

MINUTES

FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE
CITY OF THORNE BAY, ALASKA
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 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 audience and council stood for the pledge to the flag.

3) ROLL CALL:

Those present were: LaVoie, Burger, Hartwell, Kaer, Nyquest & Oatman.
Those excused were Blair.

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: Oatman, Hartwell, LaVoie, Burger, Nyquest, Kaer
NAYS: None
EXCUSED: Blair
STATUS: Motion Passed.

5) MAYOR'S REPORT:

- It's been a good 2 years.

6) ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

John Huestis, City Administrator reported the following:

- Recent high winds knocked out power to the Fire/EMS Hall. We are working with Steelhead Electric to get the new power pole and meter box re-installed. The ambulance is being stored at the City shop to stay secure and warm, ready to respond. Parts were delayed in KTN, project will continue ASAP. New metal was installed, and the roof is all on.
- Continuing work on the Kasaan Road heavy maintenance project around the big rock in the road where it used to be really rough. Ditching, drainage, surfacing work.
- We have nearly completed the playground improvement. There are a couple loads of dirt that will need spreading, planting grass, and the planter boxes will be moved back.
- City Hall and the VPSO building painting will need to wait until spring. City hall will have some of the siding replaced prior to the painting job since it has some rot at the bottom. The siding has been purchased and is here, but we will wait to install it.
- Project to repair leaking EMS/Fire Hall is moving along. Now that the roofing is complete, we will be able to work on the inside without things getting soaked again. Next phase will focus on completion of training room, then rest of building. The goal is to have all work completed by early spring. Work should resume after Thanksgiving.
- Administration has finally responded to all allegations of Violations of the City's AK DEC issued WWTP Discharge Permit. I expect there will be some back and forth now to get complete responses to all violations, then there will likely be some kind of effort by DEC to get a compliance order in place to "encourage us" to comply.
- Sam Sawyer received the recognition of "Water Operator of the Year" from the Alaska Rural Water Association, so congratulations to Sam for this award.

- We submitted a federal grant for Restoring Tribal Fish Passage through Barrier Removal program for the Kasaan Access Road last week. This grant would replace the 11 permitted fish passages under the road by providing six million dollars to OVK DOT to get this work accomplished. It would fund the redesign of these fish crossings and then provide for construction once new permits have been issued. To date, OVK has been successful in obtaining over \$28,000,000 for the work on this project. The overall projects costs in today's dollars are at over \$72,000,000. This funding would get us almost halfway there with another \$14,000,000 having already been applied for in two different programs and just awaiting information on how competitive we were.
- We are preparing for wintertime maintenance activities such as plowing and sanding the roads as we expect to see some snow as early as later this week.
- We had Reid excavation finish the brushing work we started earlier this year, and we recently completed the water road up at the lake to the lookout, the Lake Ellen Road to the end of Goose Creek Subdivision and Steep Road.
- We added a few more signs around town for No Parking along city streets and roads during wintertime for plowing and sanding activities.
- We sent the Ford F-550 back to the shop a few weeks back for the 5th time in my time here and got it back just couple weeks ago and it seems to be working still so that is good since this is our southside snowplow and sanding vehicle.
- We recently acquired the SEASWA tire cutter to whittle away at the tire piles at the landfill. It's going to be fairly slow going. We are planning to experiment with the size of the pieces and how we can incorporate them into the bailing process so we can landfill them efficiently.
- We are seeking council approval to purchase the skid steer loader from CMI we have been leasing for the past 4 months now. On Oct. 5th we got notice from the State that we would not be getting the funding, they led us to believe we were going to get to purchase some new equipment. We will discuss this in more detail later in the meeting.
Kaer inquired about replacing the guardrail on Southside Road.
Huestis informed Kaer that the price tag on the Guardrail was extremely high. No insurance claims have gone through. It's a terminal end and you can't just replace it without certification and testing.
Kaer commended Sam Sawyer for his job well done. Inquired about a filter that was at the water plant.
Nyquest Inquired about the Fish Passage Grants, would they bring more restrictions when we go to pave the road in the future?
Huestis replied that the Grant requires monitoring after completion to monitor the fish passing and such. Not aware of a hindrance for how the road is maintained. Those parts of the road would be fixed with this project and wouldn't need to be touched later on, just paved over the top.

7) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments

8) COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Hartwell Inquired about the Christmas Bazaar

Oatman Thanked Burger for his service as Mayor.

9) CONSENT AGENDA:

a) MINUTES

i. Minutes of the October 16, 2023, Special City Council Meeting, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to approve the consent agenda, consisting of the minutes of the October 16, 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 of the October 16, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting
 F/S: Burger/Hartwell
 YEAS: Oatman, Hartwell, LaVoie, Burger, Nyquest, Kaer
 NAYS: None
 EXCUSED: Blair
 STATUS: Motion Passed.

10) NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Resolution 23-11-14-01, A Resolution of the City Council of Thorne Bay, Alaska, updating the authorized signers on the City of Thorne Bay checking and savings account with Tongass Federal Credit Union and the Wells Fargo Investments Money Market and bond accounts, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to approve Resolution 23-11-14-01 to update, Nyquest seconded, discussion as follows:

- City Clerk Clarified reason for updating signers.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 23-11-14-01, , A Resolution of the City Council of Thorne Bay, Alaska, updating the authorized signers on the City of Thorne Bay checking and savings account with Tongass Federal Credit Union and the Wells Fargo Investments Money Market and bond accounts

F/S: Burger/Nyquest

YEAS: Oatman, Hartwell, LaVoie, Burger, Kaer, Nyquest

NAYS: None

EXCUSED: Blair

STATUS: Motion Passed.

- b) Resolution 23-11-14-02, A Resolution of the City Council for the City of Thorne Bay, Alaska, authorizing the purchase of a skid steer for the city of Thorne Bay, discussion and action item:

Burger moved to approve Resolution 23-11-14-02, A Resolution authorizing the purchase of a Skid Steer, Nyquest seconded, discussion as follows.

- Huestis explained that The State led us to believe that we were going to be granted money to purchase a Skid Steer. Our current skid steer is unsafe and unguarded, no cab for protection among other issues. CMI gave us a quote when we were waiting for the State to grant the funding, so we signed a 4-month Lease with option to Buy. State got granted 2 years reprieve to make decisions on where that money gets awarded. We may still get the money, but we can't wait that long. Monthly payments would be within the approved budget. Monthly payments for 5 years of \$1852.77 with 5.81%. Invested \$13,620 which counts as our down payment, making the loan amount \$96,275. The possibility to rent out if needed for additional income but is a critical piece of equipment for the Solid Waste site.
- Hartwell: I'd like to see a maintenance record weekly if we purchase this.
- Kaer agreed with Hartwell and inquired if we would increase Landfill rates because of this purchase?
- Huestis replied negatively, no increase. Will continue to search out Grants to help pay and the State could still award the grant to pay for it.
- Nyquest, I like the health and safety of the new equipment.
- Oatman inquired about the 4-year warranty, would Joe be the one to fix things?
- Huestis replied in the affirmative.
- Oatman expressed concern over the new electronic parts and finding someone capable of fixing those issues.
- Nyquest they can keep the old Bobcat for backup.
- Kaer asked about the going prices of Skid Steers, is this the going rate?
- Huestis confirmed and explained the benefits of purchasing this new machine rather than an older used one.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 23-11-14-02, A Resolution of the City Council for the City of Thorne Bay, Alaska, authorizing the purchase of a skid steer for the city of Thorne Bay
F/S: Burger/Nyquest
YEAS: Kaer, Burger, Nyquest, Oatman, Hartwell, LaVoie
NAYS: None
EXCUSED: Blair
STATUS: Motion Passed

- c) Resolution 23-11-14-03, Certifying the results of the November 7, 2023, Thorne Bay Mayoral Election, discussion and action item: (last day to contest Election)

Burger moved to approve the Certification, Nyquest Seconded, no further discussion.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 23-11-14-03, Certifying the results of the November 7, 2023, Thorne Bay Mayoral Election
F/S: Burger/Nyquest
YEAS: Oatman, Kaer, Hartwell, LaVoie, Burger, Nyquest
NAYS: None
EXCUSED: Blair
STATUS: Motion Passed.

11) ORDINANCES FOR PUBLIC HEARING: NONE

12) ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION: NONE

13) CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

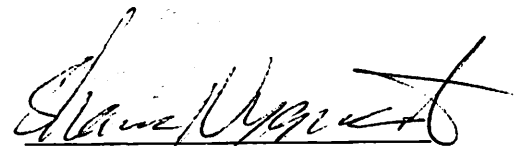
14) CONTINUATION OF COUNCIL COMMENT:

Nyquest thanked Lee for his service.

Hartwell thanked Lee for his service.

15) ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Burger adjourned the meeting at 6:46pm



Shane Nyquest, Mayor

ATTEST:



Caitlyn Sawyer, City Clerk/Treasurer