

**MINUTES**  
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR  
THE CITY OF THORNE BAY, ALASKA  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021  
TIME: 6:30 p.m.

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**1) CALL TO ORDER:**

Edenfield called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**2) PLEDGE TO FLAG:**

The audience and council pledged to the flag.

**3) ROLL CALL:**

Those in attendance were:

In person: Edenfield, Burger, Rhodes, and Kerkof

By Webex: Cunningham, Stram, Craske

**4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

MOTION: Move to approve the agenda

F/S: Edenfield/Rhodes

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

NAYS: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

**5) MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Things are running smoothly. Thank you to Brandy Prefontaine who volunteered to do dispatch. Thank you to all of those individuals in the Community that used their own snowplows to assist with clearing snow.

**6) ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

**a) City Administrator:**

The city was closed yesterday, but the City had plowing crews on the streets yesterday here in town and on the south side.

February 9 through the 11<sup>th</sup>, I attended the Southeast Conference Mid-Session Summit. It was attended by state senators' representatives and transportation officials. The main topic at hand would just was resiliency in the southeast and how we bounce back from COVID-19, there was considerable discussion on the forestry and tourism industries. Several senators stated that they were going to work with their Canadian representatives to rescind the cruise ban that is slated to

be in place until 2022. February 11<sup>th</sup> the EMS squad and the VPSO participated in the high school homecoming parade that was a lot of fun. It's about an hour or so we drove around and welcomed everybody home from their away game. It was really, really a good time by all.

We heard back from Guardian, which is the lifeflight, the Alaska Department of Insurance put the kibosh on them, selling any more plans direct to a community. They denied the sale. So there's nothing that we can do. It's based on the fiscal viability. Basically, the Department of Insurance is concerned that if Guardian sells a whole bunch of memberships to an area and they get a whole bunch of calls for lifeflight without getting the private health insurance money, and it could cause them a fiscal hardship, to the point of putting their business at risk. So, at this point that leaves us with some money that we need to figure out how we want to reallocate out of the CARES Grant Fund. I think Teri is going to bring that up a little bit later but we do need to think about how we want to reallocate that we bounced some ideas around about doing another round of residential type funding for fuel and propane out of the Port, which we would like to probably move forward with.

#### Tasks and Projects

Village Safe Water and the City are still working to update our intrusion and infiltration grant. Village Safe Water will have engineers on site in March.

The FEMA and CARES Grant funding realignment is in the initial stages. We had our recovery scope meeting today. The equipment purchases made using the CARES funds, have been moved to the FEMA Grant request. We requested 100% of the cost to us for the equipment purchased in the FEMA grant, and if approved, the FEMA grant will initially fund the full amount of the equipment costs, but at the end of the pandemic, they will determine the fair market value of the equipment the City will have to buy the equipment from FEMA. The City will use the CARES grant fund to purchase back the equipment at fair market value from FEMA. Essentially, the total expense for the equipment from the CARES funding will decrease by the difference of the fair market value at the end of the Pandemic.

The Seaplane Base transfer is in progress, which is part of the Resolution that is on tonight's agenda.

James Taylor passed a CDL test on February 4<sup>th</sup>, so we now have another CDL employee which is awesome and gives us a little bit more flexibility with dump trucks and heavy equipment.

With the winter weather streets and roads snow removal staff have been given the direction again to plow and sand anytime the accumulation is greater than two and a half to three inches. Additionally, they'll be sanding any time the roads are icy. At this rate, we are going through sand faster than we historically have so I'm going to be working on trying to obtain more sand either from the sandpit or from the State's sand pit.

VPSO Bosdell provided a written report, which I will read here:

“For the period of January 15 to February 15:

- Total call volume is 26 calls.
- One felony warrant arrest for probation violation arrests
- Two accident scene investigations
- One death investigation.
- Three misdemeanor arrests
- Two public appearances,
- Three ongoing felony investigations
- Two ongoing misdemeanor investigations

For the EMS side of things:

- Four medical aid calls.
- Three transports for service.
- One monthly meeting,
- The ETT Course will be starting soon, we got it we got our first email on it, about two hours ago
- We need MORE VOLUNTEERS for South Thorne Bay. This is extremely important.

#### b) City Clerk:

City Clerk reported the following:

- Currently working on reallocated some of the CARES Grant expenses to FEMA Public Assistance Grant
- With the Life-Flight denying the City the option to purchase memberships for the Community, I would like to propose that the City provide that thirty-thousand-dollar allocation to be spent on Residential Relief funding for fuel and propane purchases at the Port.

#### 7) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Sean Kaer provided the following comments:

- Expressed concern on the City letting the MMRS trailer go
- Concerned that city purchased two Ambulances and now may have to give back

#### 8) COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Rhodes commented on the following:

- Great job and a thanks to the City road crews. It appears that they are doing better on the road maintenance than the State Department of Transportation.

Craske commented on the following:

- Concurred with Rhodes, people have really noticed a difference in South Shore. The road crews have stepped up and are doing a great job

**Cunningham commented on the following:**

- Requested clarification on the Life Flight Memberships – Did all communities get denied or just Thorne Bay?
- Felt that the City would have gotten the life flight memberships if they had acted upon it when he initially proposed it in September.
- Parking ordinance is not on the agenda, but would like to request that it be done for South Thorne Bay since there is more contention with it happening on Southside

**Stram commented on the following:**

- Expressed appreciation for the grading that the road crew has been doing
- Received word at church that the Farm to Families food distribution will be back in effect beginning in March.

**9) CONSENT AGENDA**

**a) MINUTES**

- 1) Approving the minutes from the January 5<sup>th</sup> & February 2<sup>nd</sup> , 2021, Regular City Council Meeting Minutes, discussion and action item:

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

MOTION: Move to approve the consent agenda, Minutes of the January 5<sup>th</sup> & February 2, Regular City Council Meetings

F/S: Edenfield/Cunningham

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

NAYS: None

STATUS: Motion Passed

**10) NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) Resolution 21-02-16-01; assuming sponsorship of the Thorne Bay Seaplane Base from Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities , discussion and action item:

Edenfield moved to approve Resolution 21-02-16-01. Burger seconded the motion. Administrator and Clerk explained that the City has always owned the seaplane base, it was built using a grant in 1998. The FAA had sponsorship which was used to get funding, but now the City will have sponsorship and be able to apply for grant funds for the Seaplane base.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 21-02-16-01

F/S: Edenfield/Burger

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

NAYS: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

- b) **Resolution 21-02-16-02**; supporting Tlingit And Haida Central Council's Arming of their Village Public Safety Officers, discussion and action item:

Edenfield moved to approve Resolution 21-02-16-02. Burger seconded the motion.

**Edenfield explained** that the resolution authorizes the Mayor to send a letter showing our support to arm VPSO's.

**City Clerk Feibel** provided background information regarding why this is being placed before the council.

In 2014 one of the VPSO's responded to a call for a suicide attempt and when he arrived, he was shot in the back of the head and killed. This caused an uprising for all VPSO's around the State and they submitted requests to the Governor to allow them to be armed.

The Governor did finally draft a bill that was later passed in 2016, House Bill 199. This bill allowed for Tlingit and Haida Corporation to decide whether or not they wanted to allow their officers to carry arms.

Tlingit and Haida began a pilot program and trained around 20 VPSO's with extensive arms training and allowed them to carry a gun. Unfortunately, I didn't find much information on the pilot program after that. But I do know that the VPSO's are still wanting to be armed, however the Tlingit and Haida President is reluctant. VPSO's are going to their communities and asking whether or not they would support them being armed. They hope to bring these letters and resolutions to the President of Tlingit and Haida showing him that there is support from the communities and requesting that he reconsider.

**Rhodes commented** that the VPSO Program has had the ability to carry arms for many years now and this is the push to move forward. I believe that allowing them to be armed would be an added asset. The VPSO's are trained at the Trooper Academy, and for this level of training, they can be trusted. Rhodes concluded that he felt this was long overdue and he supported VPSO's being armed.

**Burger commented** in favor of the resolution to allow VPSO's to carry firearms.

**Cunningham stated** that he understood that the VPSO's go through the same training as Troopers but wanted it to be clarified on whether or not the City would be liable for any claims of wrongful discharge. Cunningham concluded that he was in Favor of arming VPSO's.

**City Clerk Feibel stated** that she had received a call from Harvey McDonald inquiring about the insurance liability to the City. Clerk stated that the VPSO program covered the insurance on their officers. The City would not be held liable for any reason.

**Stram inquired** if the City could revisit this if there were issues in the future Administrator responded that the City could.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 21-02-16-02 supporting Tlingit And Haida Central Council's Arming of their Village Public Safety Officers  
F/S: Edenfield/Burger  
YEAS: Stram, Cunningham, Edenfield, Kerkof, Craske, Rhodes & Burger  
NAYS: None  
STATUS: Motion Passed.

- c) Review and approval of Phase I Plan for the construction & design of Davidson Landing including the plan for moving forward on a Community Center and beautification of the areas surrounding the Davidson Landing Fire Hall and Community Pavilion, discussion and action item: (Plan pending-Draft will be provided as soon as possible)

Rhodes stated the plan to move forward was prepared using the baseline funding from the original \$7,500.00 that the City Council approved for the beautification of Davidson Landing. Since the funding had been approved, Rhodes has had an electrician and carpenter over to take a look at quite a few options for moving forward. Rhodes stated that he hoped for and needed a lot of community input on the building to determine what is needed and wanted. The drafted plan shows two phases for moving forward. Phase one is installation of internet, upgraded and/or new LED lighting at front entrance and interior. Fire Door needs ICC rated as access to the fire hall and upgraded lock system for the current front door. Interior construction shows 25' x 8' interior room: interior stud walls, insulated, vapor barrier and drywall work finished, ready for paint. Phase two shows the possible uses for the building and needs to provide those uses.

**Uses for the facility include, but are not limited or final:**

- Library area
- Art area
- Polling location
- Workstations
- Public WI-FI
- Fire Hall
- Vending Machines
- Movie Projectors, Etc.

**Craske commented on the following:**

- With the current plan, it uses the backside of the fire hall and if space was needed, the fire truck and ambulance could be moved out.
- Wi-Fi is a large need, and needs to be installed now, "there is nothing gained by waiting"
- Expressed the urgency for the project to begin. With some of the upgrade and beautification being to the outside area, plants need to be planted soon
- Appreciates everyone's input on the project and stated that he had been working on this project since 2014, and was very passionate about it

- The electric box outside of the fire hall needs to be replaced immediately, as it is unsafe

Edenfield inquired if the volunteer electrician were licensed? Rhodes responded that they were. Edenfield stated that with it being a community building, they were required to have licensed contractors and electricians.

**Cunningham commented on the following:**

- Stated he was in favor of doing the Center in the addition area, he felt there was more room there
- He met with Eric and they put together a material list for the construction but did not know if Eric had gotten around to getting the prices on those.

**Craske commented:**

- The reason for having it in the front, is that is the point of public contact. We will have the internet in there so that it can be Wi-Fi
- Explained this was his project that he has been working on for many years. Craske continued to state he is very passionate about the Community Center. One of the points of this is to provide a polling place for people to vote. Rhodes assisted with the drawings, but there is a lot of things to consider and need to be worked out.

**Cunningham commented that:**

- It was his intention to assist with the construction side of the project. Explained that he had 40 years of experience in construction, so he could help with that. But Cunningham did not want to do anything on the playground or gardening side of things

**d) Update on CARES Grant Fund expenses, discussion and possible action item:**

Edenfield moved to reallocate the \$30,000.00 from the Guardian Flight memberships to the Port to be disbursed to the community for fuel purchases. Rhodes seconded the motion. City Clerk Feibel explained that since Guardian denied the City purchasing memberships for the community, there was \$30,000.00 of CARES funding freed up. Since it is the goal of the Council to provide residents with financial relief during this time, we recommend that the Council consider reallocating the funds for fuel relief. If approved, residents who applied for, and received, the community relief funding in December, would automatically be eligible and approved for the relief funding for fuel. Additionally, the City would open the application period up to the public for two weeks to allow those who missed out on the relief funding in December for whatever reason. The amount of the relief funding is not known at this time. It would be determined by the number of eligible applicants, divided by the \$30,000.00. There was further discussion.

MOTION: Move to reallocate the \$30,000.00 from the Guardian Flight memberships to the Port to be disbursed back to the Community for fuel purchases  
 F/S: Edenfield/Burger

YEAS: Stram, Cunningham, Edenfield, Kerkof, Craske, Rhodes & Burger  
NAYS: None  
STATUS: Motion Passed.

11) EXPENDITURES EXCEEDING \$2,000.00:

None

12) CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

13) CONTINUATION OF COUNCIL COMMENT:

Administrator Carter stated that at the last meeting the council challenged him to replace a hydraulic cylinder for under \$3,200 and he was able to get that for \$1,400 shipped.

Cunningham commented on the following:

- Thanked the City for being on top of the snow removal
- Kudos to Les for saving money on the cylinder purchase

Kerkof commented on the following:

- Inquired if Workshops would begin once COVID had passed
- Encouraged the council to open meetings back up to the public

Craske commented on the following:

- Happy about the progress that is being made in the City.
- Has attended meetings over the last 38 years and notes that the meetings are not as contentious as they were years ago. Concluded that he appreciated the progress being made.

Cunningham commented on the following:

- Was Kerkof's comment about the workshop or the town hall meetings?
- Spoke with the public about the possibility of a town hall and people really liked the idea

14) ADJOURNMENT:

7:51 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Teri Feibel, CMC

  
Cindy Edenfield, Mayor