



MINUTES
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR
THE CITY OF THORNE BAY, ALASKA
TUESDAY, September 7, 2021 TIME: 6:30 p.m.

1) CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Edenfield called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

2) PLEDGE TO FLAG:

The audience and council stood for the pledge to the flag.

3) ROLL CALL:

Those present were: Edenfield, Jennings, Kerkof, Burger, Cunningham & Stram
Craske was absent.

4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Edenfield moved to approve the agenda removing item (9) Consent Agenda.
Burger seconded the motion.

MOTION: Move to approve the agenda removing item (9) Consent Agenda.

F/S: Edenfield/Burger

YEAS: Edenfield, Jennings, Kerkof, Burger, Cunningham & Stram

NAYS: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

5) MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Advised the community of the recent spike in COVID cases within Thorne Bay. Urged the public to do what they could to help limit the spread of COVID-19. "The August 17 City Council meeting public comments included a complaint by city resident Tim Lindseth describing an encounter he recently had with City Councilman Wes Craske. Mr. Lindseth described the verbal abuse he was subjected to during this encounter, Mr. Lindseth called the VPSO, and on their arrival, the matter was ultimately defused.

While the City Council does not normally get involved in this sort of incident, and the fact that a sitting City Councilman was involved, we feel that this encounter is not in keeping with the professional public image the Council strives to display. Councilman Craske has on several occasions during open Council meetings,

accused Mr. Lindseth of violating city codes, while producing no evidence, nor identifying the codes being violated. These accusations were presented to the Council in an angry, aggressive manner using inappropriate language.

As a result of these episodes, it has become clear that Councilman Craske holds a personal animus toward Mr. Lindseth and seeks to execute a vendetta against him. This activity is a violation of the code of conduct expected of our Council members.

We encourage Councilman Craske to exercise restraint in the future and to display respect to all city residents.

6) ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

a) City Clerk:

- Absentee Voting is open at City Hall, September 7th to October 4th and Davidson Landing October 5th. All voters who will be affected by the new polling location for 2022, are being provided with a letter explaining the change in polling locations.

7) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

8) COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Mayor Edenfield read a letter regarding an incident reported by a resident at the August 26, 2021, Regular Municipal Election.

~~9) CONSENT AGENDA: Minutes—this item was removed from the agenda.~~

10) NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Resolution 21-09-07-01, Appointing John Huestis as the City Administrator for the City of Thorne Bay, for a contract term of 3-years to commence on October 18, 2021, discussion and action item:

Edenfield moved to approve Resolution 21-09-07-01. Burger Seconded the motion. The Clerk thanked all who participated in the interview process for the new Administrator, and thanked the City Staff for stepping up during the temporary absence of an admin. There was no further discussion.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 21-09-07-01, appointing John Huestis as the City Administrator for the City of Thorne Bay

F/S: Edenfield/Burger

YEAS: Edenfield, Jennings, Kerkof, Burger, Cunningham & Stram

NAYS: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

b) Resolution 21-09-07-02, Appointing Election Judges for the October 5, 2021, Regular Municipal Election, discussion and action item:

Edenfield moved to approve Resolution 21-09-07-02, appointing Election Judges for October 5, 2021 & November 2, 2021, Municipal Elections. Burger seconded the motion.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 21-09-07-02, appointing Election Judges for October 5, 2021 & November 2, 2021, Municipal Elections

F/S: Edenfield/Burger

YEAS: Edenfield, Jennings, Kerkof, Burger, Cunningham & Stram

NAYS: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

11) **EXPENDITURES EXCEEDING \$2,000.00:**

a) Authorizing the donation of in-kind labor toward development of the new library site of approximately \$3,500.00, of in-kind labor and materials put toward the new library site development and utility connections, discussion and action item:

Edenfield moved to approve the expense of up to \$3,500.00, toward the development of the new Library site development and utility connections.

Cunningham commented he would vote against the Library expense. Cunningham stated that the Council was told that the new library would be at no additional cost to the City and added that the expense should go to the vote of the public.

Burger explained that the expense was in-kind, and no cash being transferred.

Kerkof commented that short of the City providing the labor and equipment, the library would have to hire from an outside source. Further discussion included in-kind labor had a value, which was why the item was on the agenda for the City Council to vote on.

MOTION: Move to approve the expense of up to \$3,500.00, toward the development of the new Library site development and utility connections.

F/S: Edenfield/Burger

YEAS: Edenfield, Jennings, Kerkof, Burger & Stram

NAYS: Cunningham

STATUS: Motion Passed.

12) **CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Brandy Prefontaine inquired if the City would be the owner of the Library building once it is in place?

13) CONTINUATION OF COUNCIL COMMENT:

Kerkof Congrats to John Huestis

Jon Stram commented on the following:

- Would also congrats to John Huestis, urge residents to make him feel welcomed into the community
- Thank you to all who signed up for the City Council seats this year. Like to see the public step up.

Cunningham commented on the following:

- Thank John Huestis for coming to Thorne Bay and thank all who also applied for the position
- Thank to all who are running in upcoming election and those sitting on the boat also.

14) ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Edenfield adjourned the meeting at 7:10pm

ATTEST:


Teri Feibel, CMC


Cindy Edenfield, Mayor

