

## MINUTES

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

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

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THERE WAS A WORKSHOP PRECEDING THE MEETING 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, Nyquest, Oatman, Jennings, LaVoie and Hartwell, Stram were present.

4) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Mayor 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: Burger, LaVoie, Nyquest, Hartwell, Jennings, Oatman & Stram

NAYS: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

5) **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Burger reported the following:

- One day away from the shortest day of the year. Winter is to start tomorrow, December 21<sup>st</sup>, many will be happy to see the days getting longer.

6) **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

a) **City Administrator:**

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

- Working on typical winter maintenance issues and special projects as required.
- We have received 4 applications so far for the position of City Clerk. We will be looking to do a first round of interviews in the next week or two with applicants determined to be well qualified. Excited about one of the applicants, should it work out, would be great for Thorne Bay.
- I will bring a Resolution to City Council to approve a re-subdivision of the Business District Subdivision to better suit the potential waterfront uses of the property. Along with this Resolution request I will provide an explanation of the concept and vision for the future use of the property by the prospective lessee.

- We met with the Contractor for the demolition of the old fire hall last week to take a look at things and start working on logistics. The city will be applying for a one-time asbestos abatement permit to bury it in the City's Landfill and we are looking at a March timeline.
- Our EMS boat should have arrived at Superior Marine in Wrangell today for an evaluation and repair. They expect to have the repairs completed in January.
- The canopy light project for the exterior of city hall with the new LED fixtures has been delayed a bit since our electrician is out sick at the moment. Also received note from VPSO office that they were having lighting issues, so I will have the electrician take a look at that as well.
- We had a surprise inspection of our compliance involving our Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge Permit from ADEC a couple weeks ago and they seem to be trying to find issues with our operations. In my opinion it is because we are dragging our feet on their Compliance Order by Consent process because it is not in our favor to accept this the way it is written. They keep looking for issues.
- We are very close to completion of a new operations and management plan with ADEC approval for the Solid Waste Facility. The new plan includes plans to close the current cell and open a new cell and expand the operational area of the facility and includes the removal of the rock and timber from the future operational areas. We should be ready to get started on this next spring.
- I am getting estimates for the replacement of the garage doors on the Solid Waste bailer building since they are all in a bad state of repair and are at the end of their useful life. One of them was accidentally damaged recently and has an insurance claim pending for its repair. The others have been damaged over the years but were not reported timely or no insurance or repairs were apparently sought at the time so those will be on us.
- Our Ford F550 we bought for the Solid Waste Facility that has a new plow and sander, is currently broken down again. This is the third time in a year, and it appears to be a similar issue. We will be taking it into Island Repair again tomorrow to get it fixed again. I have learned the motor in this Ford truck is problematic and has issues.
- OVK has been stepping up and helping us keep up with the Southside Subdivision and the Kasaan Road for snow and ice removal. I want to acknowledge both Tony and Sean for their efforts which will continue throughout the winter. It's a big plus to the City to have OVK Transportation Department partnering so closely with the City on common transportation issues and challenges.
- The Water Department requested that we allow people to run their water continuously to prevent frozen and broken pipes and that we do not hold account overages against them during this cold spell. I approved and it was posted on City website.
- We had a citizen talk to the VPSO about safety concerns with the sledding hill on Freeman Drive. I am seeking Council feedback during Council comments if anyone feels we should discontinue this practice due to liability issues or safety concerns.

**Nyquest commented on the following:**



**Oatman commented on the following:**



**7) PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Laura Jennings commented on the following:**

- Inquired if John Huestis took a full-time job at OVK, and if so, how did the city allow it?

**8) COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

**Nyquest commented on the following:**

- John had notified the council by email, and they had approved it. John is doing a good job on the roads and is beneficial to the city with the work that is being done on the roads and seems to be a good fit.
- Regarding the sledding hill.... There was a spot behind the school that was okayed by the school in the past for sledding, but when it came time to build it, no one was around. Nyquest stated it would be nice if there could be an alternative for the kids sledding rather than the current hill.

**Jennings commented on the following:**

- Agreed with Laura Jennings comment with concerns of the administrator working two jobs and fears he will get burnt out.

**Burger commented on the following:**

- Agreed with John, where the jobs are more overlapping and not so much two separate jobs.
- Having the City and Tribal government working together provides more funding opportunities

**Hartwell commented on the following:**

- John is working on a 9 million dollar grant right now that will get that road paved.

**Nyquest commented**

- He agreed with John taking both jobs because he trusts him and believes that he would notify the city if it got to be too much

**Jennings commented**

- That his concerns regarding the Administrator having two jobs was his own opinion and he was not trying to force it upon others.

**Oatman commented**

- Understood how people have concerns with him being burnt out, but also see that a lot of work is getting done and hopes that he does not get burnt out or decide to leave Thorne Bay and work solely for OVK.

9) **CONSENT AGENDA:**

a) **MINUTES**

i. **Minutes of the December 6, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting, discussion and action item:**

Burger moved to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the December 6, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting. Hartwell seconded the motion. There was no further discussion.

MOTION: Move to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the December 6, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting

F/S: Burger/Hartwell

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

NAYS: Jennings

STATUS: Motion Passed.

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, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to approve 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. Nyquest seconded the motion. Jennings commented that he was against the wolves being on the endangered species list. Hartwell commented he wanted to see language of “threatened or endangered” to be added to the resolution.

Oatman inquired who the letters would be sent to. Burger commented that it would go to Murkowski and Senator.

Nyquest encouraged the council amend the resolution to include “threaten or endangered”.

Hartwell moved to amend the motion to include the language of “threatened or endangered” to the resolution. Burger seconded the amendment. There was no further discussion.

**AMENDED MOTION:**

MOTION: Move to amend Resolution 22-12-20-01, to include “threatened or endangered” to the resolution

F/S: Hartwell/Burger

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

NAYS: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

**MAIN MOTION:**

MOTION: Move to approve the 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

F/S: Burger/Nyquest

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

NAYS: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

11) **CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were no further public comments.

12) **CONTINUATION OF COUNCIL COMMENT:**

Nyquest wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Hartwell wished everyone a happy New Year.

13) **ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Burger adjourned the meeting at 7:23 pm

ATTEST:

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Lee Burger, Mayor

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Teri Feibel