

MINUTES

FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE
CITY OF THORNE BAY, ALASKA
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

THERE WAS A WORKSHOP BEGINNING AT 6:00PM

1) CALL TO ORDER:

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, Anderson, Cunningham, Nyquest, Kaer

Those absent were: Killian

4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor moved to approve the Agenda, seconded.

Discussion: None

F/S: Nyquest/ Lovell

YEAS: Pesterfield, Lovell, Anderson, Cunningham, Nyquest, Kaer

NAYS: Killian

STATUS: Motion Passed

5) MAYOR'S REPORT: Available, but gone over Thanksgiving until beginning of December.

6) DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

a) Harbor: Attached

7) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

a) David Shilts commented on the minutes of the last meeting.

i. Nyquest commented to clarify.

8) COUNCIL COMMENTS:

a) Pesterfield commented on the Department Report from the Harbormaster – weather used by pilots daily. This would be a good thing; the FAA guy will be here Thursday to look at sights to place equipment. Might need a land agreement with Thorne Bay to put the VWOS site. Cameras would benefit not just pilots, but boaters as well.

i. POI: Nyquest questioned if it would need to be placed by the water? Pesterfield responded no, typically on a tower for stabilization. FAA would know all those details. Harbor meeting with VWOS Thursday at 10:30.

b) Cunningham read job description for the City of Craig Administrator in response to commentary of wages offered.

9) CONSENT AGENDA:

a) Minutes of the November 4, 2025, Regular City Council Meeting, action item:

Mayor moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded. No Discussion

F/S: Nyquest/Lovell

YEAS: Lovell, Anderson, Nyquest, Kaer

NAYS: Pesterfield, Cunningham

ABSENT: Killian

STATUS: Motion Passed

10) NEW BUSINESS:

a) Discussion item: A discussion item on an Independent Audit;

- i. Cunningham stated an independent audit was requested to oversee the finances. Community interest in an independent audit.
- ii. Pesterfield Thanked Clerk for statement of outreach, read from the statement provided by Clerk. Next steps for council is to go through budget line items to see where to budget it from.
- iii. Cunningham questioned how long bids had been out?
 - Clerk clarified no RFP submitted yet, until Council directs. Just informational.
- iv. Anderson offered names of companies to reach out to.
- v. Nyquest commented that we are not going to get financial advising from the audit. Read from the 2006 Audit report the description of the financial audit. Would like to see the independent audit done.
- vi. Kaer questioned when the last time we received a Federal Grant?
 - Clerk clarified that independent audit requirements are for \$750,000 spent in the fiscal year, not received.

Discussion on grant history.

- vii. POI: Pesterfield \$750,000 Federal only?
 - Huestis discussed Grant requirement updates?
- viii. Kaer questioned how many grants we pulled out of vs acquired in relation to Audit requirements?
- ix. Huestis answered with process and discussions had with the Reconnect Grant.
- x. Pesterfield commented that the audit is to be sure finances are in order and processes are being followed and procedures are streamlined for future success. Audits are typically cheaper after the first one is done. It's not just for the grants.
- xi. Clerk commented that the firms chosen to reach out to for information were acquired through research of other cities in Alaska. If council chose to do a consultation, the price would not be at the high level, but did not get a quote for that. Requested questions Council would like to know?

b) Discussion item: A discussion item on Employee Gun Policy;

- i. Cunningham commented No real codes that govern gun policy other than in government buildings with posted signs. Asked Iura specifically about concealed weapons and response was for weapons in general and would look further into state statutes for concealed carry. Employees have right to conceal carry except in buildings that restrict guns.
 - Clerk summarized AS 29.35.145.
- ii. Pesterfield commented that most of those areas are behind a check point.
- iii. Cunningham commented he is targeting employees being allowed to carry on company time and within public vehicles.
 - Alaska Statute 29.35.145(4) Regulation of Firearms and knives
 - *prohibiting the possession of firearms or knives in the restricted access area of municipal government buildings; the municipal assembly shall post notice of the prohibition against possession of firearms or knives at each entrance to the restricted access area.*

- iv. Nyquest commented that he does not support restricting the second amendment.
- v. Cunningham clarified he does not want to restrict 2nd amendment, just prevent something before it happens.
- vi. Anderson commented that Council can be stricter than the Alaska Statutes.
- vii. Lovell suggested Council should have this ready by next meeting.
 - Clerk requested policy draft to be submitted to the Lawyer and read the legal description of "restricted areas" from AS 23.35.145(2)
 - *"restricted access area" means the area beyond a secure point where visitors are screened and does not include common areas of ingress and egress open to the general public.*
- viii. Lovell stated that what he is hearing is that the City is willing to accept responsibility for what happens if there is no policies in place.
- ix. Nyquest disagreed.
- x. Cunningham stated it is specifically for City Employees on City time, in City vehicles.

11) ORDINANCE FOR INTRODUCTION:

- a) Ordinance 25-11-18-01: An ordinance of the City Council for the City of Thorne Bay, Alaska amending Title 2 – Administration & Personnel, Chapter 2.04 – City Council, Section 2.04.130 – Meetings – Regular Subsection (A) Day of meetings held, Discussion and action item;

Mayor motioned to approve Ordinance 25-11-18-01, Seconded.

Discussion:

- i. Pesterfield stated the purpose of the Ordinance is to reinstate two meetings per month unless canceled by city council vote. Issues are too easily pushed aside or forgotten. 2 meetings a month will better prepare Council for informed action and focus on City priorities. To better serve citizens, Council needs timely information provided by City Administrator, Mayor, and Citizens through regular Council Meetings.
- ii. Lovell supports Ord change
- iii. Kaer supports Ord change
- iv. Cunningham supports Ord
- v. Nyquest commented that this is a waste of city resources and time due to lack of agenda items. We could add items to the agenda and save resources and time with one meeting.
- vi. Pesterfield commented that the second meeting is necessary because the TBMC does not necessarily reflect the best interests of the community or council. Sections address personnel Thorne Bay cannot accommodate. The Second meeting would be for Code and Policy review. Whether community comes and engages in the discussions or not, will be up to them. Full agenda or not, is not necessary, but we could accomplish more and keep them shorter. We could decide to cancel the second one if deemed necessary.
- vii. Kaer agreed with Pesterfield, council discusses items and does to address them in a timely manner. Need to be able to put Community wants and needs before the Council.
- viii. Lovell agreed with previous comments and suggested holding commission meetings during second meeting.
- ix. Nyquest suggested a code review committee to help Council review TBMC.
- x. Anderson commented that two meetings brings continuity and helps keep the flow.
- xi. Cunningham Suggested that the public may be more interested in meetings if Council addresses items forgotten.

- xii. Nyquest commented that the past has shown that people get bored with meetings that hold nothing of interest to them.

MOTION: Move to approve Ordinance 25-12-02-01
F/S: Nyquest/ Cunningham
YEAS: Pesterfield, Lovell, Anderson, Cunningham, , Kaer
NAYS: Nyquest
ABSENT: Killian
STATUS: Motion Passed

- b) Ordinance ORD 25-12-02-02: An ordinance of the City Council for the City of Thorne Bay, Alaska amending Title 2 – Administration & Personnel, Chapter 2.04 – City Council, Section 2.04.050 – Compensation of Council Members, Discussion and action item;

Mayor moved to approve ORD 25-12-02-02, seconded.

Discussion:

Pesterfield commented that this would remove a requirement for a budget amendment should the prior ordinance pass.

Anderson agreed none are doing this for a paycheck.

Cunningham commented that he is here to serve the public not for the money.

Kaer commented in agreement.

F/S: Nyquest/ Pesterfield
YEAS: Pesterfield, Lovell, Anderson, Cunningham, Nyquest, Kaer
NAYS: None
Absent: Killian
STATUS: Motion Passed

12) CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a) David Shilts commented in agreement with the Ordinances and would like to see them reviewed. Suggested Council read code requirements on audits. Questioned the situation with the City Administrator job.
- b) Trina Pesterfield commented that the Craig Administrator job is comparing apples to oranges, larger budget and different duties. Thanked Council for being concerned and opening discussions. Many items brought up have been hanging around for a while and should be addressed. Volunteered time to help Clerk with scanning of public documents. Audit is important for many reasons. Commented on Administrator's time spent and suggested audit would be a good way to dispel confusion. Suggested Council do annual audit every 5 years.
- c) Mike Huestis commented on property ownership since 2008, city has been improved around City in the past few years. Firehall repairs should have been done many years ago, and maintenance was not done that is being done now.
- d) Tara Blair commented in agreement of the audit. Excited to hear about new items being brought up. 6 months ago, same comments are brought up, do we have to hear about it at every Council meeting? Same with the grants. Suggested good, positive, and uplifting subjects will engage more community.

Pesterfield moved to add audit information on the next meeting agenda, Kaer seconded

Discussion: None

F/S: Pesterfield/ Kaer

YEAS: Pesterfield, Lovell, Anderson, Cunningham, Nyquest, Kaer

NAYS: None

Absent: Killian

STATUS: Motion Passed

13) CONTINUATION OF COUNCIL COMMENT:

- a) Anderson requested TBMC for audits.
- b) Pesterfield commented that he noticed work being done in the sand pit. Spoke with someone working and heard the City's shaker was broken and another one was being brought in. Voiced concerns over hiring a sub-contractor to do sand work and bringing in a shaker from somewhere else. Disappointed over City equipment condition, happy to see prep for winter being done.

Lovell motioned to add a discussion item to the next agenda to establish a projects committee, Pesterfield seconded

Discussion:

Lovell Project committee would be for community center, cemetery, firehall Davidson Landing, generator for Southside, etc. to fit the needs of what is being requested by the people.

POI: Nyquest What is the goal of a projects committee?

Lovell responded it would be a committee to focus on community desired focuses to report back to Council their findings.

Nyquest commented that he does not want a bunch of committees created making demands on City Administrator's time. Requested time to research and functionality of committees proposed.

Anderson commented in agreement with the discussion item.

Kaer commented on desire to get some things done.

Cunningham suggested adding the North road bridge to project list.

MOTION: Add discussion item on to the next agenda to establish a projects committee

F/S: Lovell/ Pesterfield

YEAS: Pesterfield, Lovell, Anderson, Cunningham, Nyquest, Kaer

NAYS: None

Absent: Killian

STATUS: Motion Passed

14) ADJOURNMENT: Mayor adjourned at 7:56pm



Shane Nyquest, Mayor

ATTEST:



Caitlyn Sawyer, City Clerk Treasurer