**MINUTES**

FOR THE REGULAR MEETING

OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE

CITY OF THORNE BAY, ALASKA

TUESDAY, January 3, 2023

TIME: 6: 30 p.m.

**THERE WAS A WORKSHOP THAT BEGAN AT 6:00PM**

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

# CALL TO ORDER:

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

# PLEDGE TO FLAG:

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

# ROLL CALL:

Burger, Oatman, Jennings, Stram, LaVoie and Hartwell were present.

Nyquest was absent.

# 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, Hartwell, Jennings, Oatman & Stram

NAYS: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

# MAYOR’S REPORT:

# Mayor Burger reported the following:

# We lost Councilmember Greg Kerkof about a month ago, and I had been looking for a name to put on the new Recreation Hall. I have prepared a rough draft of a recreation hall that would be named the Greg Kerkof Memorial Hall.

# ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

* 1. **City Administrator:**

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

Working on typical winter maintenance issues and special projects as required.

* Through interim time with Kasaan Tribe and some permanent time, had been working diligently in getting funding for the Kasaan Road. Recently received notice from Federal Highways that three of the bridges on the Kasaan Road were eligible for funding. Those three bridges will be worth 15 million dollars of work going into those bridges. Those funds will boost the local economy by hiring local. The fourth bridge was funded through the Local Access Road with $250,000.00 for realignment and design of that bridge. The funding for construction of the Tolstoi access bridge will be about 4 or 5 million dollars.
* The entire 17.4 mile of the Kasaan/Goose Creek Road is about seventy-two million dollars.
* This roadwork will save the city and the tribe money. Right now, the City pays the tribe to
* We have made a recommendation for a new City Clerk. We will be discussing this later in the meeting and have an appointing Resolution for your consideration.
* You have a Resolution in tonight’s packet to approve the cost of re-subdivision of the Business District Subdivision to better suit the potential waterfront uses of the property. Along with this Resolution request I have provided an explanation of the concept and vision for the future use of the property by the prospective lessee.
  + A short list of achievements in 2022 to acknowledge our progress
* Got a grant for hazardous materials clean-up and demolition of the old fire hall
* Donated old Library to Whale Pass and built a deck and ramp on new library
* Remodeled administrator office
* Purchased Administrative vehicle for City Business
* Assuming council passes the resolution tonight, hired a new City Clerk
* Cleaned up junk vehicles and the Silver Doll boat at City Hall
* Cleanup and recycled all metals at solid waste facility
* Held a surplus auction for surplus city property
* Got the EMS boat in motion for repairs and got motors and controls purchased and installed
* Purchased mini excavator – which we have been using and will get reimbursed through renting to claw trail project
* Purchased new plow and made repairs to International 5 Yarder plow and sander
* Purchased new Sander and plow for Solid Waste F550 to be used on the Southside Roads
* Demolished the Bay Chalet
* Processed two insurance claims for vehicle/shop and excavator damage that required a new cab
* Drilled and Blasted rock in solid Waste facility - selling to projects
* Crushed 3,500 CY of D-1 and another 1000 CY of 3" minus
* Constructed the Port to Claw Trail RAC Project that had been on the books for 5 years
* Begin construction on the Kasaan Road Intersection RAC Project which was on the books for the past 4-5 years
* Did some heavy maintenance and ditching on the Kasaan Road at 3-mile hill and made nice improvements there using a small crew and minimal resources
* Completed the design of a new Fire/EMS Hall and got permits for tideland fill from ACE and fire marshal permits
* Completed application and permit renewal for Wastewater Treatment Plant - 5 years
* Demolished the Seanna and disposed of it to clean up harbor as it kept trying to sink and we had no luck getting anyone to take ownership of the vessel
* Updated Solid Waste Facility Operations and Management Plan which will clean up and provide more space for upcoming years
* Installed additional traffic signage on Southside. Subdivision and Kasaan Road
* Cleaned up lot 4 of the Business District subdivision and extinguished lease SISD
* Processed new property leases to Papac, SISD & Road Builders with increased rents annually based on COLI, which is tied to an index so it is not static
* Improved the ball field and the track for recreational uses
* Contracted for new EMS Management and made improvements to EMS Department
* Made plumbing improvements at Solid Waste and at WWTP
* Worked with AP&T/Denali Commission to get $100,000 grant for Broadband Application which we are in the running for and stand a good chance of getting 15 million dollars to get Thorne Bay hooked up to Broadband. AP&T has done an excellent job at advocating for that which they would not have done had we not jumped up and down to get their attention
* Transitioned away from City Mechanic to contract model for heavy diesel mechanic
* Worked on several pieces of equipment to get them repaired (backhoe, loaders, exc.)
* Completed a major budget Amendment
* Revised City's Purchasing Policy and established new contracting processes & templates
* Identified local trucking firm to provide city hauling and towing at a reasonable cost with Harata Trucking. They show up within a day and only charge $150 vs. $800 from others
* Prepared for and passed a 3-year solid waste facility inspection by ADEC, we scored an 80 which they stated was good
* Established key relationships with Alaska state officials SE Region DOT, Senators, etc. which comes in handy when we go to look for funding
* Scanned and electronically archived a massive amount of old hard copy city records
* Transitioned from old library to new library and hired a new Library Director
* New planter boxes, healthy heart trail repairs and brushing, cleaned up the boat launch park, organized and help to facilitate Community Christmas dinner, Art Extravaganza, Thorne Bay Days, Top of the Dock Party & Adventure Group on Jet Skis
* Did an Adopt-a-Road Litter pick up contract with State MP 1-18
* Implemented Coupons for Solid Waste Spring cleanup to give more flexibility homeowners on how they can use their free dump days
* Processed, negotiated, accepted, and managed the USFS Barge at the Harbor which has worked out really well

**Oatman commented on the following:**

* + Did we get an update on the EMS Boat?
    - John, not yet they were going to park it and hoped to get it worked on this month

**Hartwell commented on the following:**

* + Congratulations on getting funding for the bridges on Southside.
    - John, thank you. Large accomplishment because Kasaan had applied for this same funding years ago and were told they were not eligible. I took a different approach and was awarded it.

# PUBLIC COMMENTS:

# Laura Jennings commented on the following:

# Thank all of the hard-working employees who have stepped up and taken on additional duties this last month. With Teri gone, Lisa stepped up and it has been hard. James has been plowing and taking hard of the roads over the holidays. A lot of the employees have been working hard, not just the two mentioned.

# COUNCIL COMMENTS:

# Hartwell commented on the following:

# The lights at the Claw were purchased and installed by the Mayor

# Burger commented on the following:

# Someone stacked the two picnic tables on top of each other which were then blown over in the windstorm and destroyed them.

# CONSENT AGENDA:

1. MINUTES
   * 1. Minutes of the December 20, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to

MOTION: Move to pass the minutes of the December 20, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting

F/S: Burger/Hartwell

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

NAYS: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

# NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Resolution** **23-01-03-01**, appointing a new City Clerk/Treasurer for the City of Thorne Bay, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to approve Resolution 23-01-03-01. Oatman seconded the motion. There was no further discussion.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 23-01-03-01, appointing a new City Clerk/Treasurer for the City of Thorne Bay

F/S: Burger/Oatman

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

NAYS: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

1. **Resolution 23-01-03-02**, authorizing authorizes the expenditure of up to $9,500.00 for the surveying, re-subdivision and replat of the Downtown Business District Subdivision, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to approve Resolution 23-01-03-02, authorizing authorizes the expenditure of up to $9,500.00 for the surveying, re-subdivision and replat of the Downtown Business District Subdivision. Oatman seconded the motion.

Huestis commented that the current layout provides the road along the 50-foot access easement along the water which causes restraints to those who may be wanted to lease and develop the property. The subdivision was originally platted over 15 years ago with aa few of the lots being sold, and the remaining lots have sat vacant.

With the resurvey, the utilities and waterlines will need to be addressed as they would be negotiated when the city receives the development proposals. If they need to be reconfigured it would be done in an equitable manner for the City and still allow the use of the property.

I am working with individuals who are interested in leasing lots 4 & 5, and I have provided to the council a general concept of what they are interested in doing.

I do not have preconceived outcome for this request and had already intended for the surveyor to take a look at the property and the beach access easements that is required by the state, look at the potential reconfigurations of roads to achieve the purpose that we want.

Hartwell inquired if the boat washdown station would still be there? Huestis commented that the individuals looking at leasing the property would include that into their use. Again, we have not entered into an agreement with anyone at this time.

Huestis commented the funding would be paid from the Community Economic Development Fund and not the city’s operating budget.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 23-01-03-02, authorizing authorizes the expenditure of up to $9,500.00 for the surveying, re-subdivision and replat of the Downtown Business District Subdivision

F/S: Burger/Oatman

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

NAYS: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

1. **Resolution 23-01-03-03**, amending the authorized bank account signers for the City of Thorne Bay’s Tongass Federal Credit Union and Wells Fargo Investment accounts, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to approve Resolution 23-01-03-03, amending the authorized bank account signers for the City of Thorne Bay. Oatman seconded the motion. There was no further discussion.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 23-01-03-03, amending the authorized bank account signers for the City of Thorne Bay’s Tongass Federal Credit Union and Wells Fargo Investment accounts

F/S: Burger/Oatman

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

NAYS: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

# ORDINANCES FOR PUBLIC HEARING: None

# ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

1. Ordinance 23-01-17-01, amending Title 2-Administration & Personnel, Chapter 2.28-Elections, Section 2.28.015-Polling Locations, as requested through a referendum petition received December 7, 2022, from registered voters of Thorne Bay, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to approve Ordinance 23-01-17-01. Hartwell seconded the motion. Hartwell commented that there will be residents that will be upset about an ordinance change, however, there were about 30 residents that came into City Hall this last election and were upset when they were told they could not vote at City Hall, that they had to go to Davidson Landing.

Burger commented that part of the objections were from residents that boat into town who where told they had to vote at Davidson Landing among others, and suggested that if this passes, the information be shared with all of those residents within the Southside because may still be upset.

Oatman commented that he has heard a lot of complaints from residents.

MOTION: Move to approve Ordinance 23-01-17-01, amending Title 2-Administration & Personnel, Chapter 2.28-Elections, Section 2.28.015-Polling Locations, as requested through a referendum petition received December 7, 2022, from registered voters of Thorne Bay

F/S: Burger/Hartwell

YEAS: Burger, LaVoie, Hartwell, Jennings & Oatman

NAYS: Stram

STATUS: Motion Passed.

# CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

# Tim Lindseth commented on the following:

# Inquired if the two polling locations was a result of redistricting?

# In favor of one polling location

# Sam Sawyer commented on the following:

# In favor of one polling location. We all travel into town and a lot of people were upset when they were told they had to vote at Davidson Landing.

# Laura Jennings commented on the following:

# In favor of one polling location, many people that reside in Southside prefer to vote at City Hall

# CONTINUATION OF COUNCIL COMMENT:

# Stram commented on the following:

# The Island Guide recently published that the turnout for the island was less than 30%. The initial intent to have voting at Davidson Landing was to encourage increased voter turnout. If that is not the case, then would be in favor of a change. However, I am a resident of Southside and have also worked at the polls and have heard a lot of positive feedback from the residents who were very grateful to have the polls over there. This was the first he had heard of a petition being circulated, so wouldn’t be surprised if most of the residents were not aware of it.

1. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Mayor Burger adjourned the meeting at 7:25 pm

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ATTEST: Lee Burger, Mayor

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Teri Feibel