

**Minutes of Regular Assembly Meeting
Held on February 28, 2017**

Mayor David L. Jack called the Regular Assembly meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., February 28, 2017, in the Borough Assembly Chambers. Assembly Members Gilbert, Prysunka, Decker, Powell, Mitchell, 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 Nettie Covalt with the Presbyterian Church.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Manager Jabusch requested that Item 15a (Executive Session) be removed from the Agenda. There were no objections from the Assembly.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST – None

CONSENT AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the Special Assembly meeting held February 14, 2017 and the Public Hearing and Regular Assembly meetings held February 15, 2017 were approved as presented.

COMMUNICATIONS

*a. WMC Board Minutes from the meeting held January 18, 2017

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Jabusch's report was provided.

Prysunka asked Manager Jabusch to come up with guidelines so that if we get to a crucial level, there is a protocol on what we will do and what we will not do; i.e. not selling water to the cruise ships.

BOROUGH CLERK'S FILE

Clerk Lane's report was provided.

MAYOR/ASSEMBLY REPORTS AND APPOINTMENTS

10a Reports by Assembly Members

Decker thanked the City workers for doing a great job with plowing the snow.

Prysunka reported on the last SEAPA Board Meeting in Petersburg:

- Revenues looking better
- Some concern about the water level at SWAN
- SWAN project is signed off; good for Wrangell and Petersburg because it adds capacity to both

- Reached near max capacity in December at Tyee
- He had called for an increase push on looking at a third turban at Tyee
- Toured the new Petersburg City Hall; met with City Manager and talked about staff levels; blown away at the staff that they have; impressed at how lean we are and appreciates what our staff does

Jack reported that he attended AML; some issues addressed with our Lobbyist and Senator Stedman was the Shoemaker Harbor project and the Alaska Marine Highway.

10b City Boards and Committees Appointments

Mayor Jack appointed Kevin Skeek to the Economic Development Committee with the term ending in October 2019. There were no objections from the Assembly.

The Mayor directed the Clerk to continue advertising since there was still one vacancy on the Economic Development Committee.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Mark Walker, AICS, passed out a presentation packet to the Assembly. Mr. Walker gave the Assembly the history and information of how AICS obtained Federal Grant monies and why they moved to the "Medical Campus".

Daniel Neumeister, 3100 Channel Drive, Juneau, SEARHC, explained that they had submitted a Memorandum of Cooperation; expressed the desire to continue to utilize Wrangell Medical Center; four jobs listed for AICS right now; will use Wrangell Medical Center for the mandatory drug testing; challenges at the State funding level; allows for an Assembly Member be a representative along with the Hospital Administrator on the Advisory Council; will continue to pay the City property tax for the property; may be a misunderstanding on the Federal interest; committing that we will serve all patients, regardless of their ability to pay (as required by HRSA). Mr. Neumaister also stated that the AICS employees had all recently received a 3% pay increase.

Mayor Jack called a short recess so that Clerk Lane could get Wrangell Medical Center Board member, Barbara Conine on the phone since she wanted to be available to address any questions or concerns regarding item 13e.

Recessed at 7:37 p.m.

Reconvened at 7:40 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

M/S: Rooney/Gilbert, to suspend the rules to move item 13e, Discussion of the information received from the Wrangell Medical Center Board regarding the request from the Assembly to conduct a cost benefit analysis. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

13e Discussion of the information received from the Wrangell Medical Center Board regarding the request from the Assembly to conduct a cost benefit analysis

Gilbert stated that she had read the cost analysis report that was submitted by the Wrangell Medical Center and it does appear that the amounts do pencils out; if there was any issues with your bill, you could still call the hospital to ask questions.

Rooney commented that she was surprised to see just how many hospitals contracted out their billing services; believed that it's a benefit to continue using TruBridge.

Mitchell stated that he had one complaint in the billing service; said that he had been billed for a service a year later; should receive a bill within 30 days.

Prysunka stated that he appreciated the report and the time that the committee put into it; haven't had a lot of complaints about the calls from TruBridge calling people in the community.

Barbara Conine, WMC Board Member (via telephone), thanked the Assembly for their comments; a year ago we wrote of 1.2 million dollars; can't do that anymore; explained that TruBridge takes on the responsibility in following the claim through the process of getting the money. Ms. Conine also explained that the issue with Assembly Member Mitchell's billing issue was that the primary insurance may have been billed, then a secondary insurance carrier may have been billed and so on; may have been a problem in the coding; if there is an issue in the coding, TruBridge can figure that out better than the hospital can.

Rose Shymanski, Wrangell Medical Center, explained that TruBridge does have the ability to identify when the coding is incorrect; they then send it to the billing staff at WMC to fix the coding; WMC does not have the staff to do this; often times if a bill was sent out to the primary and came back as denied, it would get sent off to the secondary without the coding being corrected; often times that led to the claim "timing out" and the claim not being able to be paid.

13a PROPOSED ORDINANCE No. 930: AN ORDINANCE OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF TITLE 5, REVENUE AND FINANCE, OF THE WRANGELL MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO PENALTIES AND INTEREST ON LATE PAYMENTS OF SALES TAX AND PROPERTY TAX

M/S: Mitchell/Rooney, to approve first reading of Ordinance No. 930 and move to a second with a public hearing to be held on March 14, 2017. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

13b PROPOSED RESOLUTION No. 02-17-1364: A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF WRANGELL, ALASKA, ADOPTING AN ALTERNATIVE ALLOCATION METHOD FOR THE FY 2017 SHARED FISHERIES BUSINESS TAX PROGRAM AND CERTIFYING THAT THIS ALLOCATION METHOD FAIRLY REPRESENTS THE DISTRIBUTION OF SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS OF FISHERIES BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN FMA 18: CENTRAL SOUTHEAST

M/S: Prysunka/Gilbert, to adopt Resolution No. 02-17-1364 that adopts an alternative allocation method for the FY 2017 Shared Fisheries Business Tax Program. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

13c Discussion followed by a consensus for the Borough Manager final interview process

After discussion by the Assembly, the consensus was to hold face-to-face interviews with the final candidates in Executive Session and have a community reception later that evening.

M/S: Powell/Prysunka, to schedule a Special Assembly Meeting on Monday, March 20, 2017 at noon for the purpose of conducting Borough Manager Interviews. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

13d Approval to Change the Board of Equalization Meeting Date from May 8, 2017 to May 15, 2017

M/S: Rooney/Mitchell, to approve rescheduling the annual Board of Equalization meeting from May 8th to May 15th, 2017, as requested by our Assessor, Mike Renfro. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

13f Appointment of Carol Rushmore to the Interim Borough Manager position

M/S: Gilbert/Prysunka, to appoint Carol Rushmore as the interim borough Manager effective April 1, 2017 and to have her start working with the manager effective March 1, 2017 with additional compensation as follows: \$1,000 for the month of March and \$2,500 per month effective April 1, 2017 and for each month after with funding to come from the vacant manager position. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

13g Approval of a construction contract for the Waterfront Armor Rock – City Dock project

M/S: Prysunka/Gilbert to approve a bid award to BW Enterprises, LLC for construction of the Waterfront Armor Rock – City Dock project in the amount of \$31,280.00 funded from the Ports and Harbors FY17 Capital Projects fund. Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

13h Approval to write letters of support for HB 76 (in concept with Resolution No. 10-15-1333) and HB 128

M/S: Mitchell/Gilbert, to approve writing letters of support in support of HB 76 and HB 128.

Decker explained that the Assembly had approved a Resolution that supported the amendment of the Mariculture Revolving Loan Fund so that they would use that pot of money that the State had already created to help develop the Mariculture Industry laws; Representative Ortiz had introduced HP 76 that essentially followed what our intent was in Resolution No. 10-15-1333; there is another bill (HP 128) that is somewhat related; puts in place a framework for the Department of Fish and Game to be able to permit or allow for Shellfish enhancement; State of Alaska now allows for Salmon enhancement. Decker stated that the governor had appointed her to the Alaska Mariculture Task Force; they, along with many other communities are in support of these two bills.

Motion approved unanimously by polled vote.

ATTORNEY'S FILE – Summary Report was provided to the Borough Assembly.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

15a Discuss with the Borough Attorney, the options regarding the Land Deal with SEARHC and the City and Borough of Wrangell – *Removed from the Agenda under Amendments to the Agenda.*

Regular Assembly Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

ATTEST:


Kim Lane, MMC, Borough Clerk


David L. Jack, Mayor

