



# 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

Saturday April 21, 2012 11:00 am  
P-12 City Council Chambers

### MINUTES

#### CALL TO ORDER

Marilynn Heddell called the meeting to order at 11:03 AM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### ROLL CALL

Dave Goldstein	Seat A	P
Marilynn Heddell	Seat B	P
Brad Von Wichman	Seat C	P
Jerry Proztman	Seat D	P
RC Collin	Seat E	A
Larry Bussman	Seat F	A
Charlie Eldridge	Seat G	P

**MOTION:** David Goldstein made a motion to excuse Larry Bussman from today's meeting and to record R.C. Collin's absence as unexcused.

**SECOND:** Charlie Eldridge seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** Motion passed unanimously

Dave Goldstein Y Marilyn Heddell Y Brad VonWichman Y Jerry Proztman Y RC Collin Q Larry Bussman Q Charlie Eldridge Y

#### ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Harbormaster – Sue Miller  
Robert Prunella- Interim City Manager  
Jennifer Rogers – Commission Clerk

## **PUBLIC CITIZENS PRESENT**

Pete Heddell  
K. Scott McIntyre, Whittier Boat Owner's Association

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** David Goldstein made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Agenda of April 21, 2012.

**SECOND:** Gerald Proztman seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The vote passed by unanimous decision.

Dave Goldstein Y Marilynn Heddell Y Brad VonWichman Y Gerald Proztman Y RC Collin O Larry Bussman O Charlie Eldridge Y

## **DISCUSSION:**

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Brad Von Wichman made a motion to approve the Port & Harbor Regular Meeting Minutes of February 18, 2012 as written.

**SECOND:** Charlie Eldridge seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The vote passed by unanimous decision.

Dave Goldstein Y Marilynn Heddell Y Brad VonWichman Y Gerald Proztman Y RC Collin O Larry Bussman O Charlie Eldridge Y

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

### **A. Harbormaster Report**

Sue stated that there has been a tremendous amount of maintenance work done at the harbor. The job crew worked on temporarily fixing bolts, and collars as well as stabilizing and repairing fingers. Ideas have been discussed on doing some in-house repairs on the fingers and attaching the ones that are so damaged that slips have to be closed. Much time was spent on temporary repairs to the west gangway. Damages to the west gangway were caused by the heavy snow, packed iced, winds and tides; it was bumped off its rail several times and there is a temporary fix on that.

The Administration has worked with the State Emergency Department on getting funds for damages which occurred during January 6-10. Sue stated that we have received a part of that fund and it has been applied. The crew has built three "Kids Don't Float" boxes; these are to replace the ten year old ones that were falling apart. The harbor truck door lock was replaced as well. Our newest harbor officer resigned and that position was posted on April 9<sup>th</sup>. She has received approximately half a dozen applications. She will be interviewing and the position was posted on April 9<sup>th</sup>. The positions for seasonal help will be posted within the next week.

Scott McIntyre, a representative of the Whittier Boat Owner's Association, stated that the B.O.A. met on Wednesday and he had a few concerns that he wanted addressed as a result of their conversations. He mentioned that the members are concerned over the damages of the fingers that are being repaired; they are concerned about the loss revenue. They are concerned that there is only one ramp going down. They would also like to have a coat hook in the men's room. Sue stated it would not be a problem to place some there.

Scott also asked about the funding for cameras. He mentioned that Homeland Security paid for some security cameras that the public will not have access to. The B.O.A. is willing to fund cameras so they can interface them and make them available to the public. They are developing a website similar to the one Cliffside has and would make it accessible to the city. They are willing to share the cost and coordinate so that they don't duplicate.

He also spoke to NOAA and they are willing to work with them as well. The B.O.A. is also concerned that grants for funding have not been vigorously pursued this past year. Bob interrupted Scott by saying he spoke with Kent Wahl and addressed everything that was mentioned today. He questioned whether or not his answers were being relayed to the B.O.A. members. Scott replied that these questions are a continuing concern. Marilynn added that it is up to the City Manager and the City Council to make these decisions. She agreed that we have answered these questions for Kent numerous times in the past and feels that these answers are not being relayed to the B.O.A. members. Scott requested that perhaps these answers be put in writing. Marilynn said that this has already been done.

Brad Von Wichman added that he liked the ideas of having cameras at the harbor. Scott said that they would like to pursue it because many of their members have become jealous of the cameras at the Cliffside. They believe that the use of the cameras can expand their membership. Charlie asked Scott if the B.O.A. is willing to help fund the camera project and Scott stated that they are. Marilynn stated that that would have to be taken up with the City Council, not the Ports and Harbor Committee.

David Goldstein commented that the design plans for the harbor actually addresses security issues and that was one of the reasons why there is only a single entrance to the harbor. He understands the concerns regarding possible emergency evacuations in having different access points. Scott added that it is difficult to get around charter boats when way to go up or down. Dave mentioned that the access ramp is fairly wide especially if both ramps are combined.

## **B. City Manager Report**

Bob started his report by pointing out that he had already given part of his report during Sue's report. He added that it would be beneficial if the B.O.A. would put their questions in writing and submit them before their meeting. Bob has other priorities and it can be difficult to give answers at the spur of the moment. He has heard very little about the cameras and no one has approached him about it. He states that funding was pursued, but we didn't receive any. There are three items on Bob's priority list at this time. One being Shotgun Cove Road, second is the P-12 building, and thirdly, there's the harbor. These priorities are not stacked vertically, they're horizontal; each is a priority and all are dependent on funds. Bob tried to put Whittier put on the G.O. Bond this year, but it didn't happen. We have received \$2 million dollars for this building. If we don't fix this building, we probably won't have a harbor because we won't have a public works, so we have to tie it all together. We have \$2 million for the road this year. He said that is no federal funding available for floats, basins and have them build a breakwater. He'll have to approach the Council sooner or later and ask them whether they want to pursue a loan or a bond.

Bob stated that he was not here when the original project was laid out. He understands the first and second part has been completed. That was eleven million dollars. He said that once he is able to, he will help Sue to take care of some of the problems temporarily. And as far as the damages done during the storm, it is likely that once all the paperwork is complete, then the emergency management will come up with the money to replace the pilings. A permanent repair on the ramp will have to be made as well; we just have to continue pursuing

funds. A survey will be done at the Head of the Bay. Once the studies are done, a breakwater will be built, depending on what the people want.

Charlie asked Bob if the breakwater will be replaced when the pilings are replaced. Bob said that we will have to replace them since they were not damaged during the storm. Bob would like to put steel pilings, but the state will only pay for wood pilings. Scott asked if Bob has an idea of what the cost difference will be between the steel and wood pilings. Bob did not have an answer since he has not been able to get any estimates or bidding on the project. He estimates that the harbor will probably receive about \$170,000 for the entire project. Bob said that he will have a meeting with Sue, Dave and Scott on Monday for a work session to discuss much of what was talked about today.

The emergency management had to import people from New York and hire a private firm to help them deal with what has happened in Cordova and Valdez. Bob also stated that he met a man on the airplane who works for the feds who is interested in tying in to our camera system. The weather reporting station that has been running at the Head of the Bay, which was being paid for by the Army Corp. are no longer receiving funding. Bob said he paid \$720 to continue the service for the next year.

Charlie asked if the Delong Dock is being appraised. Bob said that at this point, it is just Track A-1, not the Delong Dock. The appraiser went yesterday to try to get an appraisal for Track A-1. Charlie asked if they are still interested in the Head of the Bay land. Bob replied that it would be nearly impossible for him to get the appraisal from David Wayne. Bob has even tried going to other appraisers and none of them were going to be able to give him a better time frame than the other. He needs to discuss equal value.

Bob added that B.O.A. needs to receive a copy of the Minutes from today's meeting. Marilyn said that if the B.O.A. wanted answers to certain questions that he should send it to Bob a couple of weeks prior to their meeting. Bob went on to say that he has only attended one B.O.A. meeting, and perhaps it would be beneficial if the Whittier B.O.A. actually meet in Whittier. Marilyn agreed to Bob's suggestion. Marilyn added that there is a big difference between a private harbor and a state operated harbor. Other things take precedence, and we do our best in trying to accommodate everyone.

Bob asked Scott if the B.O.A. members are aware and up to date on what has happened. Scott replied that their membership has varied over the years; their memberships are constantly changing. Bob expressed that what he was referring to is that the state turned over the harbors within Alaska to the communities.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

New business was covered in the Harbor Master's Report and City Manager's Report.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **a. Future Harbor & HOPC Renovation**

This was covered in the earlier conversations.

#### **b. Condition of Lu Young Park**

Cam Bender isn't present to share his ideas for the park.

#### **c. Webcam**

Bob stated that several things can be done, which will involve the police chief because he was working on the original grant with the Homeland Security.

### **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Pete Heddell inquired about the Delong Dock. He wanted to know if it is a barge. Jerry confirmed that it was and went on in detail about the history of the Delong Dock.

### COMMISSION COMMENTS

Marilynn asked Sue if the Ushagat is still in the harbor. Sue confirmed that it is. She was able to contact the owner last fall and was informed that he was planned to hire a salvation company and take it out to the Head of the Bay. She believes that he will be in touch with him in the near future.

Dave Goldstein went on to detail about the weather service observation and buoys in Whittier. He wanted to go on record and stress the importance of the buoys to the recreational and commercial boaters. He also stated that he'd like the Ports & Harbor lend its full support to the City's efforts to resolve the problems in the Council Chambers building, i.e. the carpet, the leaky roof, paint and decorations.

Dave Goldstein wanted to suggest that we make a motion to resolve the problems in the Council Chambers building.

**MOTION:** David Goldstein

**SECOND:** Charlie Eldridge seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The vote passed unanimously

Dave Goldstein \_Y\_ Marilyn Heddell \_Y\_ Brad VonWichman \_Y\_ Gerald Proztman \_Y\_ RC Collin \_O\_ Larry Bussman \_O\_ Charlie Eldridge \_Y\_

Gerald Proztman suggested that Dave Goldstein take charge of the work needed to get done with the weather service observation and the buoys. Dave agreed to do so.

### NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Future Harbor & HOPC Renovation
- B. Condition of Lu Young Park
- C. Webcam

### NEXT MEETING ATTENDANCE PLANS

May 26, 2012 @ 9:00 am

### ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION:** Gerald Proztman made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

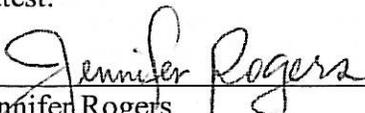
**SECOND:** Brad VonWichman seconded the motion.

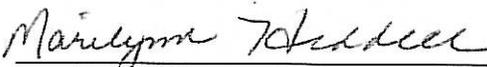
**VOTE:** The vote passed unanimously

Dave Goldstein \_Y\_ Marilyn Heddell \_Y\_ Brad VonWichman \_Y\_ Gerald Proztman \_Y\_ RC Collin \_O\_ Larry Bussman \_O\_ Charlie Eldridge \_Y\_

Meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Rogers  
Commission Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Marilynn Heddell  
Port & Harbor Commission Chairperson