



THE CITY OF WHITTIER

Gateway to Western Prince William Sound

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

**PORT & HARBOR COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, May 6, 2014
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, P-12 BUILDING
6:00 pm**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Monty Irvin called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

OPENING CEREMONY

Monty Irvin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Ed Hedges	Seat A	P
Peter Denmark	Seat B	P
Brad Von Wichman	Seat C	A
Monty Irvin	Seat D	P
Larry Gilman	Seat E	P (Telephonic)
Arnie Arneson	Seat F	A
Matt Kopec	Seat G	P

MOTION: Monty Irvin made a motion to excuse Brad Von Wichman and Arnie Arneson from today's Ports & Harbor meeting.

SECOND: Ed Hedges seconded the motion.

Ed Hedges Y Peter Denmark Y Brad VonWichman O Monty Irvin Y Larry Gilman Y Arnie Arneson O Matt Kopec Y

VOTE: The vote passed by unanimous decision.

DISCUSSION: None

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Sue Miller, Harbormaster
Donald Moore, Interim City Manager
Jennifer Rogers, Deputy City Clerk

PUBLIC CITIZENS PRESENT

David Goldstein

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Peter Denmark made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Agenda of May 6, 2014.

SECOND: Ed Hedges seconded the motion.

Ed Hedges Y Peter Denmark Y Brad VonWichman O Monty Irvin Y Larry Gilman Y Arnie Arneson O Matt Kopec Y

VOTE: The vote passed by unanimous decision.

DISCUSSION: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Monty Irvin made a motion to approve the Port & Harbor Special Meeting Minutes of April 23, 2014 as is.

SECOND: Peter Denmark seconded the motion.

Ed Hedges Y Peter Denmark Y Brad VonWichman O Monty Irvin Y Larry Gilman Y Arnie Arneson O Matt Kopec Y

VOTE: The vote passed by unanimous decision.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Harbormaster Report

See original Harbormaster's report in clerk's packet.
Sue Miller covered the following topics:

- Work on the Ocean Dock began.
- Slip transfers and slip assignments for boats 28 ft. and under
- Preparations for 2014 summer season are underway
- Seasonal staff have been hired; 3 harbor techs, 3 parking attendants and 1 harbor clerk
- Striping of the parking lot has started and will continue as weather permits
- Annual parking and launch permits are available
- Parking citations are being issued

B. City Manager's Report

Interim City Manager, Donald Moore, stated what his priorities are for the harbor are collections of delinquent and aging accounts, float repair, and float safety. He went on to say that the new floats will arrive on May 15th. All safety and financial related topics are priority.

He stated that he was concerned about the amount of motor homes appearing at the harbor. He looked in the Whittier Municipal Code and discovered that motor homes are not permitted in the harbor district. He commented that it would be up to the Commission and City Council to determine what should be done.

Lastly, Don Moore stated that he noticed there aren't any outdoor flags outside the municipal buildings. The Begich Towers houses the Post Office and municipal office. The harbor office should have a flag.

There will be another meeting with the Harbor Configuration Committee on either May 12 or May 13th.

Referring to the motor homes parked in the harbor district area, Peter Denmark stated that this issue has been ignored for a long time and would like to see other issues addressed first. He'd like the commission to address the lease issues at the harbor uplands. Monty Irvin recommended that we move this issue to the Council and let them address it.

Peter Denmark also mentioned that they should also look at the leases that have undeveloped lots. Ed Hedges suggested that we make a motion to advise the City Council to hire an enforcement officer. Peter Denmark agreed saying there are numerous non-compliance issues with harbor leases, therefore, the City should hire an enforcement officer.

Peter Denmark stated that we also have a nuisance ordinance. Larry Gilman asked if we need to make a motion to forward this to the Council. Donald Moore replied that he will bring it up. He said that the City has the capability to enforce the laws we have; we have a City Manager, police officers, and others that the City Manager can direct for other duties; it's a matter of addressing the priorities. He agrees with the idea of taking the major issues first, then go down the list. We can't ignore obvious violations that have been brought to our attention by citizens. We have police officers who are capable to enforce the laws of Whittier.

Peter Denmark suggested that an enforcement officer can identify the problems and the P&H Commission can address specific issues as brought forward then allow the Council to make the final determination. He stated that the person given the task to enforce non-compliance issues is the Nuisance Officer.

MOTION: Ed Hedges made a motion to advise the City Council to get an enforcement officer to look at the leases and non-compliance issues at the harbor.

SECOND: Peter Denmark seconded the motion.

Ed Hedges Y Peter Denmark Y Brad VonWichman O Monty Irvin Y Larry Gilman Y Arnie Arneson O Matt Kopec Y

VOTE: The vote passed by unanimous decision.

DISCUSSION: None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Harbor Moorage Rate List/Miscellaneous Rate List

Sue Miller stated that she provided the Commission with this requested list in the past.

Ed Hedges voiced that since moorage rate fees can't be changed for this year, he recommended that we change the boat lift fees as it's twice as much as any of the other harbors. Sue replied that the moorage rate fees will have to be approved by the Council. He stated that the boat lift isn't being used because of the high cost. Sue replied that the recommended change would have to be sent to the City Council.

There were extensive discussions among the members regarding the boat lift fee and usage.

MOTION: Larry Gilman made a motion requesting the harbormaster provide Commission members with historical sales and repair information regarding the travel lift.

SECOND: Peter Denmark seconded the motion.

Ed Hedges Y Peter Denmark Y Brad VonWichman O Monty Irvin Y Larry Gilman Y Arnie Arneson O Matt Kopec Y

VOTE: The vote passed by unanimous decision.

DISCUSSION: None

B. Harbor Configuration

Monty Irvin stated that he attended a Harbor Improvement Committee meeting; they're working on Phase II. Peter Denmark commented that the P&H Commission should be informed of the events taking place during the Harbor Configuration Committee. Don Moore reminded the Commission that the Harbor Configuration Committee has only had one meeting to date and hasn't made any decisions. At that meeting, Scott Korbe had a presentation based on the information he came back with from the float manufacturer in Bellingham, WA.

The Harbor Configuration Committee would like to have a meeting with the engineers and manufacturers to talk about the float system and its advantages to the harbor.

Peter Denmark added that things are being done out of process; the ad hoc committee should report to Ports & Harbor. The Ports & Harbor should have been more involved and from there a presentation would be made to City Council. Monty Irvin replied that at this point, the only thing being discussed is the replacement of the floats, anything else will come before the Ports & Harbor Commission.

Ed Hedges asked Sue Miller if the floats will replace the missing fingers. Sue replied that there are nine floats arriving to replace the fingers that are broken and those removed because they were damaged and could not by any means, be straightened out. There are 3 in the 0-28 ft., 2 in the 34-37 ft. range on the D float, 3 on the C float and 1 on Bravo and they will be installed with hardware and collars. They will replace the severely damaged floats that had to be closed for safety.

Peter Denmark voiced that there were minor changes in the configuration to accommodate better rafting of boats; there were minor changes that had an impact on the footage. To sum it up, Peter said that there were a lot of good information, but the Ports and Harbor had not received it.

There was discussion among the members regarding the traffic congestion at the ramps.

C. Railroad Land Trades

Peter Denmark stated that he is on the Railroad Land Trade committee. There hasn't been any recent discussions. He met with the Mayor, who is also on the committee, to discuss negotiation points and where they are in the process. Peter stated that the CityManager might have more to report. Don Moore replied that he was unaware that there was such a committee existed.

NEW BUSINESS

None

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

COMMISSION COMMENTS

None

NEXT MEETING ATTENDANCE PLANS: June 3, 2014

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ed Hedges made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: Peter Denmark seconded the motion.

Ed Hedges Y Peter Denmark Y Brad VonWichman Q Monty Irvin Y Larry Gilman Y Arnie Arneson Q Matt Kopec Y

VOTE: The vote passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm

Attest:

Jennifer Rogers
Deputy City Clerk

Monty Irvin
Chair