

MINUTES

FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE
CITY OF THORNE BAY, ALASKA
TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2024

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

THERE WAS A WORKSHOP OF THE CITY COUNCIL HELD AT 6:00PM

- 1) CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Vice Mayor at 6:30pm
- 2) PLEDGE TO FLAG: The audience and council stood for the pledge of allegiance.
- 3) ROLL CALL:

Those present were:

Blair, Burger, Nyquest, Lovell, Hartwell, Kaer, LaVoie

Those absent were: None

- 4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
Vice Mayor motion to approve the agenda, Seconded by Hartwell.

Mayor Nyquest moved to take from the table Resolution 24-07-02-02, City Administrator's Contract.

MOTION: Move Approve the Amended Agenda,

F/S: Burger/Hartwell

YEAS: Kaer, Lovell, Blair, LaVoie, Hartwell, Burger, & Nyquest

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

- 5) MAYOR'S REPORT:
- 6) ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:
 - a) City Administrator: Applied for a grant through DEC for improvements to the Wastewater treatment plant and we have been granted \$100,000.00 to do a preliminary engineering report. Gave brief information on Sewer plant and permitting information. Next step is construction funding.
- 7) DEPARTMENT REPORTS:
- 8) PUBLIC COMMENTS:
 - a.) Pat Tierney questioned the No Parking established on Rainy Lane, across from 920 and 918 Rainy Lane land was established as a parking area. Commented on the use of parking spots and for business. Asked Council to consider posting a second sign on the junction side of the telephone pole with a left-hand arrow to open the area for parking in the winter. Needs winter parking for medical visits at home, requesting relief in the areas that are conducive to parking and snow removal. Reference to letter sent to Council.
 - b.) Sam Sawyer parking on the corner where the old post office was, stuff is congesting the road.
 - c.) Thom Cunningham commented on the employment contract for John Huestis, raising rates to cover his employment. City Hall should be tightening their belt. Commented on a finance position that could be cut. There should be a public audit before raising taxes.
- 9) COUNCIL COMMENTS:
 - a) Kear questioned what the cost of running the plants versus what the income is?
 - b) Huestis clarified that this is council comment not discussion time.
- 10) CONSENT AGENDA:

a) MINUTES

i. [Minutes of the July 2, 2024, Regular City Council Meeting, discussion and action item:](#)

Vice Mayor moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Seconded
Hartwell questioned recorded public comment, Clerk clarified. No further discussion.

MOTION: Move Approve the Consent Agenda

F/S: Burger/Nyquest

YEAS: Kaer, Lovell, Blair, LaVoie, Hartwell, Burger, & Nyquest

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

11) UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- a) Resolution 24-07-03-02, A Resolution renewing John Huestis' contract as the City Administrator for the City of Thorne Bay, for a term of 3 years to commence on October 18, 2024.

Vice Mayor moved to approve Resolution 24-07-03-02, Seconded by Nyquest

Discussion as follows:

Nyquest commented that raising the rates is not related to employee wages. Expressed approval of City Administrator's work ethic and job being done. The City could pay someone less, but we would get what we pay for. We have been through multiple Administrators and the focus is ad direction is changed from person to person. Projects are being done, sewer plant, paving of the road, etc. Good shot at getting the road paved in the next 3 years if we retain current Administrator. Willing to pay to retain him.

Hartwell commented that he would like to see the contract rewritten to include some things. Would like to wait to approve the contact.

Nyquest questioned what he's thinking wording-wise.

Hartwell replied that community is concerned and it could be reworded.

Nyquest recognizes what Council member is saying, and willing to postpone until next meeting.

Kaer commented that the contract states Cindy Edenfield is Mayor, she is not. Some language in the contract needs to be addressed and postponing would be good.

Clerk clarified that Cindy Edenfield had been removed and the contract was already updated.

Huestis commented that the contract is the same as the one that has been in place for the last 3 years as it was presented by prior council and clerk. AML attorneys provided services on the contract.

Nyquest commented that all city employees were reduced by 1 step, including John. Not a rubber stamp of the same contract.

Vice mayor requested Clerk repeat the motion on the floor.

Clerk responded Motion to approve Resolution 24-07-03-02, Approval of City Administrator Contract.

Lovell commented that when we cover what we have aggressively told the City of Thorne Bay what we are going to do to appropriate our budget, we should look at all the opportunities for this. City Administrator should get a freeze when everyone else gets a freeze. Wording needs to be thought of and our comments need to be put in to the opportunity.

Nyquest responded that normally 2 steps, and 1 step was frozen per this contract. So what is being

requested is happening.

Lovell responded that verbiage in the contract should be adjusted before being approved.

MOTION: Move Approve Resolution 24-07-03-02, A resolution renewing John Huestis' Contract as City Administrator.

F/S: Burger/ Nyquest

YEAS: Blair, LaVoie, Hartwell, Burger, & Nyquest

NAYS: Lovell, Kaer

ABSENT: None

STATUS: Motion Passed.

12) NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Amendment of TBMC 2.08.040 Compensation of Mayor, discussion item;

Discussion as follows:

Vice Mayor informed that the Mayor Stipend is \$500.

Hartwell commented on the history of the Mayor Stipend. Stipend was meant to cover monetary value of attending multitude of meetings in personal vehicles. Commented that stipend would save \$6,000/yr.

Nyquest commented that stipend is more about time spent doing City Business. Open for discussion on it.

Lovell commented that this discussion should not be brought up when the community is looking at financial issues.

Nyquest questioned what Council thinks would be appropriate.

Hartwell responded that there shouldn't be a stipend. Would consider dropping council stipends in half again.

Nyquest responded that council stipends have been technically cut by moving to one meeting per month, and a second as necessary.

Huestis commented that most mayors and CEO's and head execs make some money for the position. It's a high responsibility and having an incentive to compete for the position is ideal. Not a huge savings and could potentially have other repercussions.

Hartwell commented that council should be leading the way to save money.

Kaer concurred with Hartwell and is willing to give up a stipend. Need to be thinking about the people, not a job of payment or power.

Nyquest responded that no one is getting raises. Started looking at ways to cut cost when became Mayor.

Harbormaster job wasn't cut, it's been flown and the employee in Solid Waste has the opportunity to apply for harbormaster position. Need to be clear on information being given out.

13) ORDINANCES FOR PUBLIC HEARING:

14) ORDINANCES FOR INTRODUCTION:

15) CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a) David Shultz commented on a letter sent requesting it to be read. Contract should be based off of performance not based off of completing future projects.
- b) Sam Sawyer commented his displeasure of contract renewal. Reported that he was giving his 2 week notice.
- c) Keith Landers suggested adopting the policy that the Forest Service has that states that no other employment can be taken. Why are we letting City Administrator work for OVK and get

a raise?

- d) Thom Cunningham agreement with public comment. Fees are increasing while Administrator is getting a raise. Council should have checked for new people before renewal. Money is being wasted and work on Southside takes months or years to be completed when requested. Things on Southside aren't happening.
- e) Tara Blair commented that doesn't check into things about where money is going but when hearing that people in the community have questions or complaints, why aren't they attending meetings. If people want to help the community, they need to show up with input and ideas more often than when things happen that they don't like.
- f) Tim Lindseth commented that things need to be considered that City Administrator is doing with OVK for Thorne Bay.
- g) David Shultz commented that normally when public money is involved, like the money claimed in Administrators achievements, while nice, if it's public funds, has it gone out to bid or is it given to people by Administrator.

16) CONTINUATION OF COUNCIL COMMENT:

- a) Hartwell commented that the City wasted money on the last Administrator who did nothing. Current Administrator had brought in money. Whether the wording in the contract is right or not, he's done a good job.
- b) Nyquest apologized for not being present as many things said are not correct. To speak to the comments on a \$30,000 raise, it is not an increase, it is what he has earned from his 3 year prior contract. Appreciate the comments from Public Commentors, did my part to be a part of the solution. Disappointed in some misinformation given tonight and hope that more community members attend meetings in the future. Administrator contract has been out for weeks and people are welcome to contact about any issues.

17) ADJOURNMENT: Vice Mayor adjourned at 7:42 pm



Lee Burger, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:



Caitlyn Sawyer, City Clerk/Treasurer