

MINUTES
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE
CITY OF THORNE BAY, ALASKA
TUESDAY, February 21, 2023

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

THERE WAS A WORKSHOP THAT BEGAN AT 6:00PM

1) **CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor 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) **ROLL CALL:**

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

4) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

MOTION: Move to approve the agenda.

F/S: Burger/Hartwell

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

NAYS: None

EXCUSED: Stram

STATUS: Motion Passed.

5) **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

There was no Mayor report given.

6) **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

i. **City Administrator:**

John Huestis provided the following Administrator Report.

- Working on typical winter maintenance issues and special projects as required.
- The Assistant Solid Waste Operator position was posted and so far, we have received several applications. We will be holding interviews for the position soon.
- Currently working on a one-time Asbestos Disposal Permit for the hazardous materials clean-up and demolition of the old fire hall.
- Working on grant application with OVK and their consultant for the Kasaan Road and we have a Resolution of support for your consideration later in the meeting.
- Working on a reimbursement request for the Kasaan Road intersection project to the Forest Service for payment of the work done to date.
- We got an estimate for the Solid Waste Baler Building repairs, and it is included later in the meeting for your consideration for a repair contract.
- I wrote a TTP Safety grant application to repair that section of the Kasaan Road known as Killer

Hill and OVKDOT was just awarded \$1.25 Million for the project.

- There are other Department reports in your packet for your review.

7) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Korissa Oatman commented on the following:

- Support for the new Playground equipment for Pearl Nelson Park. There is huge support from the community, but it has taken some time to get the word out. This is something that needs to be done, way past due. I came in last year asking for new equipment and the current equipment has rotten beams.
- Comments that have been heard is “there is a playground up the hill”, but that is not a public playground, there is no public parking, kids that are in homeschool cannot access during school hours.
- This committee has been formed so we can begin to get a new playground here, but we need the city support.
- We do need a community center, but we also need a park, and that is something that needs to be focused on.
- Fear to let her children play at the park while standing under the pavilion because of the condition of the equipment.
- There are people that don’t even have small children here that have donated for the new equipment.
- Important that the council move forward with the purchase of the equipment and not push out.

Tara Blair commented on the following:

- Support new playground equipment. This same equipment has been at the park since I moved here when my daughter was 2 years old. She is now 28, and it is the same equipment.
- Agree that Thorne Bay needs a new community center, but park equipment need is greater for the near future.
- Suggest that since it is harder to get grant funding for park, then maybe easier to get grant funds for a community center and that is the route to take.

Amy Jennings commented on the following:

- Agree with previous comments provided. Support for the new playground equipment.
- Submitted a grant application for \$20,000.00, but not sure how that will work out.
- Would like to have new playground equipment in the Community before summer.
- New playground equipment will also help with the aesthetics of the community.
- The funding being requested would also be used to repair the retaining wall at the park.
- Could wait for grant funding, but that could be years down the road.

Tim Lindseth commented on the following:

- Requested the next time able to grade the roads, that the City grade between Davidson Landing and 4-Corners
- Support new playground equipment purchase, it is much needed and has been a need for many years.

8) **COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Oatman commented on the following:

- Support new playground and does not want to have it postponed.

Burger commented on the following:

- Support the playground improvement and equipment purchase.
- Part of the improvements would include filling in the area of the park that has a large slope which rolls into the retaining wall that is also falling down and replacing the retaining wall with a rock wall.

Hartwell commented on the following:

- Want to see the playground equipment purchase resolution postponed until the playground committee has a chance to meet.

Jennings commented on the following:

- Want to see the city invest in the community and playground improvements. People have donated to this improvement and whatever the public donates is less that the city would not need to spend.

9) **CONSENT AGENDA:**

a) **MINUTES**

i. **Minutes of the February 7, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting, discussion and action item:**

Burger moved to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the February 7, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting. Hartwell seconded the motion. There was no further discussion.

MOTION: Move to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Minutes for the February 7, 2023, City Council Meeting

F/S: Burger/Hartwell

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

NAYS: None

EXCUSED: Stram

STATUS: Motion Passed.

10) **NEW BUSINESS:**

a) **Resolution 23-02-21-01**, A Resolution of the City Council Supporting the OVK Raise Grant application, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to approve Resolution 23-02-21-01, supporting the OVK Raise Grant application. Hartwell seconded the motion.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 23-02-21-01, supporting the OVK Raise Grant application

F/S: Burger/Hartwell

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

NAYS: None

EXCUSED: Stram

STATUS: Motion Passed.

- b) **Resolution 23-02-21-02**, A Resolution of the City Council approving the updated Memorandum of Agreement for Road Maintenance with the Organized Village of Kasaan, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to approve Resolution 23-02-21-02, approving the updated Memorandum of Agreement for Road Maintenance with the Organized Village of Kasaan. Nyquest seconded the motion. There was no further discussion.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 23-02-21-02, approving the updated Memorandum of Agreement for Road Maintenance with the Organized Village of Kasaan
F/S: Burger/Nyquest
YEAS: Hartwell, Jennings, Burger, Nyquest, LaVoie & Oatman
NAYS: None
EXCUSED: Stram
STATUS: Motion Passed.

- c) **Resolution 23-02-21-03**, supporting the POWCAC Resolution supporting the Prince of Wales Advisory Resolution No 23-01, a joint resolution by and between the communities of the prince of Wales community advisory council (POWCAC) setting transportation priorities for Prince of Wales Island for 2023, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to approve Resolution 23-02-21-03, supporting the POWCAC Resolution supporting the Prince of Wales Advisory Resolution No 23-01, a joint resolution by and between the communities of the prince of Wales community advisory council (POWCAC) setting transportation priorities for Prince of Wales Island for 2023. Hartwell seconded the motion.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 23-02-21-03, supporting the POWCAC Resolution supporting the Prince of Wales Advisory Resolution No 23-01, a joint resolution by and between the communities of the prince of Wales community advisory council (POWCAC) setting transportation priorities for Prince of Wales Island for 2023
F/S: Burger/Hartwell
YEAS: Burger, Nyquest, LaVoie, Oatman, Hartwell & Jennings
NAYS: None
EXCUSED: Stram
STATUS: Motion Passed.

- d) **Resolution 23-02-21-04**, a resolution of the City Council for the City of Thorne Bay, Alaska, approving a budget for the improvement of Pearl Nelson & Playground Equipment of \$60,000.00, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to approve Resolution 23-02-21-04, approving a budget for the improvement of Pearl Nelson & Playground Equipment of \$60,000.00. Hartwell seconded the motion. \ Burger amended his motion to postpone Resolution 23-02-21-04, to the March 7th regular meeting. Hartwell amended his second.

Huestis commented that the resolution would establish a budget for purchasing new playground equipment and park improvements. Amy Jennings, Parks & Events Coordinator has

been researching new park equipment, and we are here now to gauge the support we have from the council. The bid for the playground equipment is around \$21,000.00, and then there are shipping costs that we may be able to have Alaska Marine Lines waive for us in support of the project. Other costs in the budget include the improvements to the land and replacing the retaining wall with a rock wall. The \$60,000.00 is not all for a playset. Huestis commented that the Resolution identifies the funding from the Community Development Sales Tax Fund, however, there are other funding sources that are listed in the project budget such as the Occupancy General Account, Occupancy Parks Account and Playground fund that was created from donations from the community. The Council could choose to expend the Occupancy accounts and Playground fund account first and then remaining funds be taken from the Community Development Tax fund.

Nyquest commented that his concerns were that this was the first time he had heard about this need, and to see the request on a Friday and need to vote on a Tuesday to spend the funds. He felt that the council needed to be fiscally responsible and not spend the money just because we have it.

Nyquest commented that the sewer department may need the community tax funds if their lift station broke down.

Nyquest suggested the council approve a small budget to improve the land and rock wall but not purchase the playground equipment.

Amy Jennings apologized for not keeping the council informed that she had been working on getting new playground equipment, but this was something that was brought to her by the public when she was first hired. Jennings commented that the land fill & retaining wall were not a requirement in order to purchase at the park was not required i

MOTION: Move to postpone Resolution 23-02-21-04, to the March 7, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting
F/S: Burger/Hartwell
YEAS: Burger, Nyquest, LaVoie & Hartwell
NAYS: Oatman, Jennings
EXCUSED: Stram
STATUS: Motion Passed.

11) **ORDINANCES FOR PUBLIC HEARING: NONE**

12) **ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION: NONE**

13) **CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Deidre Jenson commented on the following:

- Last ASC meeting there were comments about wanting to see the community and school working together more. The school would be willing to participate in assisting with the park improvements.

Hartwell inquired when the next school meeting was to be held?

- Every third Thursday of the month and the next one is scheduled for March 16th. They are trying to have dinners and desert auctions to raise money for the kids.

14) CONTINUATION OF COUNCIL COMMENT:

Nyquest commented on the following:

- Thanked Amy Jennings for bringing the park equipment to the council, but want to see more options.

15) ADJOURNMENT:

Burger adjourned the meeting at 7:54 pm

ATTEST:



Caitlyn Sawyer, City Clerk/Treasurer



Lee Burger, Mayor