

## AGENDA

FOR THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE  
CITY OF THORNE BAY, ALASKA  
TUESDAY, December 20, 2022

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

---

THERE WILL BE A WORKSHOP BEGINNING AT 6:00PM

LOCATION: IN PERSON AT CITY HALL or TELECONFERENCE/VIDEO CONFERENCING LINE

Phone Number: 1-408-418-9388

Meeting Link: <https://cityofthornebay.my.webex.com/cityofthornebay.my/j.php?>

[MTID=mbc8920b66dc6b262b557723d050a5ae6](https://cityofthornebay.my.webex.com/cityofthornebay.my/j.php?MTID=mbc8920b66dc6b262b557723d050a5ae6)

Meeting number: 182 229 9375

Meeting password: D4gxVSXpz84 (34498797 from phones and video systems)

---

- 1) CALL TO ORDER:
- 2) PLEDGE TO FLAG:
- 3) ROLL CALL:
- 4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
- 5) MAYOR'S REPORT:
- 6) ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:
  - a) City Administrator:
- 7) PUBLIC COMMENTS:
- 8) COUNCIL COMMENTS:
- 9) CONSENT AGENDA:
  - a) **MINUTES**
    - i. **Minutes of the December 6, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting, discussion and action item:**
- 10) NEW BUSINESS:
  - a) **Resolution 22-12-20-01**, supporting the letter initiated by the East Prince of Wales Island Advisory Committee requesting that the Wolves of Southeast Alaska should not be listed under the endangered species act.
- 11) CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT:
- 12) CONTINUATION OF COUNCIL COMMENT:
- 13) ADJOURNMENT:

POSTED: December 16, 2022



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

---

**THERE WAS A WORKSHOP BEGINNING AT 6:00PM**

**1) CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**2) PLEDGE TO FLAG:**

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

**3) ROLL CALL:**

Burger, Oatman, Stram, Jennings, LaVoie and Hartwell were present.  
Nyquest and was excused.

**4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Mayor Burger moved to approve the agenda. Jennings seconded the motion. There was no further discussion.

MOTION: Move to approve the agenda

F/S: Burger/Hartwell

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

NAYS: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

**5) MAYOR'S REPORT:**

**Mayor Burger provided the following report:**

- Thorne Bay lost a longtime community member and previous councilmember, Greg Kerkof on December 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Saturday at 4pm there will be a Christmas Tree Lighting event at Davidson Landing
- December 15<sup>th</sup> is the Community Christmas Dinner. There is a flyer out that provides the list of what people should bring as a dish, and a signup sheet at City Hall for those willing to cook turkey's and/or hams

## 6) ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

a) City Administrator:

**John Huestis provided the following administrator report:**

- I am very pleased to report that we have been able to continue Teri Feibel's employment with the City in a temporary contract position for Administrative Support until we can get back to full staff. She has agreed to a 6-month term. She is not the City Clerk anymore though and will be working on assigned tasks as needed and mostly remotely, except Fridays and Council Meetings.
  
- I continue putting much effort into working on several funding opportunities for the Kasaan Access Road and will for the foreseeable future. Some of the most promising opportunities are through the Tribal Transportation Program administered by OVK. We are working on the first 5.3 miles and all the bridges currently.
- I have accepted a permanent position as OVK's Transportation Director. I was the only applicant, and they liked my skill set and what I can bring to the table to help get the Kasaan Road reconstructed. They saw my City Admin position as beneficial and liked the way we have been working together since I took over. I still have 1-3/4 years left on my City Contract and I intend to do both as long as I can.
- Tideline Construction has finished crushing 3,500 CY of D-1 and 1000 CY of 3" - at the city pit on Sandy Beach Road. We spent just under the \$60,000 approved.
- I have been negotiating the lease agreement for lot 4 of the Business District Sub
- and in the process the prospective lessee wants lot 5 as well but is requesting a re
- -subdividing of the property to remove the road right of way from the waterfront.
- I am recommending to City Council to re-subdivide the Business District Subdivision to better suit the potential waterfront uses of the property. The cost would be \$6-8K.
- Contractor for the demolition of the old fire haul will have a representative on-site in the next week to take a look at things and start working on logistics.
- We finally got our EMS boat back from Chet with the motors installed. We are planning to send it to Superior Marine in Wrangell to have it evaluated and repaired.
- We are replacing the canopy lights around the exterior of city hall with new LED fixtures that will light up the hall much better and cost significantly less than the old fixtures which also have wiring issues. These are only a 40w LED fixture. The bank was completely dark as only one of the old fixtures was working properly, none on that side.
- We finally received our new Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge Permit and we have started working with ADEC again on finalizing our Preliminary Engineering Report for the needed upgrades to the collection system to reduce the I&I issues.
- We received our copy of the recent ADEC Inspection Report for the Solid Waste Facility. We scored an 80 out of 100. We got marked down the most for surface water management issues on the active cell. Other issues were pretty minor.

**7) PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Tim Lindseth commented on the following**

- Thank City & Kasaan for the road improvements on the Southside. Amazing how Tony and his crew tore the road up and put it back together so quickly. Kudos to Tony with his crew and equipment he had to work with.
- Hate to see Teri leaving the City
- Sorry to lose Greg Kerkof, he was a valued Councilmember with a lot of good ideas.

**8) COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Hartwell commented on the following:**

- Last week there was only one person in the office two days which was Lisa. Worried if it happens much more, we will lose Lisa.

**9) CONSENT AGENDA:**

a) **MINUTES**

- i. Minutes of the November 1, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting. Hartwell seconded the motion.

MOTION: Move to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting  
F/S: Burger/Hartwell  
YEAS: Burger, Stram, LaVoie, Jennings, Hartwell & Oatman  
NAYS: None  
STATUS: Motion Passed.

**10) NEW BUSINESS:**

There was no new business.

**11) CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were no further public comments.

**12) CONTINUATION OF COUNCIL COMMENT:**

Oatman thanked Teri for continuing to assist with the meetings. Burger concurred with Oatman.

**13) ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Burger adjourned the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lee Burger, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Teri Feibel



Sponsor: Mayor Lee Burger  
Adoption: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vote: \_\_\_ Yeas, \_\_\_ Nays, \_\_\_ Absent

CITY OF THORNE BAY  
RESOLUTION 22-12-20-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL, FOR THE CITY OF THORNE BAY, SUPPORTING THE  
*LETTER INITIATED BY THE EAST PRINCE OF WALES ISLAND ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
REQUESTING THAT THE WOLVES OF SOUTHEAST ALASKA SHOULD NOT BE LISTED UNDER  
THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT.*

WHEREAS, the City Council is the governing body of Thorne Bay, Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the City of Thorne Bay supports its residents and agree that hunting, fishing and gathering are a very important way of lifestyle.

WHEREAS, Alaska Department of Fish and Game has been very cautious and conservative in management of wolves and the Wolf population has increased in the past ten years.

WHEREAS, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game continues to refine the methodologies used to estimate populations and balance the populations with carrying capacity, the Wolf population will continue to remain viable and healthy.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Thorne Bay, Alaska, supports the attached letter initiated by the East Prince of Wales Island Advisory Committee requesting that the Wolves of Southeast Alaska should not be listed under the endangered species act.

PASSED AND APPROVED by a duly constituted quorum of the City Council on this 20<sup>th</sup>, day of December, 2022

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lee Burger, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lisa Roseland, Acting City Clerk

## The Wolves of Southeast Alaska should NOT be listed under the Endangered Species Act

On July 15, 2020, the Center for Biological Diversity, Alaska Rainforest Defenders and Defenders of Wildlife petitioned the Secretary of Interior/US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) to list the Alexander Archipelago Wolf in Southeast Alaska as Threatened or Endangered Under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. Petitioners also requested that critical habitat be designated for the wolves in SE Alaska concurrently with the species being listed. The USFW has jurisdiction over this petition. The 111 page document can be found at [www.biologicaldiversity.org](http://www.biologicaldiversity.org) and [www.doi.gov](http://www.doi.gov). The thorough response from the State of Alaska/Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) has been filed but is not public info yet. USFW will make their decision between July and September of 2023.

If the wolf is listed under the Endangered Species Act, the federal government will take over management from the state. This will end the legal taking of wolves and will severely curtail the hunting of deer, the preferred food for the wolves. There will be far reaching negative impacts on the residents of Prince of Wales Island (POW). This petition threatens our way of life, our ability to secure food, our hunting activities and lifestyle, the economic development on the island and negatively affects the shared culture of our people.

The wolf population on POW dramatically increased after 2012 due to the change in wolf management by ADFG which was driven by the first petition to list the wolves filed in 2012. The second petition to list the wolves was filed in 2016 and now the third petition was filed in 2020, which is the current petition. This continual black cloud petitioning process hanging over our island has negatively affected every resident of POW.

POW is home to approximately 3500 residents that reside in 12 communities ranging in size from 35 in Point Baker to over 1000 in Craig and it is the third largest island in the United States. The residents rely largely on a subsistence way of life.

Nearly half of the residents on POW are Alaska Natives, generally of Haida, Tlingit or Tsimshian heritage. Subsistence hunting, fishing and gathering are a very important part of their indigenous identity. Beyond the Native population, most of the other residents on the island practice subsistence activities as well, in order to feed themselves and their families. Without being able to obtain food that nature gives us; many could not afford to live here.

Deer hunting is vitally important to all Southeast Alaska residents and our subsistence lifestyle. We have relied on Sitka blacktail deer for sustenance for thousands of years. The deer, salmon, crabs, shrimp and clams are basic elements of life on this remote island. Our family and friend relationships, mental and physical health and economic well-being all benefit from deer hunting. Our freezers are fuller and our lives are enriched when we can harvest deer. It does not matter one's heritage on the island, deer are a very important protein.

Groceries are expensive on the island. They are shipped up on a barge from Seattle to Ketchikan, then put on another barge to Thorne Bay where they are distributed by truck to the various stores. The cost to move the food to the island is currently \$0.43/lb. and

\$0.82/lb. if chilled/frozen. As a result, in Klawock this week, a gallon of milk is \$6.49, a dozen eggs are \$5.19. Ground beef at local grocery stores costs \$5.99 per pound. Lean deer venison is much healthier. An average deer yields about fifty-five pounds of meat. That saves about \$330 at a grocery store. On top of the high cost of food, gas is very expensive, currently \$5.87/gallon and \$6.23/gallon of diesel. The bottom line is that food and fuel costs are a larger percentage of the family budget than in most places around the country.

POW has four grocery stores, one in Klawock, one in Craig, one in Thorne Bay and a small one in Hydaburg. Residents on the northern end of the island have to travel long distances over difficult roads to reach the grocery stores or fuel. Those in Coffman Cove drive over 50 miles to the store. Those in Whale Pass drive over 60 miles and it takes over two hours on dry roads. Those in Port Protection or Point Baker are on the road over four hours one way. In the winter, some of the communities are cut off from the road system.

Other Southeast Alaska communities of Ketchikan, Wrangell and Petersburg travel to POW to deer hunt but since 2017, fewer and fewer off island hunters are coming to POW because the deer population has very obviously declined in the past ten years. Hunters have had to spend much more time trying to harvest a deer. Studies by ADFG have shown that the wolves have had to resort to other prey species, primarily black bear and beaver in greater percentage as the deer population decreases.

At the same time, some of the subsistence foods that come from the sea are no longer available to users because of uncontrolled sea otters. Users without larger boats are generally unable to safely get to deeper waters to harvest Dungeness crabs because of depredation by sea otters in shallower waters. Sea urchins are almost gone in the shallower water and clams are also heavily impacted.

POW has three big game animals: black bear, Sitka blacktail deer and wolf and is the only area in the state with just one good eating big game animal. POW does not have caribou, moose, elk, sheep, bison, mountain goat or muskox.

Everyone agrees that wolves are an important part of POW and we enjoy seeing them, hearing them or just knowing that they exist here. Locals have documented wolves swimming between POW and Zarembo Is. and almost every other island in and around POW. Wolves are very resilient and like any other population of animals, reasonable population management is important so that they may still be taken for their traditional uses, but also maintain their place in the food chain. ADFG has been very cautious and conservative in management of the wolves and the population has responded by growing to levels many see as too high. Certainly, they are not in need of further protection.

Trying to accurately assess the population of wolves in a temperate rainforest has always been difficult. Recent harvests of wolves have shown that the past estimates were much lower than the numbers actually present. As ADFG continues to refine the methodologies used to estimate populations and balance the populations with carrying capacity, the wolf population will continue to remain viable and healthy.



ADFG has also provided thorough and exhaustive data and science proving the Alexander Archipelago Wolf should NOT be listed under the Endangered Species Act.

The following tribes, organizations, businesses and people agree that the Alexander Archipelago Wolf should NOT be listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Kurt Whitehead & Trina Nation Treasure Hunter Lodge Klawock, AK	David & Cynthia Egelston Alaska Rainforest Adventures Thorne Bay, AK	Clinton Cook Sr. Tribal President Craig Tribal Association Craig.AK	Scott Van Valin Heidi Van Valin Island Air Express El Capitan Lodge
Josh & Chace Anderson Fireweed Lodge  Klawock, AK	Don & Teresa Busse Trophy Inn  Klawock.AK	Rob & Val Steward Changing Tides Inn  Klawock.AK	Chuck & Jeanette Haydu Kingfisher Lodge & Charters Craig,AK
DJ & Anne Hansen DJ's Alaska Adventure Rentals Klawock, AK	Jason Clowar/Luther Jenson Adventure Alaska Southeast Thorne Bay, AK	Sean Tomkinson Passages Alaska Adventure Therapy, Klawock, AK	Mike & Jan Bush B-3 Contractors Inc. Klawock, AK
Mark & Beth Farrar Eagles Wings Wilderness Lodge Klawock, AK	James Heppe Jr. Heppe & Sons Construction Klawock.AK	Grace Heppe Heppe's Indoor Edition Klawock.AK	Rosey & Lisa Roseland The Salt Shack Thorne Bay, Alaska
Ann Williams Klawock, AK	Jon & Debbie Winrod Webster Point, AK	Sam Sawyer Thorne Bay, AK	Matt & Pam Beck Whale Pass, AK
Spencer & Hannah Richter FN Resolution Craig. AK	Phillip & Danel Winrod FN Aurie G Thorne Bay, AK	Shawn & Jill Kato-Yates FN Nauli Lady Klawock,AK	
Chris Guggenbickler Wrangell, AK	Brian Ringeisen Ketchikan, AK	John & Sheri Wylie Klawock.AK	