



# 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 SPECIAL MEETING**

**Tuesday, April 16, 2013**

**P-12 City Council Chambers**

**5:30 pm**

### **MINUTES**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Marilynn Heddell called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

#### **OPENING CEREMONY**

Marilynn Heddell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **ROLL CALL**

Ed Hedges	Seat A	P
Marilynn Heddell	Seat B	P
Brad Von Wichman	Seat C	P
Vacant	Seat D	
Vacant	Seat E	
Larry Bussman	Seat F	P
Charlie Eldridge	Seat G	P

#### **ADMINISTRATION PRESENT**

Thomas K. Bolen, City Manager  
Sue Miller, Harbormaster  
Scott Korbe, Public Works Director  
Jennifer Rogers, Deputy City Clerk

#### **PUBLIC CITIZENS PRESENT**

Pete Heddell  
Peter Denmark

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**MOTION:** Larry Bussman made a motion to approve the Special Meeting Agenda of April 16, 2013.

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

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

Ed Hedges Y      Marilyn Heddell Y      Brad VonWichman Y      Larry Bussman Y      Charlie Eldridge Y

## DISCUSSION

None

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**MOTION:** Charlie Eldridge made a motion to approve the Port & Harbor Special Meeting Minutes of March 19, 2013 as written.

**SECOND:** Larry Bussman seconded the motion.

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

Ed Hedges Y      Marilyn Heddell Y      Brad VonWichman Y      Larry Bussman Y      Charlie Eldridge Y

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

### **A. Harbormaster Report**

Sue gave a brief report on the following items:

- A company has been selected to do the repairs on the floating passenger dock.
- The boat lift has been repaired and is back on line.
- Hose and fitting have been purchased for supplying water from the existing float system to W-float and will be installed when weather permits.
- Preparations for the upcoming season are in progress. Job posting for the seasonal staff will start mid-April.
- The SERVS annual training is scheduled for April 19-23.

### **B. City Manager Report**

Thomas Bolen spent extensive time reviewing certain issues which pertain to Title 12. As he stressed in the last meeting, he again a reminder of the importance of not eliminating the word harbor for future consideration. See the original report in the Commission Clerk's packet. He will work on borrowing an appropriate title from another community that has an active boat harbor as well as an active commercial port under city rule. He'll have these copies at the next meeting.

He also stated that it will benefit the community to have a Harbormaster's Plan, which would categorize projects that need attention.

Peter Denmark stated that much of this was already done during the leadership of Mark Earnest. Peter went on to say that specific design plans included a three or four phase project in the harbor basin. He added that Phase I has been completed, which included a four phase plan that encompassed the head of the bay. He noted that it was very seldom that the City got involved with the future planning. In the past, the City Council attempted to generate conversation with the railroad about future planning issues, but the ARR were nonresponsive.

Peter Denmark clarified that the work has been done for the basin of the head of the bay; he was thinking that some of those plans can be resurrected. Tom stated that there is probably information that he is not aware of that has already taken place; that is the reason he is seeking input. He suggested that if the ideas are acceptable to the commission then, it should be recommended to the City Council to do an assessment.

Pete Heddell said that during the tenure of Mark Earnest, it was learned that it was difficult to have access the cruise ship funds; the project had to benefit the cruise ship passengers. Tom interjected that there are two ways to get cruise ship money. First, we can receive a check in the mail as it is based on a head count. The second way to get cruise ship money is to propose a major project to the legislature; the legislature can appropriate funds for that specific project. Tom also mentioned that the Alaska Statute is not very clear on how to use the cruise ship funds.

Peter Denmark added that the design for the uplands has been created; the funding was shown to be available at that time. Tom asked Peter if it was a conceptual design or was there actual design work? Peter replied that it was conceptual.

Tom had a second handout that he presented to the committee. See original in Commission Clerk's packet. The handout describes proposed language to change the way all harbor projects in Alaska and other remote areas are scored based on the National Economic Determination. This program was proposed, it has not been adopted, but it can change the way federal projects are funded in Alaska.

Tom disclosed that while he was in Juneau last week, he talked to the head harbor and he was reminded that there is still \$52,000 of the original \$200,000 guaranteed grant which was used to match Corps funds for Head of the Bay study. The \$52,000 will be matched and will equal to \$104,000.

**MOTION:** Ed Hedges made a motion to make a recommendation to the City Council to hire a company to assess the harbor facilities.

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

**VOTE:** The vote passed unanimously

Ed Hedges Y      Marilynn Heddell Y      Brad VonWichman Y      Larry Bussman Y      Charlie Eldridge Y

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Peter Denmark- Alaska Sea Kayakers**

Peter Denmark presented his concerns regarding the ongoing reduction in salt water access for kayakers. He is hoping that the City of Whittier can establish viable infrastructure to accommodate the paddle sport enthusiasts. To sum it up; Peter stated that kayakers are looking for viable access and egress points.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **a. Title 12**

Tom Bolen discussed this topic under the City Manager Report section.

### **b. Update on Smitty's Cove**

Tabled

**c. Condition of Lu Young Park**

Tabled

**d. Floating Dock Repairs**

Nothing new to report.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

None

**COMMISSION COMMENTS**

Marilynn Heddell stated that four people had submitted Declaration of Interest forms to fill the vacant seats. Mayor Lester Luncford will fill the two vacant seats during the City Council meeting later that evening.

**NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. Title 12**
- B. Kayak Launching**
- C. Facility Assessment**
- D. Passenger Floating Dock Repairs**
- E. Update on Smitty's Cove**
- F. Condition of Lu Young Park**

**NEXT MEETING ATTENDANCE PLANS:** Tuesday, May 21, 2013 @ 5:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**SECOND:** Larry Bussman seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The vote passed unanimously

Ed Hedges Y      Marilynn Heddell Y      Brad VonWichman Y      Larry Bussman Y      Charlie Eldridge Y

Meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm

Attest:

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Jennifer Rogers  
Deputy City Clerk

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Marilynn Heddell  
Port & Harbor Commission Chairperson