



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, January 6, 2015
Homeowner's Lounge, BTI Building
6:00 pm**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Monty Irvin called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

OPENING CEREMONY

Monty Irvin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Ed Hedges	Seat A	P
Peter Denmark	Seat B	A
Brad Von Wichman	Seat C	P
Monty Irvin	Seat D	P
Larry Gilman	Seat E	P
Arnie Arneson	Seat F	P
	Seat G	Vacant

MOTION: Monty Irvin made a motion to excuse Peter Denmark from tonight's meeting.

SECOND: Brad Von Wichman seconded the motion.

VOTE: The vote passed by unanimous decision.

DISCUSSION: None

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Mark Lynch, City Manager
Scott Korbe, Public Works Director

Cole Haddock, Harbormaster
Jennifer Rogers, Deputy City Clerk

PUBLIC CITIZENS PRESENT

Charlene Arneson Terry Bender
Daniel Blair David Goldstein

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Arnie Arneson made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Agenda of January 6, 2015.

SECOND: Ed Hedges seconded the motion.

Ed Hedges Y Peter Denmark O Brad VonWichman Y Monty Irvin Y Larry Gilman Y Arnie Arneson Y Seat G O

VOTE: The vote passed by unanimous decision.

DISCUSSION: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Arnie Arneson made a motion to approve the Port & Harbor Special Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2014 with an amendment. Terry Bender made a clarification on her response to a question she replied to on page 3, 2nd paragraph.

SECOND: Ed Hedges seconded the motion.

Ed Hedges Y Peter Denmark O Brad VonWichman Y Monty Irvin Y Larry Gilman Y Arnie Arneson Y Seat G O

VOTE: The vote passed by unanimous decision.

DISCUSSION: None

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Harbormaster Report

Cole Haddock introduced himself as the new Harbormaster. He started on New Year's Eve. He is working on re-wiring the building, the waitlist and has had training on the Caselle software.

B. City Manager's Report

Mark Lynch answered questions regarding electronic parking attendants; one will be placed at the harbor and another at the launch ramp.

Mark also stated that one of Cole's main priorities as a harbormaster will be to figure out how to run the harbor efficiently so that it will not be necessary to increase the harbor fees. There will, however, be an increase in the parking fees this year.

The travel lift is out of service. Cole is in the process of obtaining repair estimates. Scott Korbe stated that Michelle Weston had a certified trained travel lift mechanic inspect the crane and there are some issues that need to be addressed. There are some repairs that the public works and harbor staff can do themselves, but there are issues that will require a certified technician.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Winter Rates

Mark Lynch stated that no changes have been made to the winter rates. He asked for clarification on what needs to be done with the winter rates. Terry Bender reported that approximately two or three winters ago, Sue Miller came up with a seven month rate for fishermen to come in from April 15th through September 15th. There are no contracts for this and has only been utilized by a few people.

Ed Hedges asked Terry Bender if the winter rates are the same as the annual rate. Terry replied that they are not. The winter rates are \$71.35 ft. and the annual moorage rate is \$64.20 per ft. There was discussion about the items listed under New Business. Brad Von Wichman asked Mark Lynch what his thoughts are on whether or not a sub-committee should form to discuss these topics in detail. Mark replied that we're pretty much done with the winter and would like to give Cole time to evaluate the situation and welcomed anyone to contact him if they have any thoughts or questions.

Charlene replied that traditionally, the harbormaster would hold workshops and hearings so that the community can give their input. A vote would be taken on the outcome and as an advisory council, forward the decision to the city council and they would hold another hearing for the public to attend.

Mark added that every year, we average 2-3% inflation, and if rates aren't increased based on those inflations, then every three years, we'll be nearly 10% out.

Mark encouraged the commission members to contact him via email with any questions that they may have so that the questions can be answered before the meeting. Monty stated that he felt that most of the items listed under New Business have been answered by Mark through email.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Harbor Moorage Rates

Brad Von Wichman reported that the harbor moorage rates are higher in Whittier because we're closer to Anchorage and there's a longer wait list, but he feels that we're losing money now by driving people away. Monty asked if people would come if the rate was lower. Brad replied that we'd have to compare of the numbers.

B. Harbor Budget for FY2015

The Harbor Budget for FY2015 has been set for the year.

C. Review Harbor Preferential Moorage Agreement

Covered under New Business

D. Eliminate Winter Rates and Initiate Annuals

Discussed under Winter Rates of Unfinished Business

E. Status Update on Harbor Rebuild

Nothing to report

F. Harbor Finance Status

Nothing to report

G. Prohibit Boat Cleaning and Painting in the Harbor Parking Lots

Ed Hedges reported that former city manager, Ed Barrett thought there was a chemical in bottom paint that had to be specially removed before boats can go in the water. The chemical is not used in bottom paint anymore. Scott Korbe stated that during Phase I of construction, over \$400,000 was spent cleaning up what was scrapped off the bottom of boats for disposal. The toxic bottom paint that are removed from washing the boats will go into the water. He cautioned the commission that EPA regulations prohibit this.

He went on to say that just because the State of Alaska chooses not to enforce them, does not mean there are not rules in place to curtail this. Rinsing the boat is one thing, but doing active boat repair or active bottom paint is still putting contaminants on the ground, which still drains into the drainage system, which will go out into the water.

Brad Von Wichman added that this rule needs to be enforced. Scott said that the Harbor Policies & Procedures need to be reviewed and updated. Dan Blair voiced that the poisonous paints are no longer being sold.

H. Grid and City Dock Repairs

Scott Korbe stated that chances of finding a grid in the lower 48 is very difficult because they're being phased out due to potential contamination. Research still needs to be done. But in the meantime, the policies and procedures need to be implemented. Brad Von Wichman stated that he has a friend who is putting together a power point presentation to show us how they are using the new bottom paint that they are using on state and federal vessels.

Arnie Arneson suggested that the travel lift be allowed to leave city property. Terry Bender replied that twice the travel lift wiped out the power lines and stopped power to certain buildings. A huge pressure was put to not allow the travel lift leave city property.

Larry Gilman asked Cole Haddock if the city is looking into making the ocean dock operational while waiting for a grant. Commission members, Scott Korbe and the city manager were all unaware of the grant. Mark Lynch suggested to Michelle Weston that a report be made with the insurance company. Brad quoted from the harbormaster's report, "*Damage to the gangway which occurred over six months ago is not covered under insurance. Gangway is sitting on the ocean floor.*" Mark replied that it is possible since we only have liability under certain parts of the harbor facilities, so this may be one of those and coverage may not be available.

Brad Von Wichman stated that Sue said there is a contractual agreement between the city and Phillips. Terry Bender added that Phillips pay about \$8,000 a year to be able to use the dock a couple of times a year.

Scott Korbe reported that the D dock is un-operational. There is damage done to it; the gangway was knocked off by a fishing vessel and was supposed to be repaired, but this hasn't come to pass yet. Michelle Weston started the process and the owner of the vessel is aware that it still needs to be repaired.

Larry suggested that if the owner of the vessel who caused the damage to the dock won't repair the dock, then the city should fix it because revenue is being lost. Charlene Arneson explained in detail the process one would go through to file on a vessel or to impound a vessel. Scott Korbe stated that the owner of the vessel is looking into repairing the dock.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Terry Bender stated that there are some who have slips that haven't paid their personal property tax. She questioned why the city continues to give them slips if they don't pay their personal property tax. She's like the harbor and administration employees to get together to come up with a solution to this problem.

Dave Goldstein reminded everyone that there will be a SERVS training is scheduled for the April 18th and 19th and the on-the-water training will be April 20th and 21st. Dave went on to say that it might be a good idea to take the old floats and put them at the head of the bay, so that if we get a recreational harbor during the time that it takes to put the recreational harbor in, we may be able to use the old floats and retrofit them while they're on land to save some money.

Lastly, Dave stated that he has a problem knowing that there are 62 vessels that are past due over 90 days and still have slips. He has a problem with 51% of the absent owners having boats in the harbor, especially owners who have been out of the state for over ten years and have no plans to return. He has a problem with people who do not follow harbor policies and procedures and be allowed to stay in the harbor.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Larry Gilman stated that he attended the PWSAC meeting in Cordova last October. He gave a brief report on the discussions. Larry reported that Whittier received over 100,000 cohos last year. PWSAC doesn't count the return on the fish; it's an estimated return for Whittier. They only expect 4-5 % to return, which is about 5,000-6,000 fish.

Scott Korbe stated that Councilman Pinguoch spoke to PWSAC as well as Ship Creek fish hatchery, which is run by US Forest. Our net capacity for fish, based on the biologists is up to 200,000 which we can support. Mr. Pinguoch has actively lobbied to get more fish. There was discussion about the return of fish fry to Whittier.

The next PWSAC is scheduled for March.

Charlene Arneson said that the City has an ongoing plan and a grant to do a study for Shakespeare Creek. There is a bridge to go across Shakespeare Creek and a trail to go around Shakespeare Creek. There are also picnic tables there. If this isn't finished, then Whittier will be a land locked community.

There was a proposal as a study that there's a fresh water lagoon out there that can be made into a fishing pond or raising fish. Handicap access can also be placed there, which will be the first in the state of Alaska. The trail will go the cruise ship area. A platform or bridge can be made so that people can watch the fish. It was done through the Coastal Zone Management, which went away with Fish and Game. Charlene added that she was unsure if people were aware of this development.

Dave Goldstein suggested that Larry Gilman lobby for more fish. Recreational fishing comes in two parts; one in planting and the other in catching. We are failing on the catching. Mark Lynch stated

that there is an organization called the Prince William Sound Science Center. They track a lot of the routes, so they may be able to tell us the routes the fry take when they leave Cordova to go to the ocean and the routes the fish use to come back. He stated that it sounds like the people of Whittier realize that.

Mark went on to say that there, the fishermen know exactly where to be on the openers. Many times they know where to be, almost within 100 yards of the routes of where the fish will come in so they know where to set up their nets.

Mark stated that he'll make some calls to the Science Center to see if they would be interested in coming over this side of the Sound to do some studies over here since they are a Prince William Sound Science Center, not just Cordova Science Center.

NEXT MEETING ATTENDANCE PLANS: February 3, 2015

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Arnie Arneson made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: Brad Von Wichman seconded the motion.

Ed Hedges Y Peter Denmark O Brad VonWichman Y Monty Irvin Y Larry Gilman O Arnie Arneson Y Scot G O

VOTE: The vote passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm

Attest:



Jennifer Rogers
Deputy City Clerk



Monty Irvin
Chair