

**Minutes of Regular Assembly Meeting
Held on November 10, 2015**

Mayor David L. Jack called the Regular Assembly meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., November 10, 2015, in the Borough Assembly Chambers. Assembly Members Decker, Powell, Mitchell, Blake, Prysunka and Rooney were present. Borough Manager Jeff Jabusch and Borough Clerk Kim Lane were also in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assembly Member Steve Prysunka.

The Invocation was given by Don McConachie.

CEREMONIAL MATTERS

Certificate of Service was presented to Cori Robinson for her service on the Hospital Board.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Manager Jabusch requested that Item 13d (Approval of the proposal received for the Wrangell Institute Master Plan Development and Subdivision), not be considered by the Assembly this evening. Jabusch stated that the review committee wanted to conduct interviews with those who submitted proposals and that once the committee had a decision, we would bring it back to the Assembly for approval.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Assembly Member Decker declared a potential conflict of interest to item 13e (Approval of the proposal received for the Wrangell Institute Master Plan Development and Subdivision).

Mayor Jack determined that there was no conflict. There were no objections from the Assembly.

CONSENT AGENDA

M/S: Mitchell/Blake, to approve Consent Agenda Items marked with an () asterisk; Item 6a. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Assembly meetings held October 27, 2015 were approved, as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS – None

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

In addition to his report, Manager Jabusch stated that he and Finance Director Burgess had traveled to Craig last week to explore potential options for a new accounting program; he explained that the current program was obsolete and that soon, it would not be supported; the cost would be under \$100,000; would depend on the modules that we chose.

BOROUGH CLERK'S FILE

Clerk Lane's report was provided.

MAYOR/ASSEMBLY REPORTS AND APPOINTMENTS

10a Reports by Assembly Members

Assembly Member Prysunka stated that SEAPA had had a special meeting; he and Clay Hammer had attended; SEAPA had been looking at purchasing Bell Island; preliminary work had been done; the Board had decided not to pursue the purchase at this time.

Assembly Member Decker stated that Dan Ortiz had a survey available online that was on the State's financial crisis; survey had been emailed to the Assembly.

Assembly Member Blake questioned Manager Jabusch on the Emergency Action Plan. Blake stated that he would like to be involved in the process.

Manager Jabusch stated that he would be researching what needed to be done and who would be doing it; Jabusch also said that the Fire Department had been given cots and emergency supplies.

Chief Doug McCloskey stated that there was an Emergency Action plan that was about 10 to 12 years old; Jamie Roberts, LEPC was in the process of preparing cliff notes to revise the plan.

10b City Boards and Committee Appointments

Mayor Jack appointed Duke Mitchell to the Planning & Zoning Commission vacancy, with the term expiring October 2018.

As there were no letters received for the other boards and committees, the Mayor directed the Clerk to continue advertising for those vacancies.

10c Appointment to fill the vacancies on the SEAPA Board (one voting seat and one alternate seat)

Mayor Jack recommended that Steve Prysunka be appointed to fill the SEAPA Board Voting member seat. There were no objections from the assembly.

Mayor Jack recommended that Clay Hammer be appointed to fill the SEAPA Board Alternate member seat. There were no objections from the assembly.

10d Appointment of an assembly member as the Hospital Board Liaison

M/S: Mitchell/Prysunka, to appoint Becky Rooney to fill the vacancy of Hospital Board Liaison to the Wrangell Medical Center Board. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

12a PROPOSED ORDINANCE No. 911: AN ORDINANCE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 15.18,

GARBAGE, OF THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE, RELATING TO MAINTENANCE OF REFUSE CONTAINERS AND OUTSIDE BURNING OF CERTAIN MATERIALS, AND AMENDING THE SECTION ON PENALTY FOR VIOLATION TO REFERENCE THE MINOR OFFENSE FINE SCHEDULE IN WMC 1.20.050 (*revised – third reading*)

M/S: Blake/Mitchell, to adopt Ordinance No. 911. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

12b PROPOSED ORDINANCE No. 912: AN ORDINANCE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING THE MINOR OFFENSE FINE SCHEDULE IN CHAPTER 1.20, GENERAL PENALTY, OF THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE – *Postponed from the October 27th meeting (third reading)*

M/S: Prysunka/Rooney, to adopt Ordinance No. 912. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

NEW BUSINESS

13a Approval of an Electric Department Rate Study

M/S: Rooney/Mitchell, to accept HDR Engineering's Proposal to conduct an electric rate study in the amount of \$24,990 with funding to come from the electrical department's approved budget for this project.

Assembly Member Blake expressed concern with this study; with the study would be the appearance that rates might go up; assembly had stated that rates would not go up when the conversion with SEAPA had occurred; project engineer would be making \$375 per hour; \$25,000 should be used to invest in the aging equipment that we currently have.

Assembly Member Prysunka expressed concern that our infrastructure was not included in the study that was done five years ago; the City had already paid once to have this done five years ago and now we are looking to spend \$25,000 to do the same thing. Prysunka stated that he didn't understand why this same company would allow us to not have our infrastructure taken into account when they did the study five years ago; appears that we would be paying the same amount of money for them to plug new numbers into a spreadsheet that we own.

Assembly Member Decker questioned how come this study couldn't be done in-house; maybe there was some information that was missing.

In response to Assembly Member Mitchell, Manager Jabusch stated that five years ago when they had done the rate study, they did ask the question of our Superintendent at the time as to why the infrastructure wasn't included; Capital projects were considered; Jabusch agreed that that information should have been included; he stated that the aging of our system may not have been looked at by staff; if the system study had been done at that time with the infrastructure, they would have had better information to complete the study; there is a lot more to it than plugging in numbers; there is an actual science to doing the rate study; part of the study is to make sure that each class of customer is treated fairly; there are rules that they have to go by; data collected looks at the rates between commercial and residential rates.

Assembly Member Powell questioned the rate increase in 2014; why do we need to pay \$25,000 to tell us that we need to raise rates; would rather see us implement a small rate increase instead of pay \$25,000.

Jabusch stated that the reserves in the Light Department were doing down; the increase was to raise the reserves; the reserves have gone up a little bit.

Assembly Member Prysunka stated that his concern was that the community was told that we would not raise rates; SEAPA has not raised rates however, the rates may go up due to the community's needs; worried because we are at 80% of our infrastructure; would have liked to have known that information early on.

Jabusch agreed with Prysunka; stated that Clay Hammer has been proactive in assessing the infrastructure now; if the Assembly did not want to approve the study, part of the agreement with SEAPA is that the City is required to be able to provide back-up generation; we are around the limit where we could do this.

Decker questioned if the systems study that was done back in 2005 came with a price tag for the infrastructure we have. Jabusch stated that yes, he believed it did.

Prysunka expressed his concern that the Assembly was not notified before now what our distribution system is at 80% of its life; stated that he would like to see the Utility department to come up with a priority list of what needs to be done.

Jabusch stated that if the Assembly did not want to approve the study, staff could look at doing what needed to be done within the budget.

Motion failed with Rooney, Decker, Powell, Mitchell, Blake, Prysunka, and Mayor Jack voting no.

13b Approval to renew the Attorney's Contract from November 1, 2015 through October 31, 2018

M/S: Blake/Powell, to approve the Legal Services Agreement from Hoffman & Blasco, LLC., to provide the City and Borough of Wrangell and Wrangell Medical Center with legal representation for the period of November 1, 2015 through October 31, 2018. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

13c Approval of a one-year extension to the Professional Services Contract for Lobbying Services with Ray Matiashowski & Associates

M/S: Decker/Rooney, to approve a one year extension to the Professional Services Contract for Lobbying Services with Ray Matiashowski & Associates, not to exceed \$36,000, with funds to come from the General Fund Reserve and for the extended period to expire on October 31, 2016, as allowed on the Professional Services Contract dated November 25, 2014.

Assembly Member Mitchell questioned if this was a service that we really needed since the funding was going to be tight.

Assembly Members Rooney and Decker explained the reasons why a lobbyist was necessary, especially when there was no money; a lobbyist would be useful in protecting our interests.

Motion approved with Powell, Blake, Prysunka, Rooney, Decker, and Mayor Jack voting yes; Mitchell voted no.

13d Approval of the proposal received for the Wrangell Waterfront Industrial Property Assessment and Feasibility Study

This item was removed from the Agenda under Amendments to the Agenda and was therefore, not considered.

13e Approval of the proposal received for the Wrangell Institute Master Plan Development and Subdivision

M/S: Decker/Rooney, to award the contract for \$94,349, to come from a legislative grant through the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development for the Wrangell Institute Master Plan and Subdivision to Corvus Design Inc. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

13f Approval of the bid received for the Sewer Pumps Replacement Project

M/S: Prysunka/Powell, to authorize the Borough Manager to enter into a contract with CBC Construction, Inc. for the construction of the Wrangell Sewer Pumps Replacement Project Pump Stations, 4 & 6 Improvements in a contract amount of \$821,112.00 to be paid from the following funds: DCCED/DCRA/CDBG, USDA/RD Grant, USDA/RD Loan, Sewer Dept Reserves, and DEC Loan.

Manager Jabusch thanked everyone involved for helping to get this done; he stated that since the bids had come in a little over the engineers estimate, therefore we are working at getting additional grant funding.

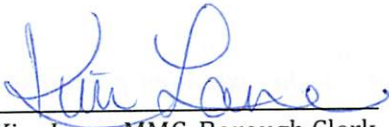
Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.


ATTORNEY'S FILE – None

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

Regular Assembly Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk


David L. Jack, Mayor

