

**Minutes of Regular Assembly Meeting  
Held March 27, 2012**

Mayor Jeremy Maxand called the regular assembly meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., March 27, 2012, in the Council Chambers. Assembly Members Stokes, Jack, Privett, McConachie, and Symons were in attendance. Assembly Member McCloskey was absent. Borough Manager Timothy Rooney and Borough Clerk Christie Jamieson were also in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assembly Member Wilma Stokes.

Invocation was given by Mike Ashton, Baha'i Faith.

Community Presentation – Tobacco Cessation Interventions by Addy Esco, AICS

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

*Moved by Jack, seconded by McConachie, to postpone Consent Agenda Item #13h until April 10, 2012, "Consideration to Vacate three ROW areas in the Wrangell Industrial Park Subdivision", so that there can be a public hearing held prior to consideration and approval. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.*

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

*Moved by Privett, seconded by McConachie, to approve Consent Agenda Items (\*) 6a, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d, 7e, 7f. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

\*6a Minutes of public hearing and assembly regular meeting held March 6, 2012 were approved as presented.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

- \*7a Wrangell Chamber of Commerce request to set 2012 tax free days for Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012
- \*7b Minutes for Parks and Recreation Board regular meeting held February 1, 2012
- \*7c Minutes of Port Commission regular meeting held February 21, 2012
- \*7d Minutes for Wrangell School Board regular meetings held February 20, 2012 and March 19, 2012
- \*7e Minutes for Thomas Bay Power Authority regular meeting held January 26, 2012
- \*7f Minutes for Cemetery Committee meeting held March 19, 2012

## **BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT**

- Administrative – Holiday Closure – March 26<sup>th</sup> for Seward's Day; Nuisance Abatement; Downtown Revitalization Plan; Coffee with the Mayor; Board of Adjustment, March 22, 2012; Wrangell Medical Center Replacement Project
- Parks – Outdoor Shooting Range; Park Restrooms; New Signage; Pool
- Finance – Tax Assessment Notices; Utility Ordinance Changes
- Capital Projects – City Dock Rehabilitation; Community Center Renovations; Farmer's Market/Community Garden Grant; Front Street Electrical Underground; Marine Service Center Concrete Paving; Etohin Street and Medical Campus Utilities; Wrestling Mat Athletic Equipment
- Electric Department – LED Lighting; Miscellaneous Items
- Library – Miscellaneous Items

Assembly Member Symons said the outdoor shooting range has become a dumping ground; we need to keep that area clean and the Police Department should be notified immediately; we should put something in the paper as a notice.

Borough Manager Rooney said a letter will be put in the paper.

## **BOROUGH CLERK'S FILE**

- Upcoming Dates to Remember
- OMA Classes held March 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> – Borough Clerk Jamieson said that 27 were in attendance on March 9<sup>th</sup>, the first day of classes, with 24 in attendance the second day. Jamieson thanked the Chamber of Commerce for the donation of baked goods, and thanked the City & Borough of Wrangell for sponsoring the classes. She would like to continue holding these types of classes each and every year. And then she gave a big thank you to the Attorneys Michael Gatti and Krista Stearns as presenters.
- Code Review Process – Jamieson explained that she would like to be in charge of a code review process. She explained the assembly can choose one of two options for the review of the charter and code. The assembly can either approve a Code Review Committee, similar to the ones in the past, but with clear direction, or have the borough clerk choose one other staff member to bring forth to the assembly revisions, consider and then approve in their final stage. Both options carry a public process.

## **MAYOR/ASSEMBLY REPORTS AND APPOINTMENTS**

### **10a Reports by Assembly Members**

Assembly Member McConachie said the classes were informative and phrased the borough clerk who had the responsibility of putting together the classes; the discussion of having another charter and code review was briefly discussed at the classes and so this item will be on a future assembly agenda for consideration.

Assembly Member Jack said he attended along with the borough manager, the Alaska Municipal League Legislative meetings; we discussed the Southeast Intertie; AML supported the Southeast Intertie fully; Congressman Young was present at the AML meetings; one of the greatest things was having young people in attendance; there was a conference of young Alaskans between the ages of 18-25; they were well-spoken and were great speakers at the last day of the conference.

#### **10b Proclamation – Health Fair Week**

Borough Clerk Jamieson read the proclamation into the public record, with Mayor Maxand presenting the proclamation to Cathy Gross, Wrangell Medical Center.

Ms. Gross gave some background history of the annual Health Fair Festival.

#### **10c Proclamation – National Doctors Day**

#### **10d Accept resignation from Jeannie Lindley from Planning & Zoning Commission**

#### **10e Appointment to the Economic Development Committee**

Mayor Maxand accepted Kipha Valvoda to the EDC with no objections from remaining members of the assembly.

### **PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

**Mark Robinson**, President of WMC, 8.5 mile Zimovia Highway, said there is no doubt that WMC is part of the borough; we have been working since January to try to arrange a joint meeting, and address and exchange ideas and to work out differences; we scheduled the first week of April with the help of Christie; the meeting was no longer scheduled; we do not know why; apparently the city attorney did not draft ordinances; the ordinances should have been drafted by the borough attorney; the people of Wrangell will lose the funding for the replacement of the hospital; second, the employees will lose their retirement status and forced into the system; the assembly apparently dismantled a critical hospital and replaced it with a politically correct station; we are still open for meeting and dialogue.

**Olinda White**, 113 Mt. Dewey Lane, made comments on all proposed ordinances pertaining to WMC. She said the policies on the city, the hospital would have to follow all grievances and policies; every year we have to make changes; we have things setup so we can pass surveys, we have all of the information to track so none of it gets lost and we do not get fined, and make sure they happen; I don't have a problem sharing policies; they need to be put in your policies from the hospital; they can't just be a blanket; you have to take the city's policies; they have to work with Medicare; we have to have certain things in the policies; our policies are much more elaborate; you need to be aware of that; it's upsetting to me, excess funds, the budgets; I have worked for the hospital for over 20 years; that has always been acceptable; we submit the budget in June; medical like a lot of other

things is not standard; the more information you have, the more accurate it will be; we also get information from the association of payroll, in the state, Mr. Gilbert tried to make sure the professionals in the hospital hit the mid-point on the pay range.

I would not be able to do a 9 month budget, not feasible; much more guess work; another thing medical insurance, you do not get those numbers until the last minute; they do not want to give you those numbers early enough; those two things are large numbers; second, the city has always hired the auditors that do our audits; we are not even asked, the city has always hired them, and this is who you work with; the auditors have always been to the city and approved by the city council; financial statements, bank statements are put on excel sheets, come to the city council as part of the minutes so you have them part of the time; another thing what is excess funds, and what are reserve funds, our services are provided to Medicare and Medicare recipients; that doesn't give you any money, Medicare pays you all years on an estimate costs; when that cost report gets done, we owe Medicare money or they may pay us; I only have a few days to pay that; we have to have our revenue from the third party pairs to stay open; that is what keeps us open; we have a problems with billing; tell me how fast the money goes; we now have some money back; when you have receivables over \$3 million; you have to take that into account; auditors, should have 6 months of reserves to stay afloat; you have no time to react; get on the phone; get the funds so we can stay open; these are all things that have to happen; one of our accounts, funded appreciation account, that acct is to be used for capital items; if that money is taken by the city, not an allowable expense, they can go back as many years; not an allowable costs but I just want you to be aware of how important this is; we have all the policies in place; we have more than one person in place; there has to be more than one person sign a check; we worked with the auditors; I used to do audits; I know what they have to do; I do not question them; we give them the information they need.

**Sue Nelson**, 1055 Zimovia Highway, said she would like to speak to the draft ordinances; thank you for putting on the OMA classes; 3.20.030 personnel policies and grievances; we are governed by strict rules; mandatory reporting; we do the background checks; we cannot hire people who have been convicted of crimes; we sign confidentiality agreements; they are strictly adhere to; our employees are monitored all the time; go through background checks; I've been there almost 25 years; go through every 6 years; none of these are addressed; we are surveyed annually; surveyors are here for a full week; we have to provide that information otherwise levied a fine; I object to opening up our board; our OMA, incompatible office, duties of the offices with undivided loyalty; in direct conflict, they have that incompatible powers; when we are looking 3.32.090, the audit, our reserves need to be accessible; if we have a piece of equipment, lab equipment go down, we cannot wait for the assembly to consider and wait; a patient's life depends on this equipment; carefully look at the reserves; 3.32.030, our policies are in place; we follow those to the extent, if a person has a grievance, there is a step to step to follow; I wish you would table them or not pass them.

**Janet Bunness**, 113 Reid Street, said she has been an employee for many many years of WMC; its important of what you've heard in the past, consider administration, I'm an hourly wage employee; I want to speak about the personnel policy, the City is detrimental to me and other hourly employees, how people are paid, everything from call back and benefits; not clearly stated that the

borough would want to place this under the policies of the city; like to hear from the borough; personnel policies, if we were to fall under the borough, would we be considered brand new employees, not have seniority; second part question, considered longevity employees, vacation and benefits that I receive, my assumption, you could not pick and choose the benefits I would get; spoke with PERS, anyone working before 1986 put in the correct Tier 1; I can't believe you would pick and choose; question why it is do you feel we need to move us under the personnel policies; Olinda spoke well; I attend board meetings all the time; I know in Ketchikan in the past, they have a physicians on their board; there is only one physician in Ketchikan who is not paid by the hospital; I think it is a direct conflict of interest.

**Cathy Gross**, 104 Reid Street, read through all of these ordinances, no reasoning behind them; when you go into discussion, before coming into the reasoning; we want to know what is going on with this; I thought long and hard, another city in Alaska where the city assembly took over management of the hospital, it was a disaster; I don't think they are still doing good; thirdly, when Olinda was talking, I've worked at the 24 years at the hospital; I've never known Olinda as been dishonest; I find it offensive and it was directed at the finances at the hospital.

**Linda Bjorge**, reads her letter into the record.

**Paul Southland**, 114 Third Street, talked about energy. Southland said he is in favor of adopting letter to AEA. He read a letter from Representative Peggy Wilson and reads a portion of Senator Stedman's on the same issue.

**Bob Maxand**, 319 Church, said he was at the meeting when you discussed the ordinances changes; commend Vice Mayor Jack and this council for going ahead and having these changes drawn up; today I read all of these ordinances; hospital people have concerns; the buck stops here as said by Assembly Member Privett; I don't think you are doing this to harm the hospital; its needed; it's getting to be a bundle there; I know they are concerned about some of the issues; one ordinance, I'm sure you've got some problems with; maybe you will table it; as far as the rest of them, I commend you to move them along; make some tough decisions; from I heard tonight, they don't have a payment on the new hospital; they laugh about it, make a joke; it's questionable; I believe; if it becomes a reality, don't have the money to make a loan payment; they promised the taxpayers that this was not going to happen; I commend you if you move along with these ordinances; I spend 11 years on the council and the school board and worked on the budgets all the time; I think you are doing the right thing.

**Sandra Overbay**, 12 mile Zimovia, said her life is in jeopardy today and in this town; I came back after a heart transplant; there was only one doctor that would take me; I had Washington and have emergency doctor to call her at the pharmacy with my medication; I can't going on like this being afraid; I'm not moving out of town; I'm not leaving; I can't emergency doctor unless they know what is going on; I have a heart rejection; I have my test done every other month; I tell Dr. Salard, I can't have the emergency people touch me; what can you do; can you get a long; can you see eye to eye; I babysat some of your homes; I've been in this community most of my life; I was living an electric

drip; come to terms; I'm only one person; there is going to be more people who need that help; my doctor cannot go into the emergency room; what do I do, I die; I will die; I am not moving; people cannot get along; they cannot manage their differences; you are dealing with life's when dealing with some things; I'm not going to give you a prescription because that is a harsh prescription; I cannot go without that prescription; I might not be here that much longer; get this together.

**Nancy Longers**, 9.1 mile Zimovia, speaking you as a private citizen; lived in Wrangell almost two years; I think something is broken; both AICS physicians that we both saw have left; now because of some internal struggle, another AICS may be leaving; both current Dr. Salard and Dr. Prysunka are proficient; they both kindly taken care of us as we would like to be cared for; what is the problem; is it WMC or the Borough; can it be fixed through these ordinances; I would think it might be a start; have physicians stay here; how can we build when no doctors will attend? I wished I had more knowledge before I had moved here; how can the assembly stand by and allow WMC terminate a fine physician out of town; I'm asking the assembly to fix this problem for the most people that are most effective, the citizens of Wrangell.

**Maxie Wiederspohn**, 3 mile Zimovia, lived here all my life; started in early 60's with Dr. Dale; moved over to Wrangell General; worked with Dr. Schirmer for 18 years; worked with Dr. Candles for 5 years; working with 15-18 physicians from time to time; I believe the assembly is doing good; if you want to get a vote from everyone, open up a vote, whether you want this hospital or not; we want the hospital; we want you guys to get along; I have given all my life and love; that hospital would be a blessing; we can't do that if we are fighting; it's time to man up.

**Jerry Buethe**, 3.25 Zimovia highway, said he wants to see everybody, whether WMC, the assembly, public works, we need to go by the same rules; go by the borough charter; we need to go by the same rules; we all need to know what is going on.

Mayor thanked everyone being concise and respectful on topics and relevance; it went much than I anticipated; I appreciate, if you have written comments, do that beyond this assembly meeting.

Recessed @ 8:25 pm

Reconvened @ 8:32 pm

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**13a** PROPOSED ORDINANCE: AN ORDINANCE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING 3.32.007 RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE WRANGELL MEDICAL CENTER (first reading)

*Moved by Privett, seconded by McConachie, to approve first reading, and move to second reading with a public hearing to be held on April 10, 2012. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.*

**13b** PROPOSED ORDINANCE: AN ORDINANCE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING 3.32.030 RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE WRANGELL MEDICAL CENTER (first reading)

*Moved by Privett, seconded by Stokes, to table this proposed ordinance. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.*

**13c** PROPOSED ORDINANCE: AN ORDINANCE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING 3.32.030 RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE WRANGELL MEDICAL CENTER (first reading)

*Moved by Privett, seconded by Symons, to table this proposed ordinance. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.*

**13d** PROPOSED ORDINANCE: AN ORDINANCE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING 3.32.090 RELATING TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE WRANGELL MEDICAL CENTER (first reading)

*Moved by Privett, seconded by Jack, to table proposed ordinance. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.*

**13e** PROPOSED RESOLUTION #03-12-1244: A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, SUPPORTING THE CASSIAR STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

*Moved by McConachie, seconded by Jack, to adopt resolution. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.*

**13f** Authorization for the Borough Manager to enter into a contract with PND Engineers for Contract and Inspection Services for Wrangell City Dock Rehabilitation Project

*Moved by Jack, seconded by Privett, to authorize the Borough Manager to enter into a contract with PND Engineers, based on Time & Expense and in the amount not to exceed \$204,620 for the Contract Administration and Inspection services, which are scheduled to be paid from the City and Borough of Wrangell's grant funds, provided by State of Alaska and by the Denali Commission, for the Wrangell City Dock Rehabilitation Project. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.*

**13g** Discussion and Possible Action regarding City and Borough of Wrangell comments on the draft Integrated Resource Plan

**Moved by McConachie, seconded by Symons, approved that a letter be sent to the AEA with the assembly's blessing. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.**

**\*13h** Consideration to Vacate three Right of Way Areas in the Wrangell Industrial Park Subdivision

*This item will be postponed until April 10, 2012, to when a public hearing can be held.*

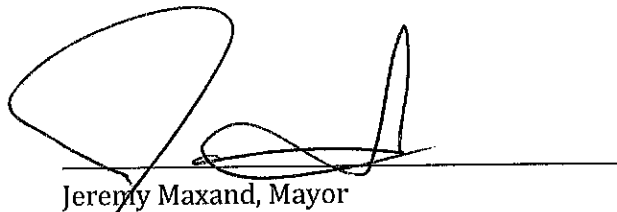
**ATTORNEY'S FILE**

A copy of an invoice dated March 7, 2012, was presented.

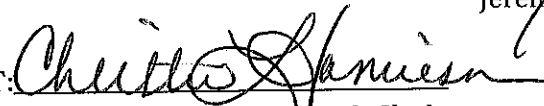
**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

No session was held.

**ADJOURNMENT 9:00 p.m.**



Jeremy Maxand, Mayor

ATTEST:   
Christie L. Jamieson, Borough Clerk

