

**Minutes of Regular Assembly Meeting  
Held on August 23, 2016**

Mayor David L. Jack called the Regular Assembly meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., August 23, 2016, in the Borough Assembly Chambers. Assembly Members Mitchell, Prysunka, Rooney, Powell, Decker, and Blake were present. Borough Manager Jeff Jabusch and Borough Clerk Kim Lane were also in attendance.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assembly Member David Powell.

The Invocation was given by Nettie Covalt from the Presbyterian Church.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Assembly Member Rooney asked that Agenda Item 13d (Discussion and possible action regarding scrap metal removal options for Wrangell) be postponed until the next Assembly meeting so that she can gather more information. There were no objections from the Assembly.

Mayor Jack stated that he would like to bring Agenda Item 13g (Approval to move forward with an application for a Housing Assistance Grant for the Wrangell Medical Center) to be considered before Agenda Item 13a. There was no objection from the Assembly.

Assembly Member Decker requested that an item be added to the agenda under New Business (13h) for discussion and possible action to file an objection to the Tongass Plan and Resource Management Plan Amendment Draft Record of Decision. There were no objections from the Assembly.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Assembly Member Prysunka declared a potential conflict of interest to Item 13g (Approval to move forward with an application for a Housing Assistance Grant for the Wrangell Medical Center), due to his business having a contract with the hospital and his spouse having is employed with Alaska Island Community Services whereas the hospital pays a portion of his spouses' salary. Mayor Jack declared that because the item would have any bearing on his spouses' income that there was no conflict. There were no objections from the Assembly.

Assembly Member Decker declared a potential conflict of interest to Item 15a (Options for disposing of the Belt Freezer Facility) since she fished for Trident and because one of her Board of Directors was an employee of Trident. Mayor Jack stated that he did not see that as a conflict of interest as it would not affect her financially directly. There were no objections from the Assembly.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

*M/S: Rooney/Powell, to approve Consent Agenda Items marked with an (\*) asterisk; Items 6a and 7a. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Assembly meetings held August 23, 2016, were approved as presented.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

- a. SE Senior Services' Fourth Qtr. report (April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 thru June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016)

## **BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Jabusch's report was provided.

Treated Water update –

- Assembly Member Prysunka requested that Manager Jabusch investigate as to what went wrong and to come back to the Assembly with an answer. Jabusch stated that he knew what the answers were but that he would have to tread lightly as to not point any fingers; he would come back with something for the Assembly.

**Robert Rang, Wrangell Medical Center, CEO**, updated the Assembly on the following:

- Wrangell Medical Center's end of the year financials
- Had a clean audit
- Mandated surveys (DEC) – (passed)
- Credidation Survey (passed)
- Critical Access Survey (passed)
- Long Term Care Survey (passed)
- Working on getting new nurses hired; soon 6 of the 8 vacancies will be filled

Assembly Member Prysunka asked what the balance was for the Line of Credit borrowed from the City. Mr. Rang reported that they had been paying \$10,000 back for the last three months.

## **BOROUGH CLERK'S FILE**

Clerk Lane's report was provided.

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

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

**Assembly Member Rooney** reported on her attendance at the AML Summer Legislative session.

**Assembly Member Prysunka** updated the Assembly and Community on the upcoming SEAPA meeting; encouraged anyone who was interested to tune in; appears that Ketchikan holds the balance of power to hiring/firing the SEAPA CEO when they have the two members on the board; doesn't believe that one community should be allowed to discharge the CEO unilaterally without balanced consideration from all communities.

### **10b Appointment to fill the vacancies on various City Boards, Committees, and Commissions**

As there were no letters of interest received for the remaining vacant seats, the Mayor directed the Clerk to continue advertising.

**10c** Appointment to fill the vacancy on the Wrangell Medical Center Hospital Board, Unexpired term ending October 2016

Mayor Jack requested that the Clerk contact Mr. Mayer to request that he serve on the Wrangell Medical Center Board up until the October 2016 election since he had submitted a Declaration for Candidacy for the Regular Borough Election on October 4, 2016. There were no objections from the Assembly.

**PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

There were no persons to be heard.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**12a PROPOSED ORDINANCE No. 920:** AN ORDINANCE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING SECTION 18.04.080, SECTION 107.2 AMENDED – PERMIT FEES, OF THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO BUILDING PERMIT FEES *(second reading)*

*M/S: Decker/Mitchell, to adopt Ordinance No. 920. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.*

**12b PROPOSED ORDINANCE No. 921:** AN ORDINANCE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING SECTION 5.08.060, TAX-FREE DAYS, OF THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE, TO PROVIDE THAT THE ASSEMBLY MAY APPROVE ONE SALES TAX-FREE DAY EACH FISCAL YEAR *(second reading)*

*M/S: Prysunka/Rooney, to adopt Ordinance No. 921.*

Assembly Member Mitchell stated that he had been approached by local merchants who wanted to see us stick with two tax-free days per year.

Assembly Member Powell stated that the grocery stores purchased thousands of dollars in product in anticipation of the tax-free days; if we only have one, they will most likely not be offering this to the community.

Assembly Member Decker asked that an item be added to the next agenda for discussion regarding the potential for a Statewide Internet Sales Tax.

*Motion failed unanimously by polled vote.*

**12c PROPOSED ORDINANCE No. 922 (am):** AN ORDINANCE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 15.16, CEMETERY, OF THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE, RELATING TO CEMETERY FEES *(first reading – as amended)*

*M/S: Blake/Mitchell, to approve first reading of Ordinance No. 922, as amended, and move to another second with a Public Hearing to be held on September 13, 2016. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.*

**12d Approval of the revised Local Contractor's List**

***M/S: Powell/Prysunka, to approve the revised Local Contractor's Policy, as presented.***

The Assembly collectively agreed that they wanted the following changes to the policy:

1. To define what a contractor is (list what is maintenance)
2. Under \$5,000, take from list only; if between 5,000 and 10,000, go out for quotes from anyone on the list; anything over \$10,000, go out for quotes or bid to everyone
3. To be on the list, the contractor must have a business here in town

Mayor Jack stated that he would like to see all of the changes made before approval and then would like to see the item come back to the Assembly for final approval.

***M/S: Prysunka/Mitchell, to postpone this item until the next Assembly Meeting. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.***

*Assembly Meeting recessed at 8:10 p.m.*

*Assembly Meeting reconvened at 8:13 p.m.*

**12e Discussion of the Memo from Robert Rang, WMC CEO regarding the TruBridge Contract for Billing Services action plan**

Assembly Member Decker stated that when the Assembly approved the contract with TruBridge, there was a unified opinion about using TruBridge at that time with a commitment with Wrangell Medical Center to also look at a training program with local staff so that we would have those jobs be held by locals; Savings might outweigh the costs.

***Robert Rang, WMC CEO***, stated that we are just finishing up the first year of the contract and that we are still seeing the benefits of the contract; last year, it cost us roughly \$206,000 to perform the billing services; they brought in \$9.4 million dollars; medical billing is a one year training program; would be a one year overlap if we went with training staff for billing; with the training and benefit package, that cost would far exceed what we pay TruBridge; there are many other organizations that outsource billing.

Assembly Member Prysunka explained that Mr. Hammett, WMC CFO, had been here at the Assembly Meeting when the Assembly requested a transition plan; that information had not gone back to the Wrangell Medical Center Board; motion to approve the TruBridge contract passed with only one vote; wants whatever the assembly comes up with, be taken back to the WMC Board.

After further discussion, ***M/S: Decker/Rooney, to request that Wrangell Medical Center conduct a cost benefit analysis of hiring local employees to provide billing services and an implementation plan if analysis is beneficial before the TruBridge contract is to be renewed.***

Decker stated that the analysis does not need to be complicated, just a timeline with a long term vision.

Prysunka stated that he would also like to have Mr. Rang look at what other hospitals in our region are doing; would like to see if we could have it work and see why.

***Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.***

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**13g** Approval to move forward with an application for a Housing Assistance Grant for the Wrangell Medical Center (*this item was moved up in the Agenda to be considered before Item 13a at the request of Mayor Jack*)

***M/S: Mitchell/Blake, to approve moving forward with an application for a Housing Assistance Grant for up to \$550,000 for the Wrangell Medical Center.***

***Robert Rang, WMC CEO,*** stated that the housing would be used for traveling medical professionals, short-term & permanent medical professionals.

Assembly Member Prysunka asked who would own the units.

Mr. Rang stated that the City would, just like the City own the hospital.

After more discussion, Assembly Member's Prysunka, Rooney and Decker declared that they had a conflict of interest due to the fact that they often rent to medical professionals. The Mayor stated that he did believe that they had a conflict.

Assembly Member Rooney withdrew her motion since she had a conflict of interest.

***M/S: Mitchell/Blake, to approve moving forward with an application for a Housing Assistance Grant for up to \$550,000 for the Wrangell Medical Center. Motion approved with Assembly Members Blake, Powell, Mitchell and Mayor Jack voting yes. Assembly Members Prysunka, Rooney and Decker did not vote due to their conflict of interest.***

**13a PROPOSED ORDINANCE No. 923:** AN ORDINANCE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING SECTION 2.24.040, ABSENTEE VOTING BY MAIL, OF THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE, RELATING TO THE PROCEDURES FOR ABSENTEE VOTING BY MAIL (*first reading*)

***M/S: Mitchell/Prysunka, to approve first reading of Ordinance No. 923 and move to second with a Public Hearing to be held on September 13, 2016. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.***

**13b PROPOSED RESOLUTION No. 08-16-1348:** A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING THE ASSESSMENT VALUE FOR TAX YEAR 2016 FOR JAMES & BETTY ABBOTT, LOT 17 , USS 3403, DUE TO A MANIFEST CLERICAL ERROR

***M/S: Powell/Rooney, to approve Resolution No. 08-16-1348. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.***

**13c PROPOSED RESOLUTION No. 08-16-1349: A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING THE ASSESSMENT VALUE FOR TAX YEAR 2016 FOR ROYCE & SHERRI COWAN, SPACE 15 BLOOMS TRAILER PARK, DUE TO A MANIFEST CLERICAL ERROR**

***M/S: Prysunka/Mitchell, to approve Resolution No. 08-16-1349. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.***

**13d Discussion and possible action regarding scrap metal removal options in Wrangell (added at the request of Assembly Member Rooney)**

***This item was pulled from the agenda and will be considered at the next Assembly meeting.***

**13e Approval to store the Chugach Ranger Boat at the Wrangell Nolan Museum**

***M/S: Blake/Powell, to allow a proposal be sent to the USFS for the purpose of displaying the M/V Chugach Ranger Boat at the Museum with costs and ownership of the vessel to remain with the USFS and that a final agreement if the proposal is accepted be approved by the assembly.***

Manager Jabusch explained that the City would store the boat but the U.S. Forest Service would pay to move the boat build the structure for the boat; the City would perform routine maintenance.

***Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.***

**13f Site selection for a new Cemetery**

***M/S: Prysunka/Blake, to approve the list of possible cemetery sites which will include the Old Cemetery Expansion, Sunset Gardens Expansion, Running Track, Spur Road Site, Shoemaker Bay Site and the Old Institute Site and to have staff bring back additional information on each site to include rough estimates of cost to develop, planning and zoning concerns, wetland issues and other pertinent information.***

Assembly Member Prysunka requested that the running track be removed from the site selection list.

Assembly Member Blake requested that the Institute Property be removed from the site selection list.

***Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.***

***Item 13g was moved up in the Agenda to be considered before Item 13a at the request of Mayor Jack.***

**13h** Discussion and possible action to file an objection to the Tongass Plan and Resource Management Plan Amendment Draft Record of Decision (*item added by Assembly action under the Consent Agenda*)

***M/S: Blake/Decker, to file an objection to the Tongass Plan and Resource Management Plan Amendment Draft Record of Decision.***

Assembly Member Prysunka spoke in opposition of filing the objection because he wanted to review and understand the document; not enough time to review it.

Assembly Member Decker pointed out that this was a technical document; the three points in the conclusion explained it well.

***Motion approved with Assembly Members Powell, Mitchell, Blake, Rooney and Decker voting yes. Assembly Member Prysunka and Mayor Jack voted no.***

**ATTORNEY'S FILE** – Summary report was provided to the Assembly.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**15a** Options for disposing of the Belt Freezer Facility

***M/S: Prysunka/Blake, to move, pursuant to AS 44.62.310 (c), (1), that we recess into executive session with the Borough Manager to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough, specifically the options for disposing of the Belt Freezer facility. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.***

**15b** Options for Six Mile Mill Site Property

***M/S: Blake/Powell, to move, pursuant to AS 44.62.310 (c), (1), that we recess into executive session with the Borough Manager to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough, specifically the options the Six Mile Mill Site Property Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.***

**15c** Discussion of union negotiations and arbitration proceeding with the union

***M/S: Powell/Rooney, to move, pursuant to AS 44.62.310 (c), (1), to recess into executive session with the Borough Manager to discuss matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough, specifically the ongoing union negotiations and arbitration proceedings with the union. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.***

*Assembly Meeting recessed into executive session at 9:19 p.m.  
Assembly Meeting reconvened back into regular session at 10:21 p.m.*

15a Options for disposing of the Belt Freezer Facility

***M/S: Blake/Powell, to direct the Borough Manager to go ahead with the sale of the Belt Freezer to Trident Seafoods. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.***

15b Options for Six Mile Mill Site Property


Mayor Jack stated that the Borough Manager would proceed with the Assembly's wishes.

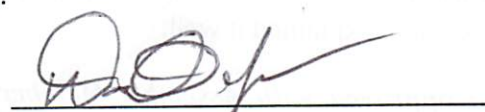
15c Discussion of union negotiations and arbitration proceeding with the union

Mayor Jack stated that there was no action on this item.

Regular Assembly Meeting adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

ATTEST:

  
Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk

  
David L. Jack, Mayor

