

**WHITTIER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2010
7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
P-12 BUILDING**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Mayor Phillips called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

2. OPENING CEREMONY

Vice Mayor Phillips led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

A. Council Members Present: Jerry Vandergriff, Shawni Phillips, Juan Cardenas, Mary Brenneman, Shannon Tolman, Becky Cotner

B. Council Members Absent: Mayor Lester Lunceford

MOTION: Juan Cardenas made a motion to excuse Mayor Lester Lunceford from tonight's meeting.

SECONDED: Jerry Vandergriff seconded the motion.

VOTE: Juan Cardenas: Yes, Jerry Vandergriff: Yes, Shannon Tolman: Yes, Becky Cotner: Yes, Mary Brenneman: Yes, Shawni Phillips: Yes

Motion passed 6-0.

C. Excused Absence: Mayor Lester Lunceford

D. Administration Present: Brenda Krol, City Clerk; Ed Barrett, Interim City Manager

Others present included: Dave Pinguoch, Charlie Eldridge, Dave Goldstein, Dave Schofield, Scott Korbe, Jack Roskind, Kelly Bender, Kaylene Johnson, Sandy Fee, Ben Leniz, June Miller, Pete & Marilyn Heddell, Sam Gimeli

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. 20 October 2009, Regular Meeting Minutes

B. 02 February 2010, Regular Meeting Minutes

C. 02 March 2010, Regular Meeting Minutes

City Clerk, Brenda Krol stated that the minutes for February 2nd were not completed in time.

Jerry Vandergriff stated that agenda item #3D of the October 20th 2009 minutes should read Mark Earnest, City Manager instead of Ed Barrett, Interim City Manager.

MOTION: Jerry Vandergriff made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of October 20th 2009 as amended and the regular meeting minutes of March 2nd 2010 as written.

SECONDED: Juan Cardenas seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

5. APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Councilor Cardenas added Lynden to unfinished business agenda item #14B and ordinance #556-09 under Ordinances Introduction (first reading), agenda item #12A1.

Councilor Cardenas also added face to face interview with the city manager candidate and AML/JIA background check for candidate under Council Discussion agenda item #16A.

MOTION: Juan Cardenas made a motion to approve the regular meeting agenda as amended.

SECONDED: Jerry Vandergriff seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

6. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. Mayor Report – Mayor Lunceford

None

B. Vice Mayor Report – Shawni Phillips

None

C. Commission Reports

1. Planning Commission

Jerry Vandergriff stated that the Planning Commission did not have a meeting this month because of a lack of a quorum.

2. Port and Harbor Commission

Charlie Eldridge stated that the Port and Harbor Commission is schedule to meet this coming Saturday, March 20th 2010.

7. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

A. City Manager Report – Ed Barrett

See written report in original council packet.

Ed Barrett briefly went over his written report and he welcomed any questions.

Ed Barrett reported that he had submitted a Coastal Impact Assistance Program Grant application for funding for Shakespeare Creek in the amount of \$202,250. The grant will fund the enhancement of salmon habitat and evaluate restoration options.

Ed Barrett stated “with this last snowfall there were some issues that came up regarding the storage of snow and clearing on and contiguous to, private property. This brought up some issues related to street parking but in looking at this I started studying how we might go about certain scenarios when issue such as these come up and what I discovered was that the City’s tariffs are lacking in areas, such as using city equipment for purposes on private property.”

Ed Barrett stated “tariffs are almost as important as the budget, if there are fees and charger that we want to charge the public it has to be in the tariffs.”

There was some brief discussion on the possibility of outsourcing the administration of the City’s grants.

Councilor Cardenas asked that Grant Management be put on the next meeting agenda under new business.

Ed Barrett reminded Council that at some point last year the Council agreed that it would be a good idea to send \$10,000 of CVP money over to Girdwood Emergency Services because they spend a lot of time coming over here and assisting and picking up patients for transport to Anchorage.

Juan Cardenas asked where we were on the mutual aid agreement with Girdwood.

Dave Schofield stated that the hold up was on our end, we brought forth an application and procedures for our members, for us to enter into a mutual aid agreement with Girdwood.

Ed Barrett announced that administration would bring those documents to the next meeting.

Juan Cardenas asked if this could be placed on the next meeting agenda under new business.

B. Finance Report – February 2010

See Revenue and Expense report in council packet.

Ed Barrett stated that council has a monthly financial report in their packets and that if anyone had any questions he would be glad to try and answer them if he can.

Hearing no questions Vice Mayor Phillips continued with the agenda.

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

Dave Goldstein stated “I remember two meeting ago we were talking about the harbor savings account and there were some funds there that hadn’t been deposited into that account and I see on this latest statement that we are still at the same balance that we were before.”

Dave Goldstein asked “Have we moved the money over since this time, are we going to, what is the status of that?”

Ed Barrett replied “No we have not moved the funds from the general fund account to the savings account, we are still working will Jeff Frier to get that done.”

Dave Goldstein asked “So probably at the next meeting?”

Ed Barrett replied “Yes it will be reflected in the next financial report.”

Ben Leniz stated that as far as the City’s tariffs, the City cannot compete with free enterprise. If there is anyone else that can do the work, they do the work before the City.

9. CONSENT CALENDAR

None

10. PUBLIC HEARINGS (NON-ORDINANCE)

None

11. PRESENTATIONS

A. Kenai Mountain and Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area – Kaylene Johnson

See handout and brochure in original council packet.

Kaylene Johnson introduced herself and stated that she was here to talk to the City about the Kenai Mountain and Turnagain Arm National Heritage Area.

Kaylene Johnson stated that there was a question about whether Whittier was included in the National Heritage Area and she confirmed that Whittier was included.

Kaylene Johnson gave a short power point presentation about what the National Heritage Area is and what we are thinking about doing.

Kaylene Johnson stated that the main point of coming to Whittier and talking with the community is to get input on how they would like to see Whittier represented as a National Heritage Area.

Kaylene Johnson stated that part of what her job will be is to develop and draft a management plan but the only way that management plan is going to come to fruition is through feedback from the communities.

Kaylene Johnson stated that the Corridor Communities Association was organized in 1998 by the Kenai Peninsula Historic Association and is all just local residents interested in preserving and sharing our history.

Kaylene Johnson stated that Girdwood, Whittier, Hope, Cooper Landing, Moose Pass and Seward are basically the communities within the corridor and there are board members from each of those communities in the association.

Kaylene Johnson stated that some of the things that the Communities Corridors Association has done with previous grant funds is they've helped with the Alyeska Roundhouse restoration in Girdwood, and they have supported the Hope and Cooper Landing museum projects, these are just a few of the things that they've already done with funds.

Kaylene Johnson welcomed any questions.

Councilor Cardenas asked "Since we are 50 percent matching with Federal have we looked into getting State funding to match the other 50 percent?"

Kaylene Johnson replied "Yes, we are looking at grants, we are looking at foundations and we are definitely partnering with the State and there are national forest service foundations that are possibilities for funding sources.

Kelly Bender asked Kaylene Johnson "Are you asking today for in a time frame for projects in Whittier that you want to incorporate into the plan."

Kaylene Johnson answered "Yes, what kind of projects would you like incorporated in the management plan that we are going to write, hopefully this year."

Kaylene Johnson stated "And that being said, do you have ideas for matching funds?"

Kelly Bender asked what the time frame was to get those suggestions in.

Kaylene Johnson replied "We would love to get them by the first of June, it's a target date it's not an absolute deadline but we would like to hear from everybody sooner than later."

Kelly Bender stated "I'm sure you want comprehensive ideas and not just a bunch of us sending in ideas."

Kelly Bender asked if there was an effort from the community to put something together to put some ideas toward this

Jerry Vandergriff stated that tonight is our first exposure to this.

Kaylene Johnson stated “We will take all ideas from everybody; It would be great to have something from the council that says these are the priorities in our community. That would be great but that doesn’t mean that we are not going to consider everybody’s input.”

Council agreed on scheduling a work session on April 6th 2010 at 5:00 pm. to help identify historic places people and projects for future funding.

Council thanked Kaylene Johnson for her presentation.

12. ORDINANCES

A. Introduction (first reading)

None

B. Public Hearing (second reading)

None

13. RESOLUTIONS

None

14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Harbor Uplands/Land Acquisition Process

There was some brief discussion between Council and Administration regarding Jim Barnett’s lease in the harbor uplands.

Ed Barrett stated that there are a number of issues that need to be discussed between the City’s attorney and Mr. Barnett before an actual negotiation about this reassignment of this lease can be talked about in any real sense.

B. Lynden/ARRC

Vice Mayor Phillips asked where administration was on contacting Lynden and the Alaska Railroad about having someone come to Whittier to give an update to the council and the community on their development plans in Whittier.

Ed Barrett answered “I did discuss that with the Mayor and the Mayor took that on as something that he said he would like to make that contact and has not gotten back to me yet.”

Juan Cardenas stated “I think it would be appropriate for administration to do it seeing that the Mayor has been an employee of the railroad.”

Juan Cardenas told Ed Barrett “I’d like to see that go directly to your hands.”

Ed Barrett replied “No problem, I can do that.”

MOTION: Juan Cardenas made a motion to direct the Interim City Manager to contact Lynden and the ARRC about a public hearing.

SECONDED: Jerry Vandergriff seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Juan Cardenas asked the City Clerk to put this on the next meeting agenda under unfinished business.

15. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and/or suggestions for improving the video and audio recording of council meetings

Councilor Jerry Vandergriff suggested getting a better video camera and individual microphones.

Vice Mayor Phillips asked if anyone had priced any equipment.

Ed Barrett replied "I believe that Scott Korbe has been in contact with Yukon Telephone regarding this."

Scott Korbe stated that he has been in contact with Yukon Telephone to work on developing a Whittier channel; we are also looking on how to get better video and sound.

Scott Korbe stated that he is starting the documentation with Don Eller of what his expectations are and all of the legalities and formalities with the hold harmless agreement.

Scott Korbe stated that hopefully at the next council meeting he will have a better timeline of bringing that whole project to fruition.

Ed Barrett suggested that if this becomes something that begins to have a certain value the City may want to issue an RFP to provide the service.

B. Spring Clean Up

Vice Mayor Phillips stated that she had been working with Stephanie over at the school and they would like the City's support in backing them up for the spring cleanup.

Vice Mayor Phillips suggested a city wide BBQ or potluck to bring the community together to try and getting as many people to participate.

Vice Mayor Phillips stated that the students will participate in setting everything up.

Kelly Bender stated that she was certain if the students got the information to the Whittier Chamber of Commerce the Chamber could send out an email to their members and they would donate goods and services.

Ben Leniz suggested that the local businesses be contacted about helping by cleaning up their property.

Dave Goldstein stated that one thing that has always bothered him is that we identify this as a spring clean up and usually it is one day or maybe two days where people get together, kids do some clean up kind of in a begrudging way and a few people in the community.

Dave Goldstein urged the entire council to get involved in this process, I've seen city administration people take their own time and help clean up.

Dave Goldstein stated "The other thing that I would hope that we do is rename this instead of a spring clean up which implies a day or maybe two days, why don't we name this a seasonal cleanup kickoff, because cleanup is something that needs to go on all season."

Juan Cardenas asked this be put on the next agenda under unfinished business.

16. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

A. Face to Face Interview with City Manager candidate

MOTION: Juan Cardenas made a motion to provide travel for Mr. Berchtold for a face to face interview and to schedule a special council meeting for March 31st.

SECONDED: Jerry Vandergriff seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

17. CITIZENS' DISCUSSION

Dave Goldstein stated "In the interest of being transparent and following the public process I would ask the council to take a very close look at executive session, we have talked about harbor uplands, land acquisitions and leases and we have also talked about Mr. Barnett's involvement with the Exxon Valdez Oil Settlement and his percentage of that take and I think that it is in the interest of the people who are in attendance here today also the people who may be watching on television to follow this, if you can discuss this in a regular session instead of an executive session I certainly would encourage you to do so."

Jerry Vandergriff replied "The only problem that I have with that is that the attorney's are currently negotiating back and forth themselves and we really shouldn't be speaking in public about anything that has to do with that land as long as it is in the hands of the attorneys."

18. COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION RESPONSE TO CITIZENS' COMMENTS

None

19. COUNCIL DIRECTION TO CITY MANAGER

There was some brief discussion regarding the mutual aid agreement with Girdwood and the \$10,000 of CVP funds that the City had promised to Girdwood Fire and EMS Department.

MOTION: Jerry Vandergriff made a motion to direct the City Manager to cut a check to Girdwood Fire and EMS in the amount of \$10,000 from the CVP restricted account.

SECONDED: Becky Cotner seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously.

Juan Cardenas asked that the mutual aid agreement with Girdwood Fire and EMS be put on the next council agenda.

Ed Barrett commended Director of Public Safety, Dave Schofield and the EMS volunteers on how they performed this last weekend when there was an incident in town that involved them, life flight and Girdwood EMS.

Ed Barrett stated "Unfortunately there was a fatality but everybody performed up to the expected standards, the encounter went off as far as I know, flawlessly and it was exactly the kind of multi organization effort standards that we are trying to meet and it was of the highest quality."

Ed Barrett stated "Congratulations goes to all of those people that were involved, especially considering that they spent at least two hours trying to save a person through extraordinary circumstances."

Everyone applauded.

Councilor Mary Brenneman asked "Couldn't we make this agreement a little more even if we allowed our police officers to drive their police cars home and that way we're out there on the highway like we promised them a year ago that we would try to do because the Seward Highway was so nasty?"

Councilor Jerry Vandergriff disagreed.

Councilor Juan Cardenas also disagreed.

Councilor Vandergriff stated that he disagreed whole heartedly because they keep coming to the council wanting money to repair the vehicles and buy new vehicles yet their going out to Wasilla.

20. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

21. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mary Brenneman moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 pm.

SECONDED: Jerry Vandergriff seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously

Attest:

Brenda Krol
City Clerk

Lester Lunceford
Mayor