



THE CITY OF WHITTIER

Gateway to Western Prince William Sound

P.O. Box 608 • Whittier, Alaska 99693 • (907) 472-2327 • Fax (907) 472-2404

**WHITTIER CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY AUGUST 21, 2018
7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Daniel Blair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. OPENING CEREMONY

Mayor Daniel Blair led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

- A. Council members present and establishing a quorum:** Victor Shen, Debra Hicks, Peter Denmark, Dave Dickason, Dave Pinguoch, and Daniel Blair.

MOTION: Dave Dickason made a motion to excuse Monty Irvin from Tonight's meeting.

SECOND: Dave Pinguoch

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Motion Passed Unanimously

B. Administration Present:

Jim Hunt, Acting City Manager (Telephonic)

Naelene Matsumiya, City Clerk

Scott Korbe, Public Works

Kyle Sinclair, Harbormaster

Greg Russell, Acting Police Chief

Others Present: Cathy McCord, Dave Goldstein, Krystal Hoke and Nick Georgelos

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 17, 2018, Regular Meeting, July 31 2018, Special Meeting Minutes, and August 7, 2017 Special Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Dave Pinguoch made a motion to approve the minutes with amendments

SECOND: Dave Dickason

DISCUSSION: Changes on the July 17 Minutes: Change Holly Wells to Anmei Goldsmith, correct spelling for "Master" David Pinguoch idea to offer storage. And to add the following statements, "The Acting City Manager stated that we are functioning out of our budget." And, "The acting City Manager stated that the City does not have a public kayak launch site."

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VOTE: Motion passed unanimously

5. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Dave Pinguoch made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Agenda with amendments.

SECOND: Dave Dickason

DISCUSSION: Add *Harbor Phase III construction* to Unfinished Business and requested it stay on the agenda.

VOTE: Motion passed 5-1

6. MAYOR'S REPORT

A. Mayor Report

None

B. Vice Mayor Report by Vice Mayor Dave Pinguoch

None

7. MANAGER'S REPORT

A. Interim City Manager's Report- Jim Hunt

Jim Hunt reported that he has spoken to Grace Pleasant of the Girdwood Governance Association about a feasibility study for a possible Prince William Sound Borough. Jim said he'd like to ask for a consensus from the Council to fund a consultant for the study for the amount of \$10,000. Jim asked the Council to Consider and stated that he will revisit this topic later.

Jim reported that the City has opted into the PILT Class Action as request from our Lobbyist. He mentioned the DeLong Dock Damage and the Caselle Contract. He commented that he is looking through the old Finance Director's computer and digitizing records that go back a full year. He said he is hopeful that Caselle will assist with the reconciliation with that.

He stated that he is currently trying to find ways to dispose of the obsolete fire truck in the building. He reported on the land behind the Alaska Sea Kayakers lot and how it needs repairs due to erosion over the years. The amount for the repairs will be \$48,000 and a resolution will be made for it. Jim Hunt introduced an idea for a Manager's Report and spoke briefly about it.

Nick Georgelos of the Girdwood Governance Association gave a brief presentation on the study for the exploration of a Prince William Sound Borough. Council asked if it can come before them in a form of a resolution. Nick Georgelos of the Girdwood Governance Association gave a brief presentation on the topic and answered questions from the Council. Dan Blair said that he would like to give consensus if Cordova contributed to the Study as well. Peter Denmark disclosed that if the investment is minimal, he does not see a problem.

COUNCIL CONSENSUS: Peter Denmark, yes; Victor Shen, no; Dave Dickason, yes; Debra Hicks, yes; Dave Pinguoch, no; Dan Blair, yes.

B. City Attorney's Report

None

C. School District Report

Nothing new to report

D. Director's Reports

1. Financial report

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None

2. Harbormaster Report – Kyle Sinclair

See written report in original packet

3. Public Safety Report – Greg Russell

Greg Russell reported that the Cordova Contract for dispatch will be in effect soon and that the Girdwood Contract has been renewed. Advancements on getting a volunteer Fire Chief are in the works. Dave Pinguoch stated that since there are items that are detrimental to the City's finance, an Executive Session should be scheduled to discuss them. Greg agreed. Dan Blair spoke about the Girdwood contract. He commented that the contract is a great idea, but the implementation has been less than perfect. He clarified and stressed that he is impressed with Girdwood, and happy that the Whittier Police provides professional services that has improved the quality of their lives, but his main concern was for the city of Whittier and the way the contract is playing out. He continued.

Greg Russell responded that the service starts in Whittier and that the community is a priority to the department. He indicated that even without the contract, transporting would still cause a delay because of the drive to and from and the tunnel as well. He said that the department does not neglect its responsibilities in the community and that the contract expands the officers' experience and benefits them as professionals. He said that he agrees that the contract should be managed better, but every one of those officers wear the Whittier Police patch.

Dave Pinguoch stated that he heard there was the opportunity for reduced prices for the academy. Greg responded that that was correct. As long as the applicants meeting the hiring and performance standards, there's a slot available to put officers through the academy.

Peter Denmark commented that Whittier's population has remained relatively static for the last 30 years. In the early 2000's there used to be once officer in town until a statement was made that the community wanted 24/7 police coverage. That was when the department leapt from one to 4 full time and 1 seasonal. He said that on two separate occasions, a call was made and the response time was over 2 hours because no one was here. He asked for a constant local presence here for the Community.

Discussion ensued.

4. Public Works Report – Scott Korbe

Scott Korbe reported that apologized for not getting a report in the packet as it has been a busy week for him. He said that a phone line is in the building and 12 strands of fiber optics and water control system are now in the Public Safety Building. He said this all took place in partnering with GCI as they install and worked on everything, free of charge for the City of Whittier. Scott said that he and GCI are talking about making headway to repair facilities in the Harbor Business Triangle Area once the season is over. He said that GCI admitted that when initially installed, it was not installed correctly and that the repairs done in the past were substandard and not adequate for the type of conditions out there. He commented on the cables that are exposed from erosion behind the Alaska Sea Kayakers building. He said there will be repairs to improve the infrastructure. He stated that PRUHS is willing to do some work at a discounted rate behind the Alaska Sea Kayakers building.

8. COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Planning Commission

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Nothing new to report

B. Port & Harbor Commission

Greg Clifford pointed out the draft/unapproved minutes from the last meeting discussing the funding for the final phase of the Harbor rebuild. He said that since the topic will be discussed later in the meeting, he didn't have anything further to report.

C. Parks & Recreation Committee

Nothing New to Report

D. Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corp.

Nothing new to report

E. Regional Citizen's Advisory Council

Nothing new to report

9. CITIZENS COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS NOT SCHEDULED FOR PUBLIC HEARING

None

10. APPROVAL OF CONSENT CALENDAR

None

11. PUBLIC HEARINGS (NON-ORDINANCE)

None

12. PRESENTATIONS

None

13. ORDINANCES

14. PUBLIC HEARING (2nd reading)

None

15. RESOLUTIONS

A. Res. #21-2018 – A Resolution Of The City Council Of The City Of Whittier Alaska, Authorizing The City Manager To Enter Into A Professional Service Agreement With Appraisal Company Of Alaska, LLc. For Assessment Services For The 2019 Tax Year In The Amount Of \$10,000

MOTION: David Pinquoch made a motion to adopt Res. #21-2018

SECOND: Dave Dickason

DISCUSSION: Dave Pinquoch asked if this was a standard annual contract with the Company the City has been using in the past. Jim Hunt stated that, yes, it is the same company and the approval of the resolution will continue appraisal services.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

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17. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Harbor Phase III Construction

David Pinguoch stated that at the last meeting it was to be postponed indefinitely and the two issues were 1) it needed more in-depth conversation and 2) Peter had asked for a finance plan. Dave Pinguoch directed the Council to a finance plan and stated it was a basic plan. He mentioned the bonds and the deadlines for the bonds. He said that he had spoken to Dyanna about taxes being collected and she had said that there was no reason to indicate that revenue was down. He said he talked to 5 business owners and they reported that their revenue was not down, it was equal or higher. He listed additional resources that contribute to funding such as the apartments, the P-12 Building, and the Delong Dock. He said that every indication shows that there is additional funding, but his concern was that the information given was that the City's checkbook is where the Harbor's going to be financed and it's not. He said the Harbormaster has made the statement that if necessary, they can carry that \$471,000 if they have to without additional resources. The Harbor would just need the down payment. He continued by giving a brief history of in departmental support. He said that they are willing to switch the work to be done so that instead of the fall, they can do it in the spring.

Council discussion ensued.

18. NEW BUSINESS

A. Delong Dock Emergency Repair

Kyle Sinclair stated that a boat had unintentionally crashed into the pilings of the Delong Dock during a heavy wind storm. He explained that the boat was moored to the dock and with the waves and the wind, ripped the pilings off. He said that it is being investigated by the insurance company. Dave Pinguoch asked about the revenue acquired from the Delong Dock. Kyle responded that it is estimated at, at least, \$250,000. Dan asked if there was a policy in place for the Delong Dock and if there is language about someone being onboard at all times. Kyle responded that there is language in the policy, but he couldn't get away from it. His department had to free him from the piling.

The Interim City Manager asked for funding of \$18,000 for assessment costs. Jim stated it will be presented in the form of a resolution.

B. Extended Agreement with Caselle

Jim Hunt stated that this was an informative business item and that Annie had been having considerable conversations with them. Annie Reeves joined the meeting at 8:38. She explained that the contract would include the reconciliation of the books for the second half of 2017 as well as 2018.

No action was taken.

19. COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Dave Dickason discussed the hiring process and where the Hiring Committee was in the process.

Peter Denmark discussed the revamping and remodeling of the City's code.

David Pinguoch discussed the contracting Finance Director.

20. CITIZEN'S DISCUSSION

Linsley Erk reminded that school is in session soon and asked drivers to be cautious of

Children commuting to and from the campus.

Dave Goldstein welcomed Jim Hunt to Whittier. He discussed the following topics: Finance Director, Delong Dock, and the Prince William Sound Borough.

21. COUNCIL AND ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSE TO CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

22. ADJOURNMENT

All were in favor of adjourning the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

ATTEST:



Naelene Matsumiya
City Clerk



Daniel Blair
Mayor