

MINUTES

FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE
CITY OF THORNE BAY, ALASKA

TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2023

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 6:30 pm.

2) PLEDGE TO FLAG:

The Council and Audience stood for the pledge to the flag.

3) ROLL CALL:

Those Present were Burger, Hartwell, Oatman, Nyquest LaVoie, & Jennings

Those Excused were:

Late: Stram

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, Oatman, LaVoie, Burger & Nyquest Jennings

NAYS: None

LATE: Stram

STATUS: Motion Passed

5) MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Commented on the progress of the rock wall.
- Informed all of the donations made to the Greg Kerkof Recreation Center concept drawing of \$20,000 to get the process started.
- Informed public on a recent accident.

6) ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

a) City Administrator:

- Closed out the RAC grant for the Kasaan intersection.
- Signed a lease from CMI with option to purchase for a skid steer until the state comes through with the money for Solid Waste to purchase it. We won't buy it until we know whether or not the state will offer funding. Recommend purchasing it as it is a severely needed piece of equipment. Should be here on the barge very soon.
- Grant for the first 5.3 miles, the State DOT evaluation board postponed the 2nd meeting they were supposed to have on the 11 & 13th. They are having scheduling issues with the

committee. We are going to go after another grant just in case we don't get awarded from this grant.

- Started on the Pearl Nelson improvement project. Should be done with the retaining wall by the end of the month. Would like to be done by the end of August with everything. Trying to refurbish the plaque that was on the platform to the best of our ability. Likely will rebuild the platform, only sturdier than before.
- We received a Village Safe water Capital Improvement project for Construction of the City's Wastewater collection system improvements for FY24 of 5.3 million dollars. Plans to use for upgrading town roads and such that will be torn up during the improvement process. The award is based on a report on the need for our entire wastewater and water systems. The greatest need is for our manholes due to infiltration of our system. There was no design of the improvements, just an explanation of need and an estimate. The next step is to get a consultant and engineer on board to design, then get a bid for construction to build it. Estimate of a year in design before we see construction start, spring of 2025. Will push to get it done as soon as possible due to current safety issues and lack of parts availability. Next up to look at will be the sewer treatment plant, but we are happy to have the opportunity to improve these things in the wastewater system now. This will be running more efficiently, and it will all be really good for the city. Delays and inconveniences may occur during the process.
- Firehall repair is going to be completed as weather and employee schedules all. Materials are in and the roof will be completed tomorrow, as weather permits. Parts of the roof are laying on the ground now, if anyone wants to look at the state that it was in.
- Interviewed recently for the summer Parks job, offered to Zach Ender for a couple days a week. Assigned the Harbor master to start where Amy left off with the painting the Claw. It will be Yellow.
- The old firehall field soil samples came back with petroleum-based contamination as well as some other unidentified substances as well. Informed the company that the space was used for other things prior but was unsure what it was used for. Bedrock is about 3 ft down if we need to dig it down. Meeting on Monday to go over results and plan to proceed. Hopefully will receive funding to clear the soil from that site.
- Jason of CCTH offered a 3rd VPSO if we wanted one. Not sure how long the offer is open, discussion can happen at the next workshop. Both VPSOs are currently at the academy, we are relying on Kasaan VPSO and may be without coverage currently.
- **Oatman** questioned whether the city owns a pump truck?
- **Sam Sawyer** commented that we do not have a pump truck, just an outdated trailer with a tank. Approved about a year ago for around \$40,000. During Covid, prices were very high and there were no trucks available within the range of the funds provided.

b) City Clerk:

- Scheduled training with Iura Leahu for August to do training on Clerk Duties and Election specifics.
- Dump tickets are still available \$10 for 1000lbs, 2 per residence. See the front office for more information.
- Working with Teri to get a good understanding of the processes and necessary finance reports for funding opportunities.

7) **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

a) **Water Operator Report**

- Used Tyler because lift stations are outdated – Certified electrician working on panels because they were not pumping, week and a half waiting on a part for AP&T power pole. Explained why Tyler Rental was needed to answer Councilman Oatman's questions previous.
- Cost of chemicals has gone up over the past year. Don't need as much chlorine because of the filtration update, but the need for another chemical has gone up to double.
- Willie passed his sewer treatment a few weeks ago. Sewer Treatment Level I.
- Tri-h tests came back great, tested better than any community in Southeast Alaska.
- Village safe water is going to be tackling lift station electrical panels since they are so outdated. Elaborated on panel issues.
- Sewer plant is at the 30 year mark which is at the end of life.
- Passed lead and copper, and fecal tests for sewer.
- Not using too much water lately. Constantly checking Boat wash down – about 2 units used.

b) **EMS Report:** No report at this time – Victoria is out of town.

8) **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

No Public Comments

9) **COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

- **Bob Harwell:** Commented that he would like to have a VPSO report from now on if they are available. Commented on a neighbor's driving fast on Rainy Lane.
- **Huestis:** VPSO West was out sick for a week. Will give them a heads up that they are wanted
- **Stram:** Apologize for being late. Asked about Kasaan road grant update.
 - **Huestis responded:** Meeting was postponed again, no reschedule date as of yet.
 - **Stram** continued comment saying he will be out of town for the month of August and asked to be excused.
- **Nyquest:** Thanks to John for all the grant writing, and whoever is responsible for the updates around town. Efforts and hard work are not going unnoticed.
- **Hartwell:** Complaints about no recreational use, could we revisit the section set aside out at Davidson Landing. I would like to see that looked in to for the addition of swings, etc.
- **Burger:** When the school was revamped, Stevens was going to sell the equipment to the city for \$1 for the that to go DL and people complained about berry picking. All the equipment went to Coffman Cove instead.
- **Hartwell:** Who is in charge of the friends?
 - **Huestis:** Karen Petersen
- **Jennings:** Main reason to call in is to resign. Medical issues will keep him away indefinitely.

10) **CONSENT AGENDA:**

a) **MINUTES**

- i. [Minutes of the June 20, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting, discussion and action item:](#)

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

MOTION: Move to approve the agenda
F/S: Burger/Hartwell
YEAS: Hartwell, Oatman, LaVoie, Burger & Nyquest Stram
NAYS: None
Excused: Jennings
STATUS: Motion Passed

11) **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a) [RESOLUTION 23-07-18-01](#) a resolution of the city council for the City of Thorne Bay, Alaska, making a formal request to the commissioner of administration for inclusion of eligible employees in the State of Alaska Group Health Care and Life insurance benefits plan, discussion and action item:

Burger Moved to approve Resolution 23-07-18-01. Oatman seconded the motion. There was no further discussions.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 23-07-18-01
F/S: Burger/Oatman
YEAS: Hartwell, Oatman, LaVoie, Stram, Burger & Nyquest
NAYS: None
Excused: Jennings
STATUS: Motion Passed

- b) [RESOLUTION 23-07-18-02](#) a resolution of the city council, for the City of Thorne Bay, amending Resolution 22-06-21-02 - Fee and Rate Schedules for all sales and services with city departments; amending the city water usage allowance effective 07-18-2023, discussion and action item:

Burger Moved to Resolution 23-07-18-02 Amending the city water usage allowance. Stram seconded the motion.

Discussion as follows:

- **Burger:** Chemicals have increased in price, close to double. Report from Administrator about cost analysis.
- **Huestis:** Residential would reduce income by \$5281/yr on average, Commercial rates would be reduced by \$1130/yr on average. If resolution passes as written, it would be about \$6300 less than we have received over the last 3 years. Essentially, our rates would appear as more favorable. Rates would be spread out over more gallons before being charged an overage fee. As an administrator, looking at the numbers, I do not recommend passing the resolution. Fiscal impact seems minor, but this is not a collective impact of costs of chemicals, and other increases that we can't predict, like our healthcare.

- **Sam Sawyer:** When it was brought up a year ago, I was on board with the changes. Things have changed since then though, and after the price changes of chemicals, I no longer agree with making the change. We are a smaller town than Craig and Klawock, less income from tourism, taxes, and utilities income so I can't agree with changing rates or allowances at this time.
- **Nyquest:** Commented that he recalled Charles had brought up the affordability for families, not just the fact that residents were being charged more than other communities on the island. Stated he did not believe that the commercial rate should also change. The City has a policy in place for a one-time forgiveness for hardships. We just had the feasibility study done to get the city up to date with the rate schedule.
- **Burger:** I think we could leave it as it is at this point. If it becomes apparent there are hardships, we have ways of helping people.

MOTION: Move to approve the Resolution 23-07-18-02
 F/S: Burger/Stram
 YEAS: None
 NAYS: Stram, Hartwell, Oatman LaVoie, Burger & Nyquest
 EXCUSED: Jennings
 STATUS: Motion Failed

- c) [RESOLUTION 23-07-18-03](#) A resolution of the city council of the City of Thorne Bay, Alaska, supporting SB201 an Act changing the residency requirements for hunting, trapping, and sport fishing privileges; and providing for an effective date, discussion and action item:

Burger Moved to approve Resolution 23-07-18-03 A resolution supporting HB201. Nyquest seconded the motion. Discussion as follows:

- **Burger** explained HB201 and issues that would make it agreeable to support.
- **Hartwell** questioned what if you elected to not receive PFD.
- **Sawyer** explained it's specifically for the eligibility requirements of the PFD to apply to HB201.
- **Huestis** further clarified that the regulations and process for PFD eligibility is very accurate and monitored.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 23-07-18-03 A resolution supporting HB201.
 F/S: Burger/Nyquest
 YEAS: Hartwell, Oatman, Stram, LaVoie, Burger & Nyquest
 NAYS: None
 Excused: Jennings
 STATUS: Motion Passed

- d) [RESOLUTION 23-07-18-04](#) a resolution of the city council for the City of Thorne Bay, Alaska, updating the Thorne Bay Employee Wage Base for existing positions, discussion and action item:

Burger Moved to approve Resolution 23-07-18-04 A Resolution updating Thorne Bay Employee Wage Base. Nyquest seconded the motion.

Discussion as follows:

- **Huestis:** Clarified the intent of the resolution was to update the 2017 wage resolution to match the economy.
- **Nyquest:** May need to revisit this in the future so that we don't outspend ourselves. While we want to pay employees fairly, and retain good people, we will have to look at affordability. I support this resolution as it is now.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 23-07-18-04

F/S: Burger/Nyquest

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

NAYS: None

EXCUSED: Jennings

STATUS: Motion Passed.

12) ORDINANCES FOR PUBLIC HEARING:
NONE

13) ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:
NONE

14) CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

- **Sam Sawyer:** Rethink parking at city harbor. Things have changed since it was changed and there are not as many people living on boats and parking is really tight.

15) CONTINUATION OF COUNCIL COMMENT:

- **Oatman** agrees with public comment.
- **Hartwell:** 5 spots for liveaboards.
- **Huestis:** Take a look at it and talk with harbormaster.

16) EXECUTIVE SESSION:

- a) The council may adjourn to executive session to discuss Employment Contract for Teri Feibel, discussion and action item:

(General Information: Executive sessions are not open to the public. The public may remain in the audience until the council reconvenes. No action is taken during an executive session)

Burger Moved to adjourn to executive session to discuss Employment Contract for Teri Feibel. Nyquest seconded the motion. Mayor invited the City Administrator to join the Executive Session.

MOTION: Move to adjourn to executive session to discuss the employment contract for Teri Feibel

F/S: Burger/Nyquest

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

NAYS: None

EXCUSED: Jennings

STATUS: Motion Passed.

17) ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Adjourned at 7:55


Lee Burger
Lee Burger, Mayor

ATTEST:


For: Caitlyn Sawyer, City Clerk/Treasurer