

**MINUTES**  
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR  
THE CITY OF THORNE BAY, ALASKA  
TUESDAY, June 7, 2022  
TIME: 6:30 p.m.

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**THERE WAS WORKSHOP AT 6:00PM TO REVIEW AND DISCUSS THE OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE  
FISCAL YEAR 2023-JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2023**

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**LOCATION: TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO CONFERENCING LINE**

**1) CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor Burger called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**2) PLEDGE TO FLAG:**

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

**3) ROLL CALL:**

Those present were: Kerkof, Oatman, Burger, Jennings, Stram, Hartwell

Those absent were: Nyquest

**4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Burger moved to approve the agenda as written.

Seconded the motion.

There was no further discussion.

MOTION: Move to approve the agenda.

F/S: Burger/Hartwell

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

NAYS: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

**5) MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Burger reported on the following:

- Grounds outside of City Hall have improved over the past month and a half with a boat being removed and the library construction concluding
- COVID cases are still in Thorne Bay as well as a flu. Encouraged the public to practice proper hygiene.
- Thanked the public for their participation in the meeting.

**6) ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

a) **City Administrator:**

Administrator John Huestis provided the following Administrator Report:

- Administration has been busy with the annual budget cycle fine tuning to prepare for Council and the public. This will be on-going for the next couple of weeks.

- Laura Clark, Library Director, is here to provide an update on the library, I will yield part of my report time for her to catch us up on the happening over at the library.
- Alaska Community Foundation project for library deck is complete.
- Claw Trail conflict with Maple Trees - we will try to narrow path to widened shoulder (6 ft) if permissible under grant approval guidelines.
- DEC Compliance inspection for solid waste facility has been postponed from July to September.
- We will be organizing and cleaning up solid waste facility in the next couple of months in preparation for the inspection and also to sort and ship metals for recycling - aluminum - Planning to hire a project employee to operate City equipment to reorganize solid waste site ahead of inspection
- We have been offered an opportunity to have a piece of the old WSDOT I-90 floating bridge that needs to find a new home or be demolished as part of the Ketchikan Airport upgrade project - do we want to pursue this as a possibility?

Administrator Huestis introduced Laura Clark for a Library update.

- Laura Clark provided the following Library Report:
  - Library is officially open.
  - Even with the library being closed, it has been remarkably busy.
  - The new library and covered back deck are completed thanks to the Friends of the Library.
  - I had received an ARPA grant last year for improvements to our internet, and additional funding for new library books and videos.
  - The ECF Grant is being extended through FY23. This grant is providing internet for the public at Davidson Landing
  - The Digital Library is available again this year. It is like a free Kindle account; anyone can download books online at no cost to them. This program is paid for by the Friends of the Library and the Library 50/50.
  - Summer Reading Program will happen this year at the library.
  - Library has a new Facebook Page and it will be updated this week with new library hours and Summer Reading Schedule.
  - SISD has partnered with the library and is sharing their Tech Director, Matt Gore. Matt has volunteered his time and comes to the library to ensure that all of the internet stuff is up and running, which is pretty amazing.
  - The new library building has a new meeting room that is large enough to have a Zoom meeting with a doctor or a job interview or it could host a weekly game of cards. It is set up for technology as well if someone wanted to do a presentation.
  - The library needs support to offer everything that we would like to offer, but we need the volunteers in order to do that. These services include personal development programs and training that is available on different websites that would turn what they know into marketable skills. That is all free through the library computer system right now.
  - Library is now offering an opportunity for younger children to be junior volunteers at the library. They have to work with a volunteer, but they will be learning while doing that.
  - It has been a pleasure to widen the scope of the library. There are grants to be written and we are doing what we can to capture those for the community.

Oatman, does the library take book donations?

Laura Clark responded:

- Yes, we do, if they are ones we do not need, we hand to the Friends, and they will offer through book sale.

City Clerk commented on the following:

- City Council received a "Thank You" from the VOCTEC center for your annual donation of \$1,500.00.

## 7) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Thom Cunningham commented on the following:

- At last meeting brought up vice mayor issue and wanted to read something that the city council had passed while he was in office regarding ethics. Cited City Code 2.07.010 (c)(2) & 2.07.020 (b)
- The ethics code adopted by the council completely goes against what the city council had done by adopting an ordinance to require 1-year experience for office of mayor. Cunningham stated he was told by a councilmember that the ordinance was for the sole purpose to preclude one candidate from qualifying for Mayor.
- Encouraged the council to look into a prefabricated steel structure for the new fire hall building at Davidson Landing. Commented that he felt what was presented at the last meeting was not what the city needed. Cunningham stated he looked online and found prefabricated, pre-engineered steel buildings online 40' by 60' for \$30,000. The city doesn't need a fire hall that big. Cunningham continued that there was no location for a septic system in the current design and Thorne Bay is a small community with small needs.
- Stated that the library had spent thousands of dollars on engineered plans for a new library that were never used. They ended up having a prefabricated building shipped up.

Victoria Anderson, Emergency Services Coordinator

- Began as the EMS Coordinator one-month and four days ago. When I began there were only 5 ETT's on staff that had less than a year of experience. Since that time, we have had Matt McGinnis get his EMT I and the 2<sup>nd</sup> VPSO is currently working on his EMT I certification.
- 4-EMT's taking a bridge class to become EMT II.
- 10 residents are interested in signing up for EMS
- Ordered supplies that will bring us up to the Alaska minimum standards. There will be another order, but we are working on getting the ambulance to minimum standards. When I first ran a call with this ambulance it did not even have a blood pressure cuff.
- We have secured a medical director through the Island Wide EMS, which is a huge benefit.
- There is a healthcare provider CPR class scheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup> for the City Council and City Employees and some of the Community.
- Will be contacting the Ambulance Drivers to schedule an EVOC training which is Emergency Vehicle Operations Certification, healthcare provider CPR and hopefully ETT classes.
- Currently working on filling Dispatcher positions.
- Had requested money to be budgeted in the FY23 Budget that would be used to pay responders, however, the budget does not show anything budgeted for this at this time. Encourage the city pay responders because they are asking people to give up their time for free. It is my main goal is to compensate them as same as we do for dispatchers. If we want

them to show up when there is a call, we should pay them.

- We need some southside residents for responders. There is no need to have a building and equipment when there are no responders available. Requested that people spread the word and have those interested in signing up contact her.
- Hoping to have a set schedule July for who is on call.

**Harvey McDonald provided the following comment:**

- Appreciate the work that the city has done to get the brass plate on the bench in front of the city office. Jim Gould is a dear friend and happy to see we are doing something to recognize him.

**Thom Cunningham commented on the following:**

- Do we still have two VPSO's here? Have not seen one on Southside in some time. Is Matt Mendonsa still a VPSO here?

**Karen Petersen commented on the following:**

- Laura did an excellent job summarizing what has been going on at the library.
- Thank you to Laura for getting the grant that places the Wi-Fi at Davidson Landing for the public. Happy to hear this has been extending through 2023.
- Grand Opening for the Library on June 11<sup>th</sup> at 3pm after T-Ball.
- Had the pleasure last week to escort the Deputy Undersecretary for the USDA Rural Development and the Statewide Director around Prince of Wales Island. I used my position as an opportunity to show off our library and they were very impressed; it really shows what a little community can do when working together.
- Regarding Thom Cunningham's comments on the engineered plans on the library that were not used. We had to get an architectural stamped drawing that had to go to the State Fire Marshal's office. There are rules involved in public buildings that are different from private buildings. You can build your own garage, and it can look like whatever you want to but when you build any kind of public facility, there are hoops that have to be gone through and it took us almost a month and a half to get our fire marshal approval before we could begin construction on that. And they went through our engineered plans with a fine-tooth comb.

**Tim Lindseth commented on the following:**

- Expressed appreciation for the work done on the southside road. Whoever graded the road did an amazing job and deserves Kudos. Have not seen the road in such good shape in a very long time.

**Charlie Jennings commented on the following:**

- I wanted these comments as public comment as I did not feel they should be said as a councilmember.
- Apologize to the public for walking out of the last meeting the way I did, but I had to so I did not lose my temper.
- I want to clarify that I am not resigning my council seat, only the Vice Mayor seat, which still stands if the council so wishes for me to.
- I would never vote on something that would benefit me personally, and I take offense to Thom Cunningham's statements at the last meeting.

- I don't feel I broke any ordinance by putting my name in as vice mayor, I didn't feel I was qualified, I had spoken to Greg Kerkof and encouraged him to run but he did not have any interest. Since no one else wanted the position, I put my name in.
- To address comments from the public in the past regarding north and south side. The city had offered watering station at Davidson Landing when they were installing water in town. At that time, the residents of south side said they did not want it; they did not want to pay for it.
- The city offered garbage service to residents on southside for pickup in town on Tuesday's and southside on Wednesday, the residents of South Thorne Bay said they did not want to have a bill and that they would take their own garbage to the dump.
- Playground on Southside. The city was going to put in playground equipment at Davidson Landing that they got from the school for a dollar, but residents on southside said they didn't want it because it would interfere with berry patch.
- Cleanup of Town. All cleanup the city has done in town is on their own property, not private property. The school has a cleanup day they sponsor once a year. The city participates in Adopt-a-Highway program which for Thorne Bay was put in for by Amy "AJ" Jennings. At that time, the residents of southside said they wanted to have their roads cleaned as well. So, Amy had a signup sheet for residents to adopt miles on Southside, but only two people have signed up.
- If you want to complain about something, do your homework, know what you're talking about.

## 8) COUNCIL COMMENTS:

### Hartwell commented on the following:

- Commented on the cement float. The city needs more dock space to tie up boats, Davidson Landing Harbor is completely full right now. If it is a possibility to get this, then I say yes, we can put it between the ramp and where the cars park and people can tie up to it.

### Jennings commented on the following:

- How far does the concrete float up out of the water?
  - Administrator Huestis responded he did not know at this time, however, looking at the large vessel tied up to it in the photo, it wouldn't work for a small boat.
- The one in Craig is used as a breakwater and they have seigneurs tie up to it. The size of it does not look like it would work well for smaller boats.

### Oatman commented on the following:

- Agree that the city should pay responders.
- Inquired if the city still paid responders when they went on calls?
  - City Clerk responded that the city does pay responders \$25 for going out on a call.
  - What Victoria Anderson was wanting was that the volunteers that were on schedule be paid a stipend no matter if they have a call or not.
  - It is the city's goal to be able to pay EMT staff, but at this time there is no revenue coming in to do that. The FY23 proposed budget shows over a \$90 thousand dollar deficit as presented. It is the city's hope that the Emergency Service Coordinator will be able to apply for grant funding that would help pay responders, and eventually be able to bill insurance companies for responding to calls also.

**Kerkof commented on the following:**

- Believe that Charles Jennings is very qualified to be Vice Mayor. I did not put my name in as Vice Mayor because I do not know the history of the community like Councilman Jennings does.

**Burger commented on the following:**

- Vice Mayor duties are very different than that of the mayor. They sign checks, run meetings, but does not have the same responsibilities as the mayor.
- Jennings did a great job chairing the meeting when the mayor was out.

**Stram commented on the following:**

- Charles does a great job as Vice Mayor and confident in him serving as such.
- Did a wonderful job running meeting.
- In my time as Vice Mayor, I never had to run a meeting.

**Oatman commented on the following:**

- Feel that Charles does a great job as Vice Mayor. He has shown that he does his research before voting on anything and he knows what he is talking about.

**9) CONSENT AGENDA:**

**a) MINUTES**

**i. Minutes of the May 17, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting, discussion and action item:**

Burger moved to approve the consent agenda. Hartwell seconded the motion.

City Clerk explained there are two amendments to the minutes of May 17<sup>th</sup> which include:

- Public Comments section under Thom Cunningham’s comments, adding that “he felt and had been told by a councilmember, that the city rushed the ordinance to require a one-year experience in order to be mayor in attempt to exclude newly elected councilmembers from qualifying.
- There is a loophole in the Mayor and Vice Mayor position. There was an amendment to the Election Ordinance requiring that a councilmember be on the council for one year before being eligible for office of Mayor. Cunningham commented that he felt, and was told by a councilmember, that the City Council rushed the ordinance to provide that a councilmember must have one-year experience on the City Council in order to qualify for the office of Mayor, as a measure to keep newly elected councilmembers from becoming Mayor.
- Councilmember Jennings commented during those meetings that he was no qualified to be mayor, then put in for the office of vice-mayor.
- Amendment to page 6, the last sentence to read: “the damages to the excavator well exceed the City’s five-thousand-dollar deductible” striking “are necessary to use the equipment again”.

**MOTION:** Move to approve the consent agenda, Minutes of May 17, 2022, Council Meeting

**F/S:** Burger/Hartwell

**YEAS:** Oatman, Stram, Jennings, Burger, Kerkof & Hartwell

**NAYS:** None

**STATUS:** Motion Passed.

10) NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Resolution 22-06-07-01, establishing a policy for billing the Services Availability Fee for all unimproved or discontinued lots on the City's water line, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to approve Resolution 22-06-07-01. Oatman seconded the motion.

City Clerk explained that the administrative staff needed direction on how to determine lot owners for properties who are not receiving services but are on the City's waterline.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 22-06-07-01

F/S: Burger/Oatman

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

NAYS: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

11) ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION:

- a) Ordinance 22-06-21-01, adopting the Budget of Operating Income and Expenses for the Fiscal Year 2023 beginning July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to approve Ordinance 22-06-21-01. Hartwell seconded the motion. Kerkof inquired if the city had to go with AML. Clerk explained the deficit shows \$94,000.00, but 98

City Water Supervisor, Sam Sawyer, stated that the sewer would not need to order chemicals this year.

Next year we will have to order them and they will be much more than usual \$240 to \$600. This year we are ok, but next year we will have an exceptionally large expense.

MOTION: Move to approve Ordinance 22-06-21-01

F/S: Burger/Hartwell

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

NAYS: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

- b) Ordinance 22-06-21-02, amending Title 10-Vehicles and Traffic, Chapter 10.20 – Parking, Standing & Stopping, Section 10.20.030 – Harbor Parking, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to approve Ordinance 22-06-21-02. Hartwell seconded the motion. Oatman requested clarification on the change being only to the hours available to park at the harbor? Huestis commented that it clarified that permit parking does not apply to the harbor parking areas, only to where it is posted. Burger explained that summer months have a higher traffic at the harbor and this amendment will clear up that parking at the harbor is only for time posted and having a parking permit does not allow someone to park in excess of the posted time limit. Oatman inquired who was responsible for fining vehicles that are in violation of the posted limit. Huestis explained it was the Harbormaster or VPSO's who have that authority. The harbormaster is right now talking with those who will be affected by this change so they are aware. There was further discussion.

MOTION: Move to approve Ordinance 22-06-21-02

F/S: Burger/Hartwell

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

NAYS: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

12) CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

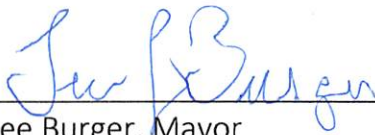
No further public comments.

13) CONTINUATION OF COUNCIL COMMENT:

Kerkof commented that the parking spaces at the marina needed to be restriped, they are well faded.

14) ADJOURNMENT:

Burger adjourned the meeting at 7:45p.m.

  
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Lee Burger, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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Teri Feibel, CMC