

MINUTES
FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE
CITY OF THORNE BAY, ALASKA
TUESDAY, JULY 1, 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, Nyquest, Cunningham, Kaer

Those absent were:

Blair, Killian

4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Vice Mayor moved to approve the Agenda, seconded,

Cunningham moved to amend the Agenda adding two items, Seconded Pesterfield

1. Grants list
2. Bid process

Discussion:

- Cunningham explained his reasons for wanting to add the items to the agenda.
- Council discussed the detriments and merits of having a grants list.
- Clerk clarified code already has a procurement section and employees follows a specific procedure for bidding processes.
- Vice Mayor restated the amended motion on the table:
 - Amend the agenda to include two additional discussion items:
 - Grants list
 - Bid process

Vice Mayor moved to amend the amended motion to state: Approval of the Agenda

MOTION: Move to approve the agenda.

F/S: Lovell/ Pesterfield

YEAS: Pesterfield, Lovell, Cunningham, Kaer, Nyquest

ABSENT: Killian, Blair

STATUS: Motion Passed

5) MAYOR'S REPORT: Kudos to John and Josh regarding the Landfill report, scored higher than previously.

6) ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

- a) City Administrator: See attached
- b) City Clerk: Starlink for DL is ready to be installed, Starlink for ambulances are ready to be installed, working from home but available, waiting for response about gaming permit, plan to follow up this week again, election prep is happening, planning training for election workers – 2 seats will be up for election Seat C and Seat B. Will have same day absentee voting at Davidson's Landing. Looking into some training opportunities for Clerk's office to boost knowledge. Thorne Bay Days volunteers – no response, would like to seek temporary employee for events planning to take the brunt of planning and

running this event. Finance reports will be sent out, working on a new format for ease of reading and transparency.

7) DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- a) Water Report: Written report given
- b) EMS Report: Written report given
- c) Harbor Report: Written report given
- Oral report: fixed some issues with power stations at dock, the old system needs to be maintained and replaced – goal to replace transient parts working way in. \$2200 to replace 6 stations/ year.

8) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Trina Pesterfield thanks for holding public discussions on ordinances and bid processes.

9) COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- a) Sean Kaer expressed appreciation to Harbormaster and piling maintenance. Agrees with bids discussion and would like to see more.
- b) Pesterfield thanks the Harbormaster and would like to see some kind of welcome with information instead of the float plane fees and the welcome fish. Commented he has spare things – windsock – he would donate to the City and assist in putting it up. Recommend cleats in stead of ropes at the end of the dock, happy to donate things to help spruce up the area and make it more welcoming. Offered to help
- c) Cunningham commented that the RV Park is a money maker and if the taxes are raised, 1% of taxes set aside for RV park improvements.
- d) Kaer questioned how to have a seconded meeting this month, Clerk responded.
- e) Nyquest thanked Pesterfield for his comments from earlier, and stated that as we place additional burdens on the City Admin and Clerk, it takes away from their other duties as well. Showed appreciation for the Harbormaster and the work that he's doing.
- f) Kaer commented that we could maybe have a local artist create something welcoming. Commented that there are things to donate to help out. Shower stalls that need to be fixed – screws need to be put into the wall. Harbormaster will look into it. Nyquest POI: the seat? Kaer confirmed.
- g) Lovell commented looks forward to discussions that are geared towards tax focus. Questioned if the City Administrator would put a report into the packet beforehand.

10) CONSENT AGENDA:

- a) Minutes of the June 17, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting, action item:

Vice Mayor moved to approved the Consent agenda, Seconded. No discussion

MOTION: Move to approve the Consent Agenda.

F/S: Lovell/ Pesterfield

YEAS: Pesterfield, Lovell, Cunningham, Kaer, Nyquest

ABSENT: Killian, Blair

STATUS: Motion Passed

11) NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Resolution 25-07-01-01: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Thorne Bay, Alaska, Approving The Request For A 6-Month Rental Extension For Lot4, In The Thorne Bay Rv Park, discussion and action item;

Vice Mayor moved to approved Resolution 25-07-01-01, Seconded. Discussion as follows;

Pesterfield agrees with extending the rental for an additional 6 months.

Nyquest agreed with extending, would like to have discussion on RV park in general for what the future of the RV park is.

Lovell questioned if that would be discussed later.

Nyquest pointed out items to discuss in the future.

Cunningham commented on past renters in the RV park – suggested short term rental and long term rental with certain terms.

Pesterfield agreed, requires further discussion for those things. Should approve this resolution

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 25-07-01-01.

F/S: Lovell/ Cunningham

YEAS: Pesterfield, Lovell, Cunningham, Kaer, Nyquest

ABSENT: Killian, Blair

STATUS: Motion Passed

b) Resolution 25-07-01-02: A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Thorne Bay, Alaska,

Approving a Short-term Lease with Alaska Marine Lines at the Sort Yard, discussion and action item;

Vice Mayor moved to approved Resolution 25-07-01-02, Seconded. Discussion as follows;

Pesterfield commented on discussion of length and land needs that happened prior, Thorne Bay could potentially get more money in the future if we could rent them more property.

Cunningham questioned if the City Administrator checked into other communities' rates and would like to see an increase. \$6 is not a lot. Would like to see Thorne Bay receive higher revenue.

Lovell POI is there a rubric for what we charge?

Huestis responded yes, tied to the CPI

Pesterfield commented that the rent is \$266 not \$6 and we are not leasing the property currently so we would be making money we are not currently.

MOTION: Move to approve Resolution 25-07-01-02.

F/S: Lovell/ Pesterfield

YEAS: Pesterfield, Lovell, Cunningham, Kaer, Nyquest

ABSENT: Killian, Blair

STATUS: Motion Passed

c) Discussion item: Development plan and Variance application for Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska,

Vice Mayor opened the discussion item:

Discussion as follows:

Trevor Newton provided a presentation on what the Tidal Network is, can do and why they are in need of a Variance for their tower.

Lovell: asked if the City would add their fire and EMS broadband to the tower if needed? Asked where internet is being received?

Luke Johnson: Many internet options

Trevor Newton explained further, shared slides explaining

Cunningham POI: will this tower be able to host cellular signals also?

Huestis clarified that the tower is for fixed wireless internet – being built for that purpose but could potentially house cell service later.

Newton: Tidal Network is the provider for internet. Starlink could be a potential backfall product.

The use of the tower will be to provide a structure for fixed broadband but will have ability to host other cellular providers.

Pesterfield stated that the need for the discussion item is for a height variance. Commented that there are houses close by the setbacks, and while there are fail safes for a falling tower, it does not mean that in the event of a natural disaster, it could fall onto neighboring properties. A higher tower would provide a larger range of service, there is another tower close by. Is this tower the same bandwidth as that tower?

Johnson responded 5g is a standard for technology – same frequency spectrum as 3g and 4g. explained fcc licensing numbers.

Pesterfield questioned what the height of the tower could be without the variance.

Newton responded about 150

Pesterfield what degree of degradation would it cause to have a 150 vs a 160 ft tower.

Newton responded line of sight would be interfered with, lower quality of service, less availability for other companies to add to tower, etc.

Lovell questioned if there is projected usage or coverage of customers?

Johnson responded does not have immediate numbers right this time.

Kaer questioned if any notices have been put out to the neighbors and questioned if the City will receive any revenue from this?

Clerk commented that the Clerk's office sends out notices to all neighbors.

Johnson clarified sales tax is not applied to internet providers.

Newton commented potential property tax. – Lovell commented there is no property tax.

Pesterfield Standalone or guidelines?

Newton – stand alone no guide wires

Cunningham questioned if this was part of the notice of intent?

Lovell questioned how the data would be repeated?

Johnson responded this model is not made as a mesh.

Huestis questioned knowledge of towers falling over due to emergency incidents?

Newton responded negative, not that he knows of. Tower will be fully engineered to prevent failure. Huestis question if this will be revenue mutual or is this just to supply to the company.

Johnson replied this is funded by grant monies – will intend to be cost effective.

12) CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a) Trina Pesterfield questioned health concerns etc.
- i. Johnson responded FCC safety information available.

13) CONTINUATION OF COUNCIL COMMENT:

- a) Pesterfield commented on the Thorne Bay Waterfront Plan from 2017. Discussion has happened a few times on the plan, and as it is 10 years old it is not considered sound for today's time. Would like to revisit and reconstruct the Waterfront Plan. Recommended a Town Hall type discussion on ways to revise the plan. Proposed a potluck style community discussion for the future of the waterfront plan. Guidance from the community would be beneficial for the future of Thorne Bay.
- b) Clerk clarified requirements for council meeting for potluck.
- c) Cunningham questioned limit of council members Clerk clarified
- d) Cunningham requested negotiations with JS include time limits for building and operating.

Commented that he does not agree that any discussion is a waste of time.

14) ADJOURNMENT: Vice Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:10 pm.


Shane Nyquest, Mayor

ATTEST:


Caitlyn Sawyer, City Clerk