



MINUTES
FOR THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
FOR THE CITY OF THORNE BAY, ALASKA
MONDAY, October 18, 2021
TIME: 6: 30 p.m.

1) CALL TO ORDER:

Burger called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

2) PLEDGE TO FLAG:

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

3) OATH OF OFFICE

The following members were sworn into office:

- Robert Hartwell, Council Seat A - 1-Year term
- Charles Jennings, Seat B - 1- Year term
- Jeffrey Oatman, Seat D - 3- Year term
- Lee Burger, Seat F - 3-Year term
- Shane Nyquest, Seat G - 3-Year term.

4) ROLL CALL:

Those in attendance were: Kerkof, Oatman, Nyquest, Burger, Jennings & Hartwell

Those excused were: Stram

5) APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Burger moved to approve the agenda as written. Hartwell seconded the motion. There was no further discussion.

MOTION: Move to approve the agenda as written

F/s: Burger/Hartwell

YEAS: Nyquest, Kerkof, Hartwell, Oatman, Burger & Jennings

NAYS: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

6) MAYOR'S REPORT: N/A

7) ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

a) Administrator Report: Welcome to Thorne Bay John!

John Huestis, City Administrator reported the following:

- Very happy to be here, arrived to Thorne Bay on Saturday. Looking forward to working with all.

- First official workday and have been going through the office and trying to arrange the space to serve most efficient for me.

b) City Clerk:

Teri Feibel, City Clerk/Treasurer reported the following:

- Welcome to John Huestis, very happy to have him on board and relieving the front office staff of additional duties
- Compliments to the City Employees. All are doing a wonderful job and have great attitudes
- Mayoral Election coming up on November 2nd. Absentee voting starts October 19th through November 1st, excluding weekends and holidays. Voting for Mayoral Election will be held at the City Council Chambers of City Hall and Davidson Landing November 2nd from 8am to 8pm.
- Newly elected officials training will be available to the City Council via Zoom put on by Alaska Municipal League on November 9th and 10th in the City Hall Council Chambers.
- The appointment of Cindy as the EMS Coordinator is for the purposes of reorganizing the department. This is not an regular employed position, and receives a monthly stipend of \$100.00. This position is responsible for scheduling trainings, ordering supplies, applying for grants, etc.

8) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Cunningham commented on the following:

- Welcome to John Huestis as Thorne Bay's new City Administrator.
- Held a memorial for Dan Romey October 17th, Mike Steel had the honor guard down from Anchorage and weather held out very nice.
- Want council to reconsider appointing Jennings as Vice Mayor because Jennings had commented at the last meeting Jennings stated he didn't have the knowledge to be the Mayor and in the past, the Vice Mayor has had to step in and serve as Mayor for long periods of time.
- Requested update on the Charlie Brown Plaque that was voted on a couple of months ago.

9) COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Jennings commented on the following:

- Stated if the public wanted him to step down as Vice Mayor, he would be more than happy to step down.

Nyquest commented on the following:

- Welcome to John Huestis and fellow councilmembers
- Commented he felt that Councilman Jennings did have the have the ability to step in as mayor if needed to perform those duties for short period of time, however the council did just vote that a councilmember had to have served on the City Council for at least one year to serve as the Mayor.

Hartwell commented on the following:

- The ordinance passed by the City Council regarding the Mayor was in regard to Electing a Mayor only.
- He felt that Councilman Jennings had more experience in and knowledge of Thorne Bay than any other councilmember on the board.
- Found in a travel guide titled Alaska Yukon Handbook included a statement about Thorne Bay:
 “Thorne Bay, the growing settlement of Thorne Bay population 580, calls itself the biggest logging camp in the US, it also billed as a plan city, But the plan seems based upon chaos, mud, abandoned vehicles, and a heavy dose of mobile homes in shacks. Thorne Bay has to be one of the ugliest settlements in the southeast. That alone should be reason enough to visit it.”

10) NEW BUSINESS:

- a) **Resolution 21-10-18-01**: appointing a Vice Mayor for the term of 1-year, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to approve Resolution 21-10-18-01, appointing Charles Jennings as Vice Mayor for a term of one year. Nyquest seconded the motion. There was no further discussion.

MOTION: Move to approve the adopt Resolution 21-10-18-01, appointing Charles Jennings as Vice Mayor.

F/s: Burger/Nyquest

YEAS: Nyquest, Kerkof, Hartwell, Oatman & Burger

NAYS: Jennings

STATUS: Motion Passed.

- b) **Resolution 21-10-18-02**: urging Tlingit and Haida Central Council always keep at least one VPSO in the Community, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to approve Resolution 21-10-18-02, always keeping VPSO in Thorne Bay. Jennings seconded the motion. Burger commented that the City just found out a week ago that the one of Thorne Bay’s VPSO’s had been transferred and the second VPSO wasn’t in town. There was a house fire on Southside and another in town the very next day. It was a very big issue when we did not have our Fire Chief, who is also our VPSO, around to respond. Thorne Bay must have a Fire Chief in town and VPSO presence at all times.

Matt McGinnis commented on the following:

- Thank you to all that stepped in and helped with the fire – Saved someone’s property and helped ensure the fire did not spread.
- Have been working pretty hard trying figure out how we can make some improvements to the department. Spoke with Charles Jennings, he had a lot of great ideas, and others. We cannot have that happen again.

- Will be publishing the Fire Meeting schedule for meeting once a month and then twice a year having a crash course for those who are unable to attend the monthly meetings. I can run them through some of the basics so, so they are an asset not a liability. And because people here have varying schedules like sometimes once a month just doesn't work sometimes to be worked on for months. So in light of these strategies, we're still pushing forward trying to make this better.

Kerkof commented on the following:

- The resolution does not fully detail how badly we need the VPSO and Fire Chief presence in Thorne Bay. Matt was not here at no fault of his own, being transferred to Kake for two weeks, and if Tlingit and Haida continues to choose to transfer one of the VPSO's then they need to consult with us to ensure that our Fire Chief remains present. Need to have Tlingit and Haida notify us at the very least before moving.

City Clerk suggested the Administrator, Mayor and Vice Mayor set up a meeting with Tlingit and Haida to introduce themselves and explain how important it is that Thorne Bay has our Fire Chief in town at all times.

MOTION: Move to approve the adopt Resolution 21-10-18-02, urging Tlingit and Haida Central Council keep at all times at least one VPSO in the Community
 F/s: Burger/Jennings
 YEAS: Nyquest, Kerkof, Jennings, Hartwell, Oatman & Burger
 NAYS: None
 STATUS: Motion Passed.

c) Approving the 6-month rental extension in the Thorne Bay RV Park for Kim Straight, discussion and action item: (Request is made pursuant to the Thorne Bay Municipal Code Title 12.04.030-Occupancy Duration)

Burger moved to extend for 6-months the rental of the RV Park and allow removeable roof. Oatman seconded the motion. Hartwell inquired how long the renter had been in the park. Clerk responded that he had been there for 6-months. Nyquest agreed with comments from Hartwell and requested that the City notify Mr. Straight that this was a short-term lease. Oatman inquired how many lots had power to them? Edenfield commented that 8 have power and total of 14. The 8 active lots are the only ones that AP&T will connect.

MOTION: Move to approve the RV 6-month extension for Kim Straight, and allow for a temporary cover over the trailer
 F/s: Burger/Oatman
 YEAS: Nyquest, Kerkof, Jennings, Hartwell, Oatman & Burger
 NAYS: None
 STATUS: Motion Passed.

d) Resolution 21-10-18-03, amending the authorized signers for the City of Thorne Bay Bank Accounts, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to approve Resolution 21-10-18-03. Hartwell seconded the motion. There was further discussion.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 21-10-18-03
F/s: Burger/Hartwell
YEAS: Nyquest, Kerkof, Hartwell, Oatman, Burger & Jennings
NAYS: None
STATUS: Motion Passed.

e) Appointing Cindy Edenfield as the EMS Coordinator for the Thorne Bay EMS Department, discussion, and action item:

Burger moved to appoint Cindy Edenfield as the EMS Coordinator for the Thorne Bay EMS Department. Hartwell seconded the motion. City Clerk explained that the position of EMS Coordinator was not a regular employee position. The coordinator receives a stipend of \$100.00, per month and handles scheduling monthly meetings, assisting with recruitment of volunteers, applying for mini grants through SEREMS, scheduling trainings for ETT and EMT classes.

MOTION: Move to appoint Cindy Edenfield as the EMS Coordinator for the EMS Department
F/s: Burger/Hartwell
YEAS: Nyquest, Kerkof, Hartwell, Oatman, Burger & Jennings
NAYS: None
STATUS: Motion Passed.

11) ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC HEARING:

a) Ordinance 21-10-18-01, amending Thorne Bay Municipal Code Title 2 – Administration and Personnel, Chapter 2.28-Elections, Section 2.28.

Burger moved to approve Ordinance 21-10-18-01. Hartwell seconded the motion. Nyquest inquired how the city would ensure that the email ballot was secure? The City Clerk explained that it would only be a read receipt from the voter which verified they received the ballot.

MOTION: Move to adopt Ordinance 21-10-18-01
F/s: Burger/Hartwell
YEAS: Nyquest, Kerkof, Hartwell, Oatman, Burger & Jennings
NAYS: None
STATUS: Motion Passed.

12) EXPENDITURES EXCEEDING \$2,000.00:

- a) Authorizing the expense of up to \$3,000.00, for the purchase of a laptop for the City Administrator, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$5,000.00. Kerkof seconded the motion. There was further discussion.

MOTION: Move to approve the expense of up to \$5,000.00

F/s: Burger/Kerkof

YEAS: Nyquest, Kerkof, Hartwell, Oatman, Burger & Jennings

NAYS: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

13) CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Thom Cunningham commented on the following:

- Regarding the statement that a councilmember read from the pamphlet about the appearance of Thorne Bay. The Waterfront Development Plan addresses this issue and although the town side has cleaned up considerably, the South side has not.
- Encouraged the City Councilmembers to drive over to the Southside and take a look at the properties over there.

14) CONTINUATION OF COUNCIL COMMENT:

Nyquest commented on the following:

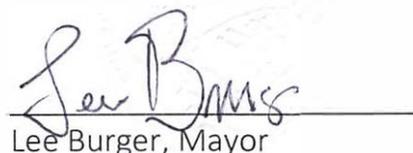
- Regarding the roads on South Thorne Bay, they were recently graded and it was a pleasant drive compared to a week ago.
- There are improvements that need to be made, we are one town, let's try and improve things wherever we can.

Oatman commented on the following:

- Is the limit of public participation a state requirement?

15) ADJOURNMENT:

Burger adjourned the meeting at 7:39 pm



Lee Burger, Mayor

ATTEST:



Teri Feibel, CMC