

MINUTES

FOR THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE
CITY OF THORNE BAY, ALASKA
TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026

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, Cunningham, Anderson, Kaer, Killian, Nyquest

Those absent were: None

4) APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Mayor Pro-Tem moved to approve the Agenda, Seconded, discussion:

MOTION: Move to approve Agenda.

F/S: Pesterfield/ Kaer

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

NAYS:

STATUS: Motion Passed

5) MAYOR'S REPORT:

- Several maintenance issues and lack of standards for employee inspection and reports. Held a staff meeting to review policies, open communication with staff about administrator expectations, and employee evaluations. Harbor restrooms are down due to pump failure. Council procedures reviewed for public records, proper procedures for staff directions, and appropriate interactions with any municipal entity. Looking to create committees, or just one, to focus on Davidson Landing Firehall project and the Cemetery.

6) ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

a) City Clerk:

- Gave an update on bank account switch, not quite done yet. Waiting on online access to have accurate statements for reconciliation and financial reporting. Budget templates will be ready for review soon as well as FY25 Certified Financial Statement. Insurance assessment came in, will be reviewing those numbers with the Mayor.

7) DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

- a) Water: In print
- b) Street and Roads: In print
- c) Harbor: In print

8) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- i. Brien Salazar, Taquan air: commented on the Alaska Seaplanes and mail route – more about routing of POW transportation, not just postal. Mail service allows scheduled service to many places on POW, not just mail delivery. Extra handoffs with proposed route through IAX/ AK Seaplanes. Creates a monopoly for them. Removes opportunities for communities to receive floatplane orders, health related things, pet travel to vet.

Would like to propose a resolution with personal commitment to deliver more with Council support of Taquan services. 100% Alaska owned company – Alaska Seaplanes 72% owned by lower 48 state residents.

- ii. Lisa Roseland, Thorne Bay: Read a letter into the record. (attached)
- iii. Sara Yockey, Coffman Cove: commented in agreement with previous statements. Creation of a monopoly isn't good for any of our communities. Competition is good and it creates economic development and delivery of supplies and meds, etc. encouraged City Council to look at the bigger picture before signing a letter of support for Island Air.
- iv. Julie Hall, Coffman Cove: 1987 resident – urged Council to reconsider support for Island Air, to keep Taquan services intact.
- v. Sean McRae, Thorne Bay: commented on the agenda item for Island Air Express support request. Taquan services available, weather permitting, time saving. If Island air gets contract, loss of employment and travel option availability.
- vi. Rob Houck , Thorne Bay: Supports Taquan Air – sent a letter to Clerk, would like to keep Taquan services as they are.
- vii. Sam Sawyer, Thorne Bay: Commented on parking difficulties at Island Air already, plans for mail if there's no post office in Thorne Bay?

9) COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- a) Kaer commented thanks for employment returns. Suggested a 12v system for water to Harbor fish cleaning station. Thanks for the Harbor bench fix in the shower.
- b) Cunningham commented on Island air parking issues. Showed support for local businesses and industries.

10) CONSENT AGENDA:

- a) Minutes of the March 3, 2026, Regular City Council Meeting, action item:

Mayor Pro-Tem moved to approve the Consent Agenda, Seconded, no discussion:

MOTION: Move to approve Consent Agenda.

F/S: Pesterfield/ Nyquest

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

NAYS: None

STATUS: Motion Passed

11) UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

12) NEW BUSINESS:

- a) Discussion item: Island Air request for letter of support, discussion and possible action item; *Agenda Item requested by Island Air, sponsor: Timber Pesterfield*
Anderson requested to be recused due to conflict of interest and moved to the public audience, Mayor Pro-tem Pesterfield agreed.

Discussion as follows

- i. Jodi Garza, Island Air Express :
 - Intention is to provide more reliable mail service, not intended to remove jobs or services.
 - Only weathered 8 days last year
 - Deliver to Klawock and Craig
 - Commented on parking and work being done in the future to improve.
- ii. Pesterfield questioned if this is just Thorne Bay or other communities as well? Asked if IAX

long term plan is to take over point to point contracts that will lose mail services with the potential take over of USPS Contract or just to the communities with heavy services?

- Garza answered just communities on road system.
- iii. Pesterfield what about the satellite communities left out?
 - Garza answered not planning to open up to other communities, only communities on the road system.
- iv. Cunningham questioned if they will provide mail deliveries to communities?
 - Garza responded mail will be delivered to communities from Klawock.
- v. Killian commented smaller communities will not be getting their mail if IAX takes over the contract.
- vi. **Lovell** questioned if it is the City's responsibility to supply a letter of support for a company's business plan.
 - Garza responded looking for support from communities that would be serviced by the change in contract, not a requirement.
- vii. Kaer questioned if Island air would be willing to take on community members when needed like Taquan does?
 - Garza responded no planes flying directly to Thorne Bay.
- viii. Kaer commented in support small businesses
- ix. **Dave Egleston, Thorne Bay:** commented we have a responsibility to protect, not only Thorne Bay, but also the small communities around the island. We need services that come into the small towns and seats on planes. Requested we stick with Taquan.
- x. **Jim Baichtal, Thorne Bay:** Read a letter into the record. (attached)
- xi. **Nyquest** thanked Jodi and Brian for their contributions to the discussion. Expressed appreciation for both companies. Suggested the mail delays are not local
- xii. Clerk Read Public comments received by email into the record. (attached)
- xiii. **Brian Taquan:** commented 8 days of non-flight doesn't include mechanical cancellations. UPS contract was outbid by another company – other communities have expressed dissatisfaction with the new contracted company. Would like to put forth a Resolution to the City for support of Taquan. Read proposed Resolution into the record (attached). Scheduled service will not be able to be provided without the USPS contract.
- xiv. **Gary Anderson, Thorne Bay, The Port:** Relies heavily on the contract with Taquan to pay employees. Postal contract requires delivery to the door, Taquan hold a contract to drop mail on the dock. Island Air's contract would be delivery to the door and income would be lost.
- xv. **David Shilts, Thorne Bay:** Positive sides of the proposal are outweighed by the negatives for the many communities.
- xvi. **Trina Pesterfield, Thorne Bay:** would like to see The Port stay open and suggested better commitment from Brian at Taquan to have van trucks more regularly.

- b) Discussion, possible action item: Letter of Support for Whale Tale Pharmacy, discussion possible action item; *Agenda Item requested by Julie Lynch McDonald, Whale Tale pharmacy*

No Discussion

Motioned to move item to next meeting, Lovell Seconded

MOTION: Move to approve Consent Agenda.

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

- c) Discussion item: Renewal of SEARHC Lease, exp 4/30/2026, discussion item,
- i. Council discussed lease terms for SEARHC
 - ii. POI Cunningham Has city hall insurance increased?
- d) Discussion item: Adventure Alaska proposal of Resolution amendments, discussion item; *Agenda Item requested by Luther Jenson, Adventure Alaska*
- i. Luther Jenson, Thorne Bay, Adventure Alaska: commented on intent of proposed resolution. Rent stalls year round suggested long-term solutions for harbor use. Attempting to act proactively by raising the issue for discussion, rather than retroactively. explained the "Community Concerns" letter given to guests.
 - ii. Cunningham commented on past harbor use by charter companies and lack of availability for community members. Questioned if they would give up stalls for locals if necessary?
 - Jenson answered Harbor is half empty and spikes in the summer not specifically to locals but also to tourists and summer visitors. Intent is to pay for empty stalls monthly, year round.
 - iii. Anderson questioned how much of the City's sales tax revenue his business pays and if they are willing to pay for monthly moorage year round?
 - Jenson answered in the affirmative
 - iv. Lovell POI: Can Council make a motion in acceptance of proposed Resolution?
 - Mayor clarified agenda items
 - v. Jenson raised potential issues at the harbor to the Council and expressed interest in further discussions on making annual moorage available.
 - vi. Nyquest questioned if any boats had been bumped to his knowledge?
 - Jenson responded not to his knowledge
 - vii. Pesterfield commented that the need for harbor expansion in the future and may need to amend codes in the future to allow more business.
 - viii. Nyquest questioned if they are looking for 1 year or if they are looking for more than one year?
 - Jenson responded comfortable with revisiting in a year and continuing discussions.
 - ix. Lisa Roseland, Thorne Bay: read letter into the record. (attached)
 - x. Trina Pesterfield, Thorne Bay: out of towners rent annually, business should have the same ability.
 - xi. Sam Sawyer, Thorne Bay: suggested that the lack of slips has not presented as an issue and city should support local companies.
 - xii. Sean McRae, Thorne Bay: in support of Resolution
 - xiii. Dave Eggeston, Thorne Bay: Suggested support for Adventure Alaska and Ordinance change to support annual stalls for businesses.
- e) Resolution 26-03-17-01: Approving the request from Adventure Alaska to rent 12 additional boat stalls, discussion and action item; *Agenda item requested by Luther Jenson, Adventure Alaska*

Mayor Pro-Tem moved to approve the Resolution 26-03-17-01, Seconded, discussion:

Anderson moved to amend Resolution to match proposed resolution, Seconded,

MOTION: Move to approve amended Resolution 26-03-17-01,

F/S: Pesterfield/ Kaer

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

NAYS:

STATUS: Motion Passed

Discussion as follows:

POI Lovell: Do we need to add an extension of time?

Answer: No, TBMC does not speak to any time limits on this,

MOTION: Move to approve amended Resolution 26-03-17-01.

F/S: Pesterfield/ Cunningham

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

NAYS:

STATUS: Motion Passed

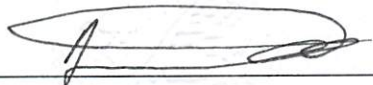
13) CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

- a) Trina Pesterfield, Thorne Bay: suggested a financial background check for administrator applicants in addition to background checks.
- b) Jenson thanked council and public for support

14) CONTINUATION OF COUNCIL COMMENT:

- a) Nyquest thanks to public for participation thanked Pesterfield for stepping up and leadership.
- b) Lovell commented on budget focuses and suggested permanent grant writing structure for the city.
- c) Killian thanks to Luther Jenson for letter submitted
- d) Cunningham welcomed Sam back and welcomed public participation.
- e) Nyquest congrats to new landfill operator.
- f) Pesterfield thanked all for attending and participating. Special thanks to Lucy for running the Community Center Planning Committee. Looking to create committees for cemetery, events, and some other needs. Thanks to everyone supporting local businesses. Mayor election will be coming up soon.

15) ADJOURNMENT: Mayor pro-tem adjourned the meeting at 8:37 pm



Anthony Lovell, Vice Mayor

ATTEST:


Caitlyn Sawyer, City Clerk / Treasurer

To the Thorne Bay City Council,

I am writing to urge the Council to carefully consider the long-term impact before issuing a letter of support for Island Air to take over the Thorne Bay mail service.

While consistent mail delivery is a challenge for any carrier, we must look at the broader value Taquan Air provides by landing directly at our harbor. Shifting mail service to a wheeled carrier in Klawock would likely signal the end of daily scheduled year around float plane service to Thorne Bay. This would force our residents to drive to Klawock to ship and collect freight items, transport animals, or catch a scheduled flight – services we currently enjoy right here at home.

Taquan Air has proven to be a dedicated partner for years, often going above and beyond. From putting mail trucks on the ferry during bad weather, to assisting the community when other carriers folded, their commitment has been clear. In fact, the CEO Brian Salazar's presence here tonight – having personally brought a mail truck over on the ferry – is a testament to that dedication.

We should not be so quick to turn our backs on a partner that lands in our waters and supports our local infrastructure in favor of a service that would move our logistics hub away from Thorne Bay. I ask the Council to maintain its support for our local float plane service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Roseland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lisa" being more prominent than the last name "Roseland".

Lisa Roseland

Thorne Bay Resident

Thorne Bay City Council-3/17/2026

I am addressing you today because Alaska Sea Planes and Island Air Express have asked for a letter of support from the City of Thorne Bay to obtain the USPS mail contract for the communities of Thorne Bay and Coffman Cove.

Though at first glance this proposal seems to have merit, seems to possibly offer consistent and reliable delivery of USPS mail to the communities, the negative consequences of this proposal outweigh the positive in my opinion.

If Taquan Air loses the USPS contract to deliver mail to these communities there will be immediate consequences.

If Taquan Air loses the contract it will likely be forced to discontinue scheduled service to Thorne Bay, Coffman Cove, Naukati, and Whale Pass. This would likely make it economically impossible to continue scheduled service to other remote Prince of Wales Communities as well. This would greatly isolate these communities.

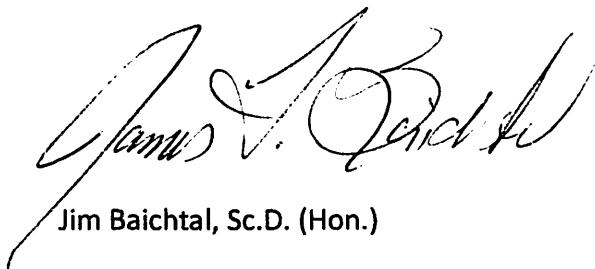
Locally, the Port's financial stability might be placed in question. The Port relies heavily on the Taquan contract to pay employees and conduct business in this community. With no Port, there will be no fuel, no convenience store, and no mail! Think about all the Port means to this community! The substantial sales tax revenue the Port now pays to the City of Thorne Bay will be gone.

By Alaska Sea Planes and Island Air requesting these two high volume USPS contracts they could destabilize the economy of all of the remote communities.

Float plane charter flights would be the only option for getting to any of these communities. No seat fair, no package delivery, critical freight, pets, essential goods, auto parts, and time sensitive business shipments. No completion for seat fair rates.
competition

Karen and I ran a business in this community for 14 years, we know and understand the slim profit margins local businesses operate on. This change of USPS contract provider, just might be the proverbial nail-in-the-coffin for the Port, not to mention the social and economic consequences to the other remote Island communities.

We urge you not to support this USPS contract change. We urge you to in fact write a letter or create a resolution in support of Taquan Air maintaining the current USPS contract. Maintaining the status quo.



Jim Baichtal, Sc.D. (Hon.)

Thorne Bay, Alaska Resident

(907)-209-6690

baichtal557@gmail.com

To the Thorne Bay City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for approving annual boat stalls for Adventure Alaska.

As a locally owned and operated business that has rented monthly slips for years, they deserve the stability of an annual agreement. This ensures they can continue to operate and contribute to our local economy without the constant uncertainty of stall availability.

Adventure Alaska has proven to be an exemplary tenant. They take immense pride in maintaining their equipment and city property, and they prioritize safety by fully insuring their fleet. Given that Thorne Bay currently lacks dedicated commercial harbor space and is in need of consistent revenue, securing this partnership is a practical win for the city.

I urge the Council to approve this request to support a responsible local business

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Roseland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "R".

Lisa Roseland

Thorne Bay Resident