



# 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  
Thursday, September 3, 2015  
Homeowner's Lounge, BTI Building  
6:00 pm**

## MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

Ed Hedges called the meeting to order at 6:17 pm.

### OPENING CEREMONY

Ed Hedges 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	A
Arnie Arneson	Seat F	A
David Goldstein	Seat G	P

### ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Mark Lynch, City Manager  
Ross Blakey, Interim Harbormaster  
Scott Korbe, Public Works Director  
Jennifer Rogers, Deputy City Clerk

### PUBLIC CITIZENS PRESENT

None

**MOTION:** Peter Denmark made a motion to excuse Brad Von Wichman, Larry Gilman and Arnie Arneson from tonight's meeting.

**SECOND:** Dave Goldstein

Ed Hedges Y Peter Denmark Y Brad VonWichman Q Monty Irvin Y Larry Gilman Q Arnie Arneson Q David Goldstein Y

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION:** None

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**MOTION:** David Goldstein made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Agenda of September 3, 2015 as is.

**SECOND:** Monty Irvin

Ed Hedges Y Peter Denmark Y Brad VonWichman Q Monty Irvin Y Larry Gilman Q Arnie Arneson Q David Goldstein Y

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION:** None

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION:** Peter Denmark made a motion to approve the Port & Harbor Regular Meeting Minutes of June 4, 2015 as is.

**SECOND:** Monty Irvin

Ed Hedges Y Peter Denmark Y Brad VonWichman Q Monty Irvin Y Larry Gilman Q Arnie Arneson Q David Goldstein Y

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION:** None

### ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

City Manager, Mark Lynch stated that he'll address topics as they come up under New Business.

#### **A. Harbormaster Report**

None

#### **B. City Manager's Report**

Mark Lynch introduced the interim harbormaster, Ross Blaker. Ross will be here until the end of September. It is unlikely that we'll have a new harbormaster by then, so other staff that will cover the harbor.

### CORRESPONDENCE

None

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

### NEW BUSINESS

#### **A. Harbor Rebuild Update**

The \$4 million upgrade phase is completed.

#### **B. Harbor Improvements**

A grant has been submitted for the next phase. Michael Luskin stated that we should only expect

about \$500,000 from the state. They are looking for matching grants greater than 50%. The City Council approved using \$1.5 million from the CVP funds which would replace the head walk and the C float along with the utilities. Mark Lynch submitted a \$2 million matching grant. A, B, G and H floats would not be included and we'll continue to look for funding in the future.

Peter Denmark stated that for harbor funding, the economic development district has been under-utilized in Whittier and the parameters of those grants are essentially job creation. Valdez has replaced a lot of harbor infrastructure with economic development district money and we have never taken advantage of that funding source. Mark replied that it is on his list of things to do. He added that we need to be able to show that there will be job development.

There was further discussion about possible boat repair locations and whether or not jobs would be created from having one.

Dave Goldstein asked if there is any progress with the demolition of the Buckner Building. Mark replied that we were awarded a grant from the state. The state DEC put out a contract proposal request and Shannon & Wilson got the bid. They are in the process of conducting a structural analysis. Shannon & Wilson completed the hazardous material assessment about eight or nine months ago and it came back with an estimate of about \$13.5 million dollars to clean the building up; that has to be done whether the building is torn down or renovate it.

The state is now spending more money with Shannon & Wilson for a structural analysis which will tell us if some parts can be salvaged or if it needs to be torn down. The analysis should be completed sometime in the spring or early summer.

### **C. Harbor Fees**

Mark stated that any recommendations concerning fees from the committee should be submitted to the council. Council will start having budget discussions by October. Council made changes to the fees this year and reduced the winter rates.

David Goldstein inquired about the \$1 per person harbor user fee. Mark replied that the passenger transportation had its first reading last month in an ordinance form to be increased by .50 cents each way or \$1. As soon as that's completed, the harbor user fee will be removed. The PTBT increase will take effect January 1.

**MOTION:** David Goldstein made a motion to recommend to the City Council that they abolish the \$1 harbor user fee.

**SECOND:** Peter Denmark

Ed Hedges Y Peter Denmark Y Brad VonWichman Q Monty Irvin Y Larry Gilman Q Arnie Arneson Q David Goldstein Y

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously.

**DISCUSSION:** Peter Denmark asked if Mark would forward a Resolution to the Council. Mark replied that it wouldn't be a resolution because the commission just passed a motion, but he'll create a resolution. Peter reminded that the commission should forward any recommendations to the council by way of a Resolution.

Peter Denmark recommended that motion be amended to have the commission clerk present a Resolution at the next meeting.

**MOTION:** David Goldstein made a motion to have the commission clerk present a Resolution at the next meeting for their discussion and presentation to the council at the October meeting regarding the abolishment of the \$1 harbor user fee.

**SECOND:** Peter Denmark

Ed Hedges Y Peter Denmark Y Brad VonWichman Q Monty Irvin Y Larry Gilman Q Arnie Arneson Q David Goldstein Y

**VOTE:** The motion passed unanimously.

#### **D. Installation of Dump Site**

Ross Blakey reported that a dump site will cost around \$10,000. The funding will have to come entirely from the City. There is no funding through the Clean Harbors Program because they require a \$500,000 request and there isn't any interest from various harbors to get that much funding request.

Mark Lynch stated that the new harbormaster can work searching for grant funding for this project. A resolution from the commission is needed if they want council to budget this in for next year.

There was further discussion about possible sites for a pump out station.

#### **E. Harbor Status**

Repairs to the travel lift have been completed. The dock was reinforced during the summer months by adding additional bracing. Broken boards on the board walk have been replaced. There was further discussion about improvements with the harbor board walk.

David Goldstein inquired about placing signage on the harbor building to make it easier for people to locate it. Mark replied that it was in the harbor's budget to put a new roof and siding on the building. It would have been appropriate to put the sign on after the siding was complete. However, the proposals received for the siding was more than anticipated. It is likely that it will be done next year.

David Goldstein stated that it would be a good idea to have a recycling program in place.

Scott Korbe reported that the emergency generator is running.

#### **F. Head of the Bay Plans**

Mark Lynch stated that negotiations for the final agreement for the tank farm land will begin this November. He and Mayor Daniel Blair met with the Army Corps of Engineers on several occasions. There are four plans to choose from. The cost will not be revealed until a plan is picked. The Army Corps of Engineers wants to know which one of the four we are interested in. The community need to determine what they want to do at the head of the bay in order to determine how much funding is needed.

Peter Denmark voiced that the Port & Harbor Commission presented a resolution about a year and a half ago approving the installation of a boat ramp there. The council followed up with a parallel resolution at the same time; the purpose was to alleviate boat traffic at the east ramp. There used to be two launch ramps in the harbor. The west ramp is now closed. A boat ramp, regardless of its limitations at the head of the bay would alleviate those small boats at the harbor. There is a

parking lot that could be put to use via a boat ramp. David Goldstein agreed with Peter Denmark then asked what are the current guidelines for camping and launching at the head of the bay. Mark Lynch replied that the funding for Shakespeare Creek project was taken away by the state when the budget crunch hit.

The current plan is to allow day and overnight use for motorhome and tent camping in the parking lot. There will be a parking fee for motorhomes and trailers. A row of big rocks will be placed about 100 ft. from the waterfront to prevent people from driving down to the waterfront. The waterfront will be a day use and the parking lot will be the over-night area.

David Goldstein asked if there would be a conflict with Passage Canal. Mark replied that there is nothing in any document that states there is a no non-compete clause.

Mark stated that he spent some time last winter researching removable launch ramps. We would use it during the summer and store it during the winter. There was further discussion about this possibility.

#### **G. Harbor Clean-Up**

David Goldstein would like the harbor to be clean and presentable.

#### **H. Wake Problems**

David Goldstein reported that this is an ongoing problem. He asked if there was a more vigorous approach to solve the problem. Mark replied that he will look into this. Peter Denmark suggested that we assign a fine since there's an AK number on every boat regardless of the size. Mark replied that we don't have a way to verify speed. Peter replied that a wake is not a function of speed, only partially, but also the size of the boat and the cut of the hull.

David added that he doesn't believe that there has ever been a fine for a wake problem. Mark stated that there might be something in our code which addresses this problem. Ross Blakey stated that this is a boating courtesy. Ed Hedges stated that the Coast Guard covers speeds in the harbor and near the shores and docks. Peter added that there is a reason for Coast Guard presence. Mark stated that he will task the new harbor master with looking into possible solutions.

#### **I. Past Due Accounts**

There are approximately 20 accounts still in small claims; more will be filed in the future.

#### **J. Harbormaster**

Mark Lynch announced that the hiring committee, which consists of himself, Ross Blaker, Dave Schofield and Scott Korbe, has reviewed approximately twenty- one or twenty- two applications. Phone interviews are scheduled for next week.

#### **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

None

#### **COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Monty Irvin thanked Mark for the updates regarding to the head of the bay. Peter Denmark stated that there are issues that have come up and dropped throughout the years that need to have closure. David Goldstein suggested that we use email or text messaging as an additional method of communication from the harbor master.

**NEXT MEETING ATTENDANCE PLANS:** October 1, 2015

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** David Goldstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**SECOND:** Peter Denmark

Ed Hedges Y Peter Denmark Y Brad VonWichman Q Monty Irvin Y Larry Gilman Q Arnie Arneson Q David Goldstein Y

**VOTE:** The vote passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm

Attest:



Jennifer Rogers  
Deputy City Clerk



Ed Hedges  
Acting Chair