

## MINUTES

FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR  
THE CITY OF THORNE BAY, ALASKA

TUESDAY, March 15, 2022

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

There was a workshop beginning at 6:00 pm

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LOCATION: TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO CONFERENCING LINE

1) CALL TO ORDER:

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

2) PLEDGE TO FLAG:

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

3) ROLL CALL:

Those present were: Burger, Nyquest, Oatman, Hartwell, Stram and Kerkof  
Those excused: Jennings

4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Burger moved to approve the agenda. Hartwell seconded the motion. There were no further comments.

MOTION: Move to approve the agenda

F/S: Burger/Hartwell

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

NAYS: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

5) MAYOR'S REPORT:

- EMS is having a Saint Patrick's Day fundraiser on Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at the Northside Fire Hall
- COVID is still active on the island, but zero active in Thorne Bay that we are aware of.

6) ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

a) City Administrator:

**John Huestis reported the following:**

Working on a wide variety of issues and general administration duties.

EMS Coordinator has received one applicant to date.

- Fire Chief has received zero applications to date.
- Completed application for a new NPDES/APDES Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge Permit. NOI is required 180 days in advance of current permit expiration.

- Responded to ADEC on past Wastewater Discharge Permit violations leading up to a Compliance Order by Consent to set a meeting with our attorneys to discuss.
- Met with Wayne Jenson of JYW on the Fire/EMS Hall Design for a site visit to help finalize the scope of work and contract. We have a negotiated fee but are still finalizing some contract provisions. The best location seems to be in the median island area in front of the vaulted outhouses.
- Worked with Shane Nyquest and NewLook Construction LLC to execute a Construction Contract for City shop repairs. We have received the settlement amount from the AMLJIA and entered into a LS Contract with NewLook. 120 days to complete.
- Met with OVK and USFS to discuss the RAC project - Kasaan Road. We need more funding but no luck -go as far as we can - move APT pole and place rock.
- Met with OVK and AKDOT&PF to discuss grant programs and the Kasaan Road project. We discussed many facets including the possibility of them taking over M&O in the future.
- Meeting with Bill Yockey tomorrow to drive the Kasaan Road and look at M&O.
- Talked with the SISD about MOA for transfer of the property at the old floating schoolhouse over to the City and the issue brought up about the debris. Branzon agreed to take the lead in cleaning up the tidelands as part of the deal. They were going to be working with Gary Anderson to assist.
- I'm going to be working with Jason Jennings to establish a secure fenced area inside of our Solid Waste site to impound vehicles. I'm still waiting to get more details and specifics about cost, legal issues, etc. but will be working on getting a proposal for this to the Council in the near future, 1–2-month, time frame.
- USFS Delilah Bingham says that the Bunkhouse Barge will be arriving on or about May 18th and current plans are for about 8 liveboards. Need to move Judy's barge first.
- I was contacted by Korissa Oatman about doing some work up at the baseball field to prepare for little league, T-ball and minor pitch teams to practice for participation in a Craig conference. Amy Jennings will be working on getting the field prepped for use as best as we can.
- We are passing two of our newest employees off of probation: Amy Jennings and Simon Doyle. Both are doing above average for their time and experience in service to the City. We are happy to have them and want to help them grow in their spheres of responsibility and influence in the community as it relates to the services they can provide
- I have started a financial analysis of combining all of our heavy equipment, service vehicles, motors and other routinely maintained machines and equipment into an Internal Service Fund called the Equipment Rental and Revolving Fund. This is the same fund that will also

hire and pay the heavy equipment/fleet mechanic. I have identified the need for an appropriate mechanic's shop and tools and equipment, such as a hoist. I have approached Dale Hayes about the possibility of the City acquiring Bayview Tire and Mechanical. We visited the shop and I believe this would be a great asset for the City. This will be part of the overall financial analysis that I intend to present to the Council for consideration in the near future. These considerations will likely be part of the 2023 budget development discussions and decision-making process.

b) Department Reports:

➤ Harbor Report:

Current Projects:

- Met with Tongass Electric to evaluate our projects at Davidson, waiting on quotes.
- Replacing broken/rusted nails and rotting boards at main harbor.
- In beginning phase of getting main harbor ready for busy season(moving barges, moving fish cleaning station, replacing signage, cleaning and maintenance).
- Removal of trash, derelict vehicles, and old junk from Davidson.
- Prepping for removal of SISD walkway from water.
- Prepping for EMS boat maintenance and painting.

c) City Clerk:

Teri Feibel, CMC, reported the following:

➤ Financial Update

QuickBooks Profit and Loss as of March 15, 2022

Income: \$ 1,050,177.52  
 Expense: \$ 1,065,526.08  
 Net Income: \$ - 15,348.56

Banking Account Balances:

Wells Fargo Investment Funds:

Money Market: \$295,996.62  
 Security Bonds: \$633,262.83  
**Total Wells Fargo: \$929,259.45**

First Bank \$31,383.24

Tongass FCU \$593,430.53

TOTAL ACCOUNT BALANCES: \$1,554,073.22

**Detail Account Balances for Tongass Federal Credit Union:**

HEALTH PREMIUM	\$5,076.71
OCCUPANCY GEN.	\$2,400.57
OCC TAX EMS/FIR	\$9,502.26

OCC TAX TOURISM	\$10,732.05	
OCC TAX PARKS	\$10,660.73	
OCC TAX HARBOR	\$23,494.26	\$56,789.87
HARBOR R&R	\$99,942.86	
WATER UTL R&R	\$32,281.14	
SEWER UTL R&R	\$30,580.31	
SOLIDWASTE R&R	\$27,264.48	\$190,068.79
COMMUNITYCENTER	\$7,503.94	\$7,503.94
CHECKING	\$73,486.01	\$73,486.01
40% SALES TAX	\$150,406.27	\$150,406.27
60% SALES TAX	\$110,098.94	\$110,098.94
Account Totals:	\$593,430.53	

➤ **ARPA Grant increase in funding:**

This Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund distribution to Thorne Bay was increased by a total of **\$3,143.60**. Increasing the ARPA Grant funds from \$261,348.67 to \$264,492.27.

**7) PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Harvey McDonald commented on the following:

- VERIZON service is ending on the island. Suggested that POWCAC look at developing a phone system on the Island, to resolve the problem.

Sherry Becker, SISD Superintendent

- Thank you for considering the annual donation to the Thorne Bay Wolverines
- Thank you for working with SISD on the cleanup process of the tidelands, and intend to fully work with the city on cleaning up

**8) COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Kerkof commented on the following:

- The city had advertised for a Grant Writer in the past, and would like an update on the status of those?
  - Huestis responded that the city received three proposals. One was looking for more of a full-time position. Stated that the proposals received were not exactly what Thorne Bay needed at that time.
  - Suggested that the city could publish a new RFP for grant writer, however, Alaska Municipal League is working on a proposal recognizing the opportunity for the members which are municipalities like Thorne Bay. They are working on a way to bring additional grant writing resources to the table to help communities like Thorne Bay.
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**Nyquest commented on the following:**

- Requested that the baseball field work be done no matter what. It was mentioned that it would happen if the Little League got a team together but would like to see no matter what for other residents to use.
- Suggested the city talk to OVK on how to repair the Kasaan Goose Creek Road area just past the dump, where the logs are sticking up out of the road
- Stated City of Sitka currently has a sliding scale sales tax rate and feels that would be an idea for generating more revenues. The city could consider lowering sales tax for residents to 5% for six-months of the year and then increase to 7% for the six months in the summer. That would generate more taxes from tourists and be a wash for the local residents who would pay a lesser rate for half the year.

**Hartwell commented on the following:**

- All of the communities on the island right now have a 6% sales tax, if the city increases the tax, it may defer other communities from coming here to shop when otherwise they would.
- Requested that the garbage cans that were once placed around town to discourage littering be replaced, specifically the ones at the Claw and by the Store

**9) CONSENT AGENDA:**

**a) MINUTES**

- i. Minutes of the January 4, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting, discussion and action item:
- ii. Minutes of the March 1, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the minutes for the March 1<sup>st</sup> and January 4, 2022, City Council Minutes. Hartwell seconded the motion. There was no further discussion.

MOTION: Move to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the minutes for the March 1<sup>st</sup> and January 4, 2022, City Council Minutes

F/S: Burger/Hartwell

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

NAYS: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

**10) NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) Resolution 22-03-15-01, authorizing the city to enter into an MOA with SISD for the transfer of improvements and personal property located along the waterfront of the Downtown Business District, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to approve Resolution 22-03-15-01, authorizing the city to enter into an MOA with SISD for the transfer of improvements and personal property located along the waterfront of the Downtown Business District. Nyquest seconded the motion.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 22-03-15-01, authorizing the city to enter into an MOA with SISD for the transfer of improvements and personal property located along the waterfront of the Downtown Business District  
F/S: Burger/Nyquest  
YEAS: Kerkof, Oatman, Nyquest, Burger, Stram & Hartwell  
NAYS: None  
STATUS: Motion Passed.

- b) **Resolution 22-03-15-02**, nominating Harvey McDonald to serve as Thorne Bay's Representative to the Inter-Island Ferry Authority Board of Directors, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to approve Resolution 22-03-15-02. Oatman seconded the motion. Hartwell inquired if Harvey McDonald wanted to renominate to the board. Harvey McDonald stated it was his desire to serve on the board again. There was no further discussion.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 22-03-15-02, nominating Harvey McDonald to serve as Thorne Bay's Representative to the Inter-Island Ferry Authority Board of Directors  
F/S: Burger/Oatman  
YEAS: Kerkof, Oatman, Nyquest, Burger, Stram & Hartwell  
NAYS: None  
STATUS: Motion Passed.

- c) **Resolution 22-03-15-03**, supporting the annual donation of funds to the Thorne Bay School Sports Teams, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to approve Resolution 22-03-15-03. Oatman seconded the motion. Hartwell commented it was his desire for each council to vote on a donation and not have it automatically each year. The City Clerk explained the way the resolution as written the City Council would approve an amount for donation to the school each year through the budgeting process.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 22-03-15-03, supporting the annual donation of funds to the Thorne Bay School Sports Team  
F/S: Burger/Oatman  
YEAS: Kerkof, Oatman, Nyquest, Burger, Stram & Hartwell  
NAYS: None  
STATUS: Motion Passed.

#### 11) CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

Harvey McDonald commented on the following:

- Thank you for nominating to IFA board. Have served since inception and it is near and dear to his heart. He hoped that the city felt he was doing a good enough job to continue serving.

Sherrri Becker commented on the following:


- Thank you for supporting School through passing of both resolutions on the agenda.
- Great choice for nominating Harvey McDonald to serve as Thorne Bay Representative on the IFA.

**12) CONTINUATION OF COUNCIL COMMENT:**

There were no council comments.

**13) ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Burger adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

  
*Charles Jennings*  
Charles Jennings, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Teri Feibel, CMC