

Minutes

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

TUESDAY, June 3, 2025

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

THERE WAS A WORKSHOP BEGINNING AT 6:00PM

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:

Pesterfield, Lovell, Kaer, Blair, Nyquest

Those Absent were:

Killian

4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor moved to approve the Agenda, seconded, No discussion

MOTION: Move to approve the agenda.

F/S: Nyquest/ Pesterfield

YEAS: Pesterfield, Lovell, Kaer, Blair, Nyquest

ABSENT: Killian

STATUS: Motion Passed

5) MAYOR'S REPORT:

- a) Considering extending the deadline for council seat vacancy filling.
- b) Commented that the cemetery is on the radar as well as a community center
- c) Will be leaving in a few weeks

6) ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

- a) City Administrator: None given – will report at next meeting.

7) DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- a) Water Report: Written report given
- b) EMS Report: Written report given
- c) Harbor Report: Written report given

8) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- a) Thom Cunningham commented on the vacant council seat – filled out before the deadline. Summarized council experience and expressed belief that Thorne Bay would like to see him seated on the Council. Stands for accountability. Considers himself the best Candidate.
- b) Linda Shilts commented agreement with Thom and would like opportunity to have a vote. Would like him to be considered based off of Election results.
- c) Keith Landers would like a decision made tonight – should not notify people. People should decide.
- d) Trina Pesterfield commented in agreement. Should not disregard what's been done in the past.
- e) Robert Hartwell commented that the USFS will be spraying Herbicides
- f) Kim Ostrom commented the herbicide spraying is precise and targets certain plants.

Annual updates for over 30 sites island wide to monitor use and effect. Using glyphosate and aminopyralid. More information is available from him at the USFS office.

i. **POI: Nyquest:** questioned the application method – by truck or pack?

Ostrom commented by packs – small amounts.

- g) **Brandy Schmitz-Prefontaine** Spoke out against pesticide and herbicide application due to effect on subsistence harvesting of fish, deer, and life of pollinators. Hard to return to not using after it's been allowed. Glyphosate in Low soil levels and high precipitation levels is a cause for concern. Manual treatment is only application she can support.

9) COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- a) **Pesterfield thanked** Ostrom for the information. Commented that during the time frame he did talk with people about applying for council seat. Commented that at Davidson Landing by the down ramp, vehicles were parked in a way to block the ramp down to harbor. Would be good to have a guard rail or something to keep people from driving off the edge as well as encourage others to pull all the way forward. Suggested logs instead of guard rails due to price.
- b) **Sean Kaer** is against pesticides and agreed that council should move on the Resolution tonight.
- c) **Nyquest commented** that public comments happen twice here, which is more than other places. In order to keep the meeting going, there is only one opportunity at each public comment section. Clarified the information on vacant seats. The procedure needs to be cleaned up, yes. Clarified contacting community members to fill a seat, was not backhanded or malicious, simply contacting people who have at one point expressed interest. Clarified that council appoints, will take Commented on the failed variance from the last meeting. One of the concerns last meeting was fire. Allowed uses in that zone include trailers. Accidental fires from the past came mainly from trailers. Housing shortages in Thorne Bay. Would like to see out of the box solutions for the problems left from the past. Ex: fire-resistant materials necessary. This would help mitigate the problems for the future of Thorne Bay.
- d) **Lovell thanked** the City Administrator for Southside rd work completed. Suggested that if a resolution is sent out, it should be done, without back tracking. Thankful for input from community members. Council should be moving within the regulations.

10) CONSENT AGENDA:

- a) **Minutes** of the May 6, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting, action item:

Mayor moved to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the Minutes from May 6, 2024 Regular City Council Meeting, seconded, No discussion

MOTION: Move to approve the Consent Agenda.

F/S: Nyquest/ Lovell

YEAS: Pesterfield, Lovell, Kaer, Blair, Nyquest

ABSENT: Killian

STATUS: Motion Passed

11) NEW BUSINESS:

- a) **Resolution 25-06-03-01:** A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Thorne Bay authorizing a budget of \$25,000 from the Community Development account for the Solid Waste Bailer Building Project, discussion and possible action item;

Mayor moved to approve the Resolution 25-06-03-01: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Thorne Bay authorizing a budget of \$25,000 from the Community Development account for the Solid Waste Bailer Building Project, seconded,

- Discussion:

- Lovell questioned if there is any other place that this could come out of. It is the first time to see this fiscal years budget. If it's a community line item, there should be community dialogue.
- Pesterfield commented in agreement with Lovell on the community dialogue for the community fund and last meeting said this should be reflected in the budget – agrees all improvements to Solid Waste are important. Additionally, would have upped the price of dump tickets if we had known these issues. Cost of living increases across the budget will cause a raise in enterprise fees in order to have a savings robust enough to repair the department facilities.
- Clerk clarified R&R account budget line.
- Nyquest commented that it is a safety concern and feels that the community uses and needs the facility. If we need to put it into the budget, so be it.
- Kaer agreed we should look at it another way. Should consider putting it into the budget for transparency.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 25-06-03-01

F/S: Nyquest/ Blair

YEAS: Blair, Nyquest

Nays: Pesterfield, Lovell, Kaer,

ABSENT: Killian

STATUS: Motion Failed

- b) Resolution 25-06-03-02: A Resolution of the City council of the City of Thorne Bay, Alaska, appointing one person to fill Vacated City Council Seat C, discussion and action item;

Mayor moved to approve Resolution 25-06-03-02 appointing one person to fill Vacated City Council Seat C

- Discussion:

Lovell commented belief that time was sufficient to for notice to fill vacancy.

Pesterfield thanked the applicant. Agreed that it would be nice for more applicants but it will only be 4 months until the election.

Kear commented that Thom should be on seat until the elections.

Nyquest agreed that Thom would be a good candidate, but he would still be a candidate and there's no hurry to do it tonight.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 25-06-03-02

F/S: Nyquest/ Pesterfield

YEAS: Pesterfield, Lovell, Kaer, Blair,

NAYS: Nyquest

ABSENT: Killian

STATUS: Motion Passed

- c) Discussion: Letter from Jim Seeley to City Council, discussion item;

i. Discussion as follows:

- **Pesterfield** commented that Jim Seeley is one of the first Thorne Bay kids and going to Craig for hardware now. Store would be beneficial not just Thorne Bay, but for the island. Would like to lease property, not sell. Would like a discussion on long-term leasing costs to really review all terms and conditions.
- **Lovell** looks forward to more in Thorne Bay for tax revenue and jobs. Agreement with lease review and long-term plan.
- **Kaer** commented that we need to have a plan. Agreed that a hardware store would be beneficial.
- **Nyquest** commented that there will need to be some stipulation for longevity of operation.
- **Huestis** stated that we do have a strategic waterfront operation plan that was shared with Mr. Seeley and will send a copy to Councilman Kaer.
- **Lovell** requested the entire council receive the waterfront operation plan
- **Pesterfield** we are all working for the city and agreed that it needs to be established before any purchase comes along.

12) ORDINANCES FOR PUBLIC HEARING:

- a) **Ordinance 25-05-17-01: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF THORNE BAY, ALASKA; PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF THORNE BAY, FISCAL YEAR 2025, JULY 1, 2025 -JUNE 30, 2026, ANTICIPATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES**

Mayor moved to approve Ordinance 25-05-17-01, an ordinance establishing FY26 Budget, Seconded.

Discussion:

No Public Comments;

- **Lovell** asked if we could go over the overview of departments.
- **Nyquest** commented that it is an overview of things we would like to see done.
- **Huestis** clarified some of the department narratives and commented he is open to Council's recommendations and comments.
- **Lovell** questioned further what the department projects are for and is there a budget line for these projects built into the lines?
- **Nyquest** commented that the projects are thing we would like to do.
- **Huestis** clarified some of the administration projects in the interest of clarity.
- **Kaer** asked where the fines were budgeted?
- **Huestis** questioned the fines?
- **Lovell** clarified – fines from the state for being out of compliance.
- **Huestis** clarified the State tried to get us to sign a COBC, that has been dropped and there are no fines.
- **Lovell** questioned where the Solid Waste funds will be appropriated from in the budget?
- **Nyquest** commented that it will be budgeted from Solid Waste, subsidized from the General Fund.
- **Pesterfield** questioned line items throughout the budget and gave recommendations for line item increases or removal.
 - **Clerk** clarified when questions asked.
- **David Shilts** questioned why there isn't a line item under snow removal and overtime?
- **Huestis** clarified it is included in the other lines. (i.e. Vehicle fuel, payroll lines, materials and supplies etc). It's not a project budget line.

- Lovell questioned Streets and Roads projects – clarified that it is not an enterprise – but there is not a lot of Southside projects, would like to know if there is more southside focused projects?
- Nyquest interjected that the projects cover both sides of the bay. The paving of the road is still in the works as well.
- Lovell commented he'd like day to day planning for pothole repair.
- Huestis commented the grader repairs are for southside road maintenance. Clarified the City's responsibility in regards to easements dedicated by creation of plats. Would like to do more, but we just don't have the income to support it.
- Kaer commented in objection to Huestis' comments.
- Linda Shilts commented that she pays city sales tax, could get a tax-free card but chooses not to. When people are ordering, they are contributing to city sales tax.
- Thom Cunningham commented on the Southside Road ownership - Mayor redirected back to the Agenda item for discussion. Didn't see a line item for road maintenance in the subdivision within the budget.
- John Stram commented that he has a tax free card and still pays taxes on purchases made online.

MOTION: Move to approve Ordinance 24-05-17-01, an ordinance establishing FY26 Budget

F/S: Nyquest/ Lovell

YEAS: Kaer, Blair, Nyquest, Pesterfield, Lovell

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Killian

STATUS: Motion Passed.

13) CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a) David Shilts thanked the Council for voting for Thom and feels procedures were followed.
- b) Thom Cunningham commented on the proposal from Seeley in agreement with Mayor that a long term lease would solidify the business and the opportunity would help with employment issues.
- c) Brandy Schmitz-Prefontaine Appreciated the discussion- Island-wide Resolutions 2013-2014 (COTB Resolution 14-09-16-02) supporting the non-use of pesticides and herbicides. Quoted Whereas quote within resolution. Island-wide agreement that roadside management is not done by using chemicals.
- d) Keith Landers is wondering how many bids on the solid waste bailer project?
- i. Nyquest redirected – Point of Order – Public comment period.

14) CONTINUATION OF COUNCIL COMMENT:

- a) Lovell thanked Clerk and Administrator for putting together the budget and providing answers to questions.
- b) Pesterfield thanked the public for the attendance, thanked Ostrom for information on herbicide application, and clerk for easy to read budget.
- c) Nyquest showed appreciation to Ostrom for making it to the meeting, and the public for the discussion.

15) ADJOURNMENT: Adjourned at 8:20 pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a series of loops and a horizontal line.

Anthony Lovell, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, featuring a large, stylized 'C' followed by a horizontal line.

Caitlyn Sawyer, City Clerk/Treasurer