

MINUTES
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE
CITY OF THORNE BAY, ALASKA
TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2025

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

THERE WAS A WORKSHOP BEGINNING AT 5:30PM

1) **CALL TO ORDER:**

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

2) **PLEDGE TO FLAG:**

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

3) **ROLL CALL:**

Those present were:

Killian, LaVoie, Pesterfield, Lovell, Kaer

Those Absent were:

Blair, Nyquest

4) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Vice Mayor moved to approve the Agenda, seconded, No discussion

MOTION: Move to approve the agenda.

F/S: Lovell/Killian

YEAS: LaVoie, Lovell, Pesterfield, Kaer, Killian

ABSENT: Blair, Nyquest

STATUS: Motion Passed

5) **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

a) None given

6) **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:**

a) **City Administrator:**

- i. Solid waste lighting review and quote information.
- ii. Streets and roads department filled in holes and sags with cold mix around town
- iii. Had a dump vehicle at All American Auto for months – either they fix it or we get it back and get rid of it.
- iv. Wastewater treatment plan has kicked off and waiting on State to select and negotiate with selected consultant. Design work will start soon and will transition into construction. Manholes and lift stations will be worked on as well as a contract for an in-depth study for ways to modernize the plant with a focus on the clarifier. A nonfunctional clarifier causes violations to our city. We are hopeful for building around the clarifier to help in winter months.
- v. Working to get power to the leased space next door for the Reids.
- vi. Solid Waste Landfill inspection later this month from AK DEC. Preparing for it now. Landfill permit is up in Nov, will need a new application by October.
- vii. RV park building is not repairable. Needs to be up for surplus or sent to the dump.
- viii. Planning a surplus sale – notices of items available for sale and receive closed bids. List will be put together and shared with Council.
- ix. DEC gave notice that we are in violation of wastewater permit – likely due to aging plant and timing of samples due to travel. Previously tried to get the City to sign a COBC which would give us high

finer for violations for things that were out of our control. Recently, the DEC deescalated the COBC to a notice of violation instead.

- b) Timber question immediate plans to cover the clarifier for next winter.
- i. Huestis responded with information on project.
- c) Pesterfield questioned timeline on the 5.6 mil project for manhole project
- i. Huestis responded 2-3 years, 4-5 years from a new clarifier.
- d) Lovell questioned about a plan of action?
- i. Huestis responded, yes, part of the violation conditions are reports on status and preventions plans.
- e) Lovell questioned if there is an action plan that could be read for the improvement plan?
- i. Huestis responded we have a permit that outlines maintenance requirements, and an improvement plan is basically our budget and our grant applications.

7) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- a) **Kim Redmond:** questioned what the population of Thorne Bay is? Sold about 25% of salmon derby and donated proceeds to City. Questioned the timeline of a gaming permit for the City.
- b) **Thom Cunningham** requested lights on the turn off of the highway onto Kasaan rd. Commented on the variance and gave opinion that owner should have looked into it more. Requested that LaVoie excuse herself from the vote due to family conflicts.
- c) **Charlie Jennings** gave history on the talks of a cemetery being built in Thorne Bay. Requested City Council revisit the conversation and get a cemetery done. Commented on bridge that needs to be installed to fix North Rd that is built on private property.
- d) **Linda Shilts** agreed with Jennings on the need for a cemetery to have a place of remembrance for loved ones.
- e) **Angie Fenimore:** EMS report given
- f) **Thom Cunningham** mentioned during his council term, the state donated property for a cemetery and we need grants to build it.

8) COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- a) **Pesterfield** thanked the community for attendance. Commented that he feels he should not have voted the way he did. Commented that the code should be upheld as it stands in relation to the variance application. Commented that there are plots of land available other than the one that State gifted for it. Agreed that the need for a cemetery is important.
- b) **Kaer** commented in agreement with the need for a cemetery. Would like the boundaries and such to take a look at the property for the cemetery and get moving on it.
- c) **Vice Mayor allowed comment from Angie Fenimore:** Commented in agreement for the cemetery from the EMS standpoint.
- d) **Lovell** thanked the community for bringing things to our attention in order to help our community thrive and grow.

9) CONSENT AGENDA:

Vice Mayor moved to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of Minutes of the April 1, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting, seconded, No discussion

- a) **Minutes of the April 1, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting, action item:**

MOTION: Move to approve the Consent agenda.

F/S: Lovell/Pesterfield

YEAS: LaVoie, Lovell, Pesterfield, Kaer, Killian

ABSENT: Nyquest, Blair
STATUS: Motion Passed

10) NEW BUSINESS:

a) Resolution 25-05-06-01: Approving the Short-Term Lease for Tongass Federal Credit Union, discussion and action item;

Vice Mayor moved to approve Resolution 25-05-06-01, seconded. Discussion as follows;

Kaer questioned who is responsible for the ADA compliance to the bank?

Huestis directed to item number 11 in the Lease.

Pesterfield questioned whether rental rates increase?

Clerk Clarified

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 25-05-06-01, Approving the Short-Term Lease for Tongass Federal Credit Union

F/S: Lovell/Killian

YEAS: LaVoie, Lovell, Pesterfield, Kaer, Killian

ABSENT: Nyquest, Blair

STATUS: Motion Passed

b) Resolution 25-05-06-02: Approving a budget for the purchase and installation of lighting at the solid waste site, discussion and action item;

Vice Mayor moved to approve Resolution 25-05-06-02, Seconded, discussion as follows:

Huestis gave an overview of the needs for new lighting.

Lovell questioned if there might be other things that would need to be budgeted for as well?

Huestis commented that the permit doesn't necessarily dictate what is safe in the building.

AMLJIA would be the ones doing safety inspections.

Pesterfield commented that the need for the building to be lit is important. Not a bad number for electrical work. Questioned if the funds are tagged for this project?

Huestis responded no, it's not tagged, this is an account that we are able to use for the project if Council approves. If not, we would try to build it within the budget for next year.

Lovell questioned if there is already a commitment for the community budget?

Huestis no. Community Development fund is to be spent on projects approved by the Council.

Pesterfield commented that it should be included in the budget under Solid Waste.

Killian agreed

Kaer agreed with pesterfield that sanitation should stay within sanitation

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 25-05-06-02, Approving a budget for the purchase and installation of lighting at the solid waste site

F/S: Lovell/Pesterfield

YEAS: NONE

NAYS: LaVoie, Lovell, Pesterfield, Kaer, Killian

ABSENT: Nyquest, Blair

STATUS: Motion Failed

c) Resolution 25-05-06-03: A Resolution of support for participation in Alaska Public Risk Alliance, a merged organization formerly known as AMLJIA and APEI, discussion and action item;

Vice Mayor moved to approve Resolution 25-05-06-03, Seconded, Discussion as follows:

Clerk explained resolution. **Huestis** explained the merge and what they do for us; vehicles, workman's comp, building insurance.

Lovell questioned how often we look into other options and what the school district uses.

Pesterfield commented that it is a pool and we are just

Kaer agreed

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 25-05-06-03,

F/S: Lovell/Pesterfield

YEAS: LaVoie, Lovell, Pesterfield, Kaer, Killian

ABSENT: Nyquest, Blair

STATUS: Motion Passed

- d) Resolution 25-05-06-04: A Resolution accepting the resignation of Councilwoman Tiana LaVoie, seat C.

Vice Mayor moved to approve Resolution 25-05-06-04, Seconded, discussion as follows

Pesterfield thanked LaVoie for her service for the community.

Lovell expressed

LaVoie expressed appreciation for being able to serve.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 25-05-06-04

F/S: Lovell/Killian

YEAS: LaVoie, Lovell, Pesterfield, Kaer, Killian

ABSENT: Nyquest, Blair

STATUS: Motion Passed

- e) Resolution 25-06-01-PZ: Approving Variance application 24-04-25-01, discussion and action item;

Vice Mayor moved to approve Resolution 25-05-06-01-PZ, Seconded, Discussion as follows,

Pesterfield commented that the public agrees that we should not accept this variance.

Killian agreed with Councilman Pesterfield and has heard the same from the public

Kaer commented that he agrees that it should not pass.

LaVoie commented that she listened to both sides and it would be nice to improve but also fire hazard is a valid concern.

Lovell commented that due diligence should be done before purchasing.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 25-05-06-01-PZ

F/S: Lovell/Killian

YEAS:

NAYS: LaVoie, Lovell, Pesterfield, Kaer, Killian

ABSENT: Nyquest, Blair

STATUS: Motion Failed

11) CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a) David Shilts thanked Huestis for concern of lighting safety and questioned the option to repair light fixtures rather than replacing entire fixtures.
- b) Thom Cunningham expressed respect for time served on council to LaVoie.

12) CONTINUATION OF COUNCIL COMMENT:

- a) Pesterfield agreed with comments that lights need to be replaced and the only reason it was not passed was because of the account it was requested to be drawn from.
- b) Killian commented the lights are a concern but should come from the correct fund and budget line.
- c) Lovell questioned if we could hire an employee for projects, like this one specifically to increase the possibility of repair vs replace?
- d) Kaer commented that it would be worth looking into other options to get work done.
- e) Huestis commented that when it comes to electricity he's not comfortable hiring anyone for these times of jobs.

13) ADJOURNMENT: Vice Mayor Adjourned at 8:02 pm



Anthony Lovell, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:



Caitlyn Sawyer, City Clerk/Treasurer