to address our excessive outflow to the

Wastewater Treatment Facility. The initial engineering funding request has been approved and we will have engineers on site in March.

- FEMA / CARES grant funding realignment is in the initial stages of application. The City has had our "Recovery Scoping Meeting follow up" on February 25<sup>th</sup> with FEMA.
- The Seaplane Base Transfer is in progress. The process to officially transfer the Seaplane Base at the harbor to City management is underway with Alaska Department of Transportation (AKDOT) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). We are currently working internally to gather the required paperwork to move forward with this project.

### **Departmental Reports:**

#### ➤ **Streets and Roads:**

With the winter weather the Streets and Roads snow removal staff have been given the direction to plow / sand anytime the snow accumulation is greater than 2" or 3".

Additionally, they will be sanding anytime the roads are icy. These mandates have caused a small amount of overtime (6 +/- hours) in the current pay period. Generally, staff are directed to trim hours at the end of the week to offset any weekly overtime.

#### ➤ **Water and Sewer:**

No significant updates

#### ➤ **Solid Waste:**

No significant updates

#### ➤ **Library:**

From Library Director:

We are currently open two ways.

By appointment only, as a 'one on one' service for people to come and use our computers. Patron areas are sanitized after each use, and at the end of each day. You will be asked to observe social distancing, wear a mask and gloves are encouraged. Call or come to the Library to schedule an appointment.

Volunteers will gather desired items, check the items out and hand off to the Patron that remains outside the Library.

We don't currently have the option to browse items.

As always, we have the Digital Library as a free service thanks to the Friends of the Library. It works kind of like a Kindle, and books are free on your device. No need to visit the Library, no late items, just call to set up!

## b) City Clerk:

- Reminder of the POFD due by March 15<sup>th</sup>, only a few are pending, but they know who they are
  - The City as a second-class city can opt-out of POFD filing by:  
The authority to opt out of the POFD reporting requirements can be found in AS 39.50.145, Alaska's Public Official Financial Disclosure Law: Sec. 39.50.145. Participation by municipalities. A municipality may exempt its municipal officers from the requirements of this chapter if a majority of the voters voting on the question at a regular election, as defined by AS 29.71.800(20), or a special municipality-wide election, vote to exempt its municipal officers from the requirements of this chapter. The question of exemption from the requirements of this chapter may be submitted by the city council or borough assembly by ordinance or by initiative election.
- The total number of applicants for the \$150 fuel stimulus is at 205 with 11 of those being new applicants that were not included in the December stimulus relief.
- The City is currently working on collecting on past due accounts. There is a total of \$24,457.24 in past due account (over 60 days).  
We have two accounts that will be acting on for collections in the total amount of \$20,021.67. The other 4,435.57 is funds we are unable to collect on and will have to write off to bad debt.
- Update on the Alaska Housing Finance Corporations Rental Relief Program - Rent Relief Application Deadline is March 5<sup>th</sup>, make sure to get applications in by that time. Information is available on the City's website

## 7. PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

## 8. COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Cunningham commented on the following:

- Inquiry of status on lighting at Davidson Landing
  - Administrator – lights have been ordered and we should receive mid-March

## 9. CONSENT AGENDA

### a) MINUTES

- 1) Approving the minutes from the January 19, 2021, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes, discussion and action item:

Edenfield moved to approve the consent agenda. Kerkof seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion.

MOTION: Move to approve the consent agenda, Minutes of the February 16, Regular City

Council Meetings  
F/S: Edenfield/Kerkof  
YEAS: Stram, Edenfield, Kerkof, Craske Cunningham  
NAYS: None  
STATUS: Motion Passed

#### 10. NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Resolution 21-03-02-01; amending policies and procedures for public comments during council meetings, discussion and action item:

Edenfield moved to approve Resolution 21-03-02-01. Kerkof seconded the motion. Edenfield and Kerkof amended the motion to table action. Craske liked discussion and direction of the meeting procedures and would like to add comments.

MOTION: Move to table Resolution 21-03-02-01  
F/S: Edenfield/Kerkof  
YEAS: Stram, Edenfield, Kerkof, Craske, Cunningham  
NAYS: None  
STATUS: Motion Passed.

- b) Resolution 21-03-02-02, Parking Sign placement and restrictions for South Thorne Bay Subdivision, discussion only item:

#### **Administrator Carter explained.**

- Carter explained spoke to the crew and they agreed with no parking on the roads in the subdivision in the winter months.

#### **Cunningham commented on the following:**

- Cunningham thanked admin department for working on the resolution and addressing the parking issues.

#### **Stram commented on the following:**

- In winter months vehicles may slide off the road and would want to make sure the City had leeway for those who were not intentionally parking, but had to pull over to work on

#### **Cunningham commented:**

- Resolution geared toward keeping people from intentional parking on the sides of the road, not those who park for emergency reasons.

- c) Resolution 21-03-02-03, donating the 2000 Ford Ambulance to the City of Kasaan, discussion and action item:

Edenfield moved to approve Resolution 21-03-02-03. Kerkof and Craske seconded the motion. Craske commented that Thorne Bay and Kasaan have a long history of good relations

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 21-03-02-03  
F/S: Edenfield/ Kerkof  
YEAS: Stram, Cunningham, Edenfield, Kerkof & Craske  
NAYS: None  
STATUS: Motion Passed.

d) **Resolution 21-03-02-04**, appointment of Fire Chief and Assistant Chief, discussion and action item:

**Cunningham commented on the following:**

- Thorne Bay has a second VPSO that will be in Thorne Bay in March and he is overly qualified and feel current chief and assistant have performed their duties as laid out.

**Craske commented on the following:**

- Would like to hear Les input as he deals with day-to-day operations of the City and knows more about it.

**Les Carter commented on the following:**

- Need to take pro-active steps to put fire department in position to adequately respond.
- In January there was a 911 call for Chimney Fire and only two people responded so there needs to be work on infrastructure

**Craske inquired what it would take to make it work.**

**Carter stated the incoming VPSO is qualified to fill the shoes**

**Stram commented on the following:**

- Last week my wife and I stayed in Craig and late Thursday night we seen a fire and called 911 immediately. It took 5 minutes for first responder to get there and that wasn't even a truck. In less than 30 minutes the building burned completely to the ground.
- Anything we can do to move forward to improve response time and training, I am in favor of.

**Kerkof inquired** if the VPSO had been asked about the fire chief duties and what his thoughts were?

Carter stated that he had, and he was eager to see how the Fire Department working

**Fire Chief Silverthorn commented on the following:**

- The problem with the fire department is not the personnel, it is the equipment. The equipment is so old, we spend most of our time working on it and people are tired of it.
- The best truck we have is on the Southside and another truck that has issues holding water.
- Explained that the process for interviewing is the Administrator, applicant, and fire chief that all need to be part of.
- The City asked Jim to be fire chief he has experience and knows where all of the homes are.

- Explained that they fire department did respond to the call, it had already put it out

MOTION: Move to have the Administrator and Fire Chief tackle issue and have resolved by middle of April  
F/S: Edenfield/ Kerkof  
YEAS: Stram, Cunningham, Edenfield, Kerkof & Craske  
NAYS: None  
STATUS: Motion Passed.

## 11. CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

### **Sean McRae commented on the following.**

- As a member of the VFD, the City is heading down a precarious road thinking they will have the VPSO serve as the Fire Chief. Is VPSO public safety or Fire? Creating
- Jim is rock solid, I have seen his trainings at Davidson Landing, Marina, Fire Hall and have seen him piece mill the equipment together,
- The City has failed by not properly dispatched call. I never heard a siren go off. Two years ago the City offered to pay for fire academy in Craig and no one in Thorne Bay went to the trainings. This was the time that people supposedly had applications in.
- Love the community, but do not want city to naively put themselves into a corner without knowing all of the facts.

## 12. CONTINUATION OF COUNCIL COMMENT:

### **Craske commented on the following:**

- Was involved in VPSO position before. Respect Sean and want to sit down.

### **Edenfield commented on the following:**

- The motion made was keeping Fire Chief in position until new VPSO trained.
- We did beg for Silverthorn to come back as the Chief

### **Cunningham commented on the following:**

- In response to McRae comment, there is an assistant chief that would be the one to go on calls when the VPSO was out.

### **Edenfield commented on the following:**

- Have never seen the department not respond
- Thank you to Jim and to Sean

### **Kerkof commented on the following:**

- On the agenda we had the public comment and the Clerk and I will resolve that to an ordinance
- Additionally, we spoke of having town hall meetings and if we do that, I would have the VPSO be present at all town hall meetings.

**Craske commented on the following:**

- Would love to have the VPSO at meetings for providing a report
- Against having VPSO at town hall meetings, we are not violent

**Carter explained that Kerkof was wanting VPSO as a panelist at the town halls**

**Cunningham commented on the following:**

- The VPSO in the past has attended meetings and provided reports, but he has only reported to Les and not the Council!
- The VPSO at a Town Hall to answer questions, but also have seen meetings where there have almost been blows

**Kerkof commented on the following:**

- The VPSO should be there to answer questions and not to be standing as a guard

**Edenfield commented on the following:**

- During COVID the VPSO is providing written reports to the Administrator. When the governor opens up for gatherings

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

  
Cindy Edenfield, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Teri Feibel, CMC