



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, September 2, 2014
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, P-12 BUILDING
6:00 pm**

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Ed Hedges called the meeting to order at 6:09 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	P
Monty Irvin	Seat D	A
Larry Gilman	Seat E	P
Arnie Arneson	Seat F	P- (Attended telephonically)
Matt Kopec	Seat G	A

MOTION: Larry Gilman made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Agenda of September 2, 2014.

SECOND: Peter Denmark seconded the motion.

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

VOTE: The vote passed by unanimous decision.

DISCUSSION: None

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Mark Lynch, City Manager
Sue Miller, Harbormaster
Jennifer Rogers, Deputy City Clerk

PUBLIC CITIZENS PRESENT

Terry Bender
Daniel Blair
David Brubaker

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Larry Gilman made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Agenda of September 2, 2014.

SECOND: Peter Denmark seconded the motion.

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

VOTE: The vote passed by unanimous decision.

DISCUSSION: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Peter Denmark made a motion to approve the Port & Harbor Regular Meeting Minutes of August 5, 2014 as is.

SECOND: Larry Gilman seconded the motion.

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

VOTE: The vote passed by unanimous decision.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Harbormaster Report

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

- Monies received for over-due accounts
- Harbor maintenance projects
- Finger docks
- Passenger dock
- Parking citations
- Night checks on vessels mooring in the harbor
- SERVS contract
- New cash handling procedures

Larry Gilman asked Sue if she can estimate how much money the harbor takes in each day for the boat launch. Sue estimated that they receive approximately 100 envelopes at peak times which contain \$20-\$30 each. Larry asked which account is the money placed. Sue replied that it's part of the harbor income for repairs and whatever is necessary.

B. City Manager's Report

City Manager Mark Lynch introduced himself to the commission members.

CORRESPONDENCE

A. Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation

Mark Lynch stated that this letter was brought to the attention of the Port & Harbor members in case anyone was interested in serving as Whittier's representative.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Phase 5 Harbor Improvements

Peter Denmark gave a brief update on this topic.

B. Boat Ramp at the Head of the Bay

Peter Denmark stated that the P&H commission approved the idea of submitting a recommendation to build a launch ramp at the head of the bay to the City Council last spring, but there hasn't been any progress. Since the City and the Railroad are beginning to engage in land swap conversations, he emphasized that this is a good time for the P&H commission to formulate an opinion on what the City's future needs are at the head of the bay.

People are launching boats at the head of the bay now. When the west ramp was closed at the harbor, there was a plan to develop a boat launch at the head of the bay. Peter stated that having another location for smaller boats that are easily trailered at the head of the bay should be followed through.

There was much discussion about this topic among the members.

MOTION: Arnie Arneson made a motion to proceed with due caution to construct a fee or free launch facility at the head of the bay for smaller boats.

SECOND: Peter Denmark seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: There was some discussion among the members over the ownership of the tidelands and uplands.

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

VOTE: The vote passed by unanimous decision.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Informational Road Signage

Sue Miller stated that this topic was brought up at the last Planning & Zoning meeting by Jean Swingle. Terry Bender added that people come to the harbor office every day inquiring where to buy permits; it's not clear to people where they should go. Terry added that the people seem to miss the small signs that are in place at the end of every road.

Sue Miller replied that this is a budget item. She said that she'll request more funding for signage in next year's budget. Brad Von Wichman suggested that we ask local business owners to help contribute for the new signage.

B. Joint Ownership of a Safe Boat by the COW and USCGAUX

Dave Brubaker, a representative from the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, gave a presentation.

MOTION: Brad Von Wichman made a motion to support the concept of a joint ownership of a Safe Boat by the City of Whittier and the USCGAUX.

SECOND: Peter Denmark seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: There was some discussion among the members regarding the costs and liability.

ADDENDUM: Peter Denmark suggested that one of the benefits include a fire suppression for the Whittier facilities.

Brad Von Wichman agreed to this addendum.

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

VOTE: The vote passed by unanimous decision.

Dave Brubaker spoke of the DSC. (Digital selective calling) This feature which ties into the GPS, will be available in Alaska within the next couple of weeks.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mayor Daniel Blair spoke in support of the joint ownership of a safe boat by the COW and USCGUX.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Peter Denmark encouraged the Commission members to present any thoughts on the future development needs of the harbor and port facilities. The City of Whittier is in the process of discussing land swaps with the railroad, so now would be a good time to discuss projects. He went on to say that funding is available for larger projects.

NEXT MEETING ATTENDANCE PLANS: October 07, 2014

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Peter Denmark made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: Larry Gilman seconded the motion.

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

VOTE: The vote passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm

Attest:

Jennifer Rogers
Deputy City Clerk

Monty Irvin
Chair