

**WHITTIER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 2011
7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
P-12 BUILDING**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lunceford called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

2. OPENING CEREMONY

Mayor Lunceford led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

A. Council Members Present: Shawni Phillips, Jerry Vandergriff, Lester Lunceford, Mary Brenneman, Becky Cotner

Mayor Lunceford stated that council has received a request from Councilor Blair asking to participate telephonically.

MOTION: Shawni Phillips made a motion to allow Dan Blair to participate in tonight's meeting telephonically.

SECONDED: Jerry Vandergriff seconded the motion.

VOTE: Shawni Phillips: Yes, Jerry Vandergriff: No, Lester Lunceford: Yes, Mary Brenneman: No, Becky Cotner: Yes

Motion failed 3-2.

MOTION: Jerry Vandergriff made a motion to excuse Dan Blair from tonight's meeting.

SECONDED: Shawni Phillips seconded the motion.

VOTE: Jerry Vandergriff: Yes, Shawni Phillips: Yes, Mary Brenneman: Yes, Lester Lunceford: Yes, Becky Cotner: Yes.

Motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Jerry Vandergriff made a motion to allow Shannon Tolman to participate in tonight's meeting telephonically.

SECONDED: Shawni Phillips seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Vice Mayor Vandergriff asked if Councilor Tolman's censorship was over.

Mayor Lunceford replied "Yes".

VOTE: Jerry Vandergriff: Yes, Shawni Phillips: Yes, Mary Brenneman: No, Becky Cotner: Yes, Lester Lunceford: Yes.

Motion passed 4-1.

B. Council Members Absent: Dan Blair

C. Excused Absence: Dan Blair

D. Administration Present: Brenda Krol, City Clerk and Bob Prunella, City Manager

Others present included: Scott Korbe, Dave Schofield, Fred Whittingham, Sue Miller, Charlie Eldridge, John Ford, Susan Lambrix, Cheryl Dalena, Sandy Fee, Jack Roskind, Ken Hunt, John Norris

City Clerk, Brenda Krol called council member Shannon Tolman so that he could participate telephonically.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. 01 March 2011, Regular Meeting Minutes

Vice Mayor Vandergriff stated that on the last page of the minutes the two motions before adjournment, the motion to go into executive session and the motion to go back into regular session did not have the complete vote listed and whether it failed or passed.

Both motions had passed unanimously and City Clerk, Brenda Krol stated that she would make the necessary amendments.

MOTION: Jerry Vandergriff made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes as amended.

SECONDED: Shawni Phillips seconded the motion.

VOTE: Jerry Vandergriff: Yes, Shawni Phillips: Yes, Mary Brenneman: Yes, Becky Cotner: Yes, Lester Lunceford: Yes, Shannon Tolman: Yes.

Motion passed 6-0.

5. APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Jerry Vandergriff made a motion to approve the regular meeting agenda as written.

SECONDED: Shawni Phillips seconded the motion.

VOTE: Jerry Vandergriff: Yes, Shawni Phillips: Yes, Shannon Tolman: Yes, Becky Cotner: Yes, Mary Brenneman: Yes, Lester Lunceford: Yes.

Motion passed 6-0.

6. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. Mayor Report – Mayor Lunceford

None

B. Vice Mayor Report – Jerry Vandergriff

Vice Mayor Vandergriff stated that he did not have a written report for council but announced that he would be traveling to Juneau on March 24th to visit his son and while he is there he would be meeting with the Commissioner of Department of Transportation (DOT), Marc Luiken to talk about the appropriation for the Shotgun Cove Road Project.

C. Commission Reports

Planning – None

Port and Harbor- None, Charlie Eldridge announced that the next Port and Harbor meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 19th.

7. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. City Manager Report – Bob Prunella

See written report in original council packet.

Bob Prunella reported “Hopefully tomorrow the City will be signing an agreement with the Alaska Railroad to dispose of temporarily, for two years, contaminated soil which was found at the harbor. This will allow the project to go on because it was getting tight.”

Bob Prunella stated that the City was able to get an extension to continue in water work until April 15th rather than the end of this month on the Harbor Rebuild Project and that another extension has been applied for.

Bob Prunella stated that Council had requested at the last meeting a report on Alaska Education and Business Services and that this information was provided to each council member and can be discussed at a later date after Council has had a chance to review the information.

Bob Prunella also announced that he has been on the job for six weeks and would be making a quick trip back home to Wrangell and will return to Whittier early next week.

8. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS NOT SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

None

9. CONSENT CALENDAR

Mayor Lunceford stated that he had received an email and a phone call from our federal lobbyist in Washington D.C. suggesting that the City plan another trip to D.C., our congress is planning on putting together another transportation bill or highway bill that Whittier may be able to benefit from if we show an interest.

Mayor Lunceford asked if the Council felt it necessary for the City to make one more trip to Washington D.C. to try and lobby for the funding for the Shotgun Cove Road Project.

Vice Mayor Vandergriff replied to Mayor Lunceford “I think it is important that you go down there and probably Mr. Korbe, since he has a lot of knowledge about the Shotgun Cove Road Project and you are well known in D.C. by the Congressional members.”

Mayor Lunceford stated “Thank you for that confidence, I think it would also be in the City's best interest to allow the City Manager to go, there has been some brief discussion amongst the administration about a cheaper way of allowing all three of us to go with companion tickets and sharing rooms.”

MOTION: Mary Brenneman made a motion to authorize travel to Washington D.C. for Mayor Lunceford, Manager Prunella and Public Works Director Korbe in April to meet with congressional members.

SECONDED: Jerry Vandergriff seconded the motion with the understanding that the city research the cost and if the costs are exorbitant to send three that only two people go down.

VOTE: Mary Brenneman: Yes, Jerry Vandergriff: Yes, Shawni Phillips: Yes, Becky Cotner: Yes, Lester Lunceford: Yes.

The phone connection with Councilor Tolman was lost.

Motion passed 5-0.

City Clerk, Brenda Krol was able to establish phone connection again with Councilor Tolman.

Mayor Lunceford stated “Although it has been broadcast on the news that the President of the United States is going to veto any and all earmarks from Congress it’s been stated that there is an opportunity for our Congressional Delegation to add language in the transportation bill that is still yet to be passed that could include and/or benefit the City of Whittier with this Shotgun Cove Road Project..”

10. PUBLIC HEARINGS (NON-ORDINANCE)

None

11. PRESENTATIONS

None

12. ORDINANCES

A. Introduction (first reading)

None

B. Public Hearing (second reading)

None

13. RESOLUTIONS

None

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Lunceford welcomed any comments regarding unfinished business.

Vice Mayor Vandergriff commented on 14G, see below.

A. Striping / Signage update

Nothing new to report

B. Survey of VonWichman property

Nothing new to report

C. 5 year Comprehensive Plan update

Bob Prunella reported that he has done a little work toward the Comprehensive Plan update, outlining what the next step is.

D. M/V “Tradition”

Bob Prunella stated that he had been exploring a couple options for the M/V “Tradition” and may have more to report next meeting.

E. City Zoning Administrator Appointment

Nothing new to report

F. Smitty’s Cove Marine Park, VonWichman and associated properties

Nothing new to report

G. Whittier Municipal Code Title 2

Vice Mayor Vandergriff stated that he would like Council to schedule another work session to finish up Whittier Municipal Code Title 2 and at the same time go over the Employee Policy and Procedures Manual that Council has had since September.

Council scheduled a work session for 3pm on Monday, March 21st 2011.

15. NEW BUSINESS

A. Reassignment of Harbor Loop, Block 2 Lot 13 belonging to Ken Hunt

MOTION: Jerry Vandergriff made a motion to direct the City Manager to transfer the lease on Harbor Loop, Block 2 Lot 13 from Ken Hunt to John Norris

SECONDED: Shawni Phillips seconded the motion.

VOTE: Jerry Vandergriff: Yes, Shawni Phillips: Yes, Mary Brenneman: Yes, Shannon Tolman: Yes, Becky Cotner: Yes, Lester Lunceford: Yes.

Motion passed 6-0.

16. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

There was some brief discussion regarding a revenue bond for the Harbor Rebuild Project.

Vice Mayor Vandergriff asked if the revenue bond had to go to the vote of the people.

Mayor Lunceford replied "If memory serves me correctly I think it does."

Bob Prunella stated that he spent about an hour researching the revenue bond issue today and although there wasn't a lot of information in his office that he could find he did but he did find a memo that was given to the council in July.

Bob Prunella said "the memo reflected the city attorney's opinion that we don't have to have an election for a revenue bond, you pass the resolution and then you have to pass an ordinance."

Bob Prunella said "I am going to have to get a hold of the attorney to see what else transpired."

Vice Mayor Vandergriff stated that there is some information on it in the July 6th meeting minutes, where Ed Barrett assured council that he had talked with the bond bank and everything was a go on it.

Vice Mayor Vandergriff said "the reason for my concern is I've been told that I'm going to be drilled about that while I'm in Juneau."

17. CITIZENS' DISCUSSION

Jack Roskind brought forth as a representative of the Whittier Chamber of Commerce a few issues regarding city business licensing, the need for new signage along the Seward Highway from Anchorage to Whittier and the erosion problem of the Harbor Front embankment.

Jack Roskind stated that according to Mr. Scott Thomas of DOT the City of Whittier is entitled to three signs along the Seward Highway from Anchorage to the access road.

Jack Roskind asked the council if they had any questions for him in regard to his comments.

Hearing no questions he continued by stating that he was president of Charter Operators of Alaska, this organization was formed back in December and consists of approximately 400 members and we have quite a following of almost 900 people throughout the State of Alaska.

Jack Roskind said "We are representing almost 385 businesses that were not awarded a limited halibut access permit, we will be in D.C. next week and will be asking the D.C. Judge to give us an injunction until the end of the fishing season and then be heard at the end of the year that way we can continue business as normal."

Jack Roskind continued “I come to you on this aspect, I’m not asking the City of Whittier to take a stance on our behalf but I am asking the City of Whittier if at all possible to draft a letter indicating the business and the revenue that would be lost by us not operating.”

John Norris commented on Jack Roskind’s request for the City of Whittier to draft a letter on behalf of the Charter Operators of Alaska by stating “In 2004-05 there was something published in the federal register that warned all these people about getting into the business after 2005 so anybody that got into the business after that point was probably not going to get a permit.”

John Norris continued by stating “This is a private lawsuit between him and a group of his people, so I don’t support it at all, in my opinion when your told not to do something and you do it anyway it is your responsibility after that point.”

18. COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION RESPONSE TO CITIZENS’ COMMENTS

None

19. COUNCIL DIRECTION TO CITY MANAGER

None

20. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

21. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mary Brenneman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 pm.

SECONDED: Shawni Phillips seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Attest:

Brenda Krol
City Clerk

Lester Luceford
Mayor