



THE CITY OF WHITTIER

Gateway to Western Prince William Sound

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PORT & HARBOR COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

**Tuesday, March 19, 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	A
Jerry Protzman	Seat D	A
RC Collin	Seat E	A
Larry Bussman	Seat F	P
Charlie Eldridge	Seat G	P

MOTION: Ed Hedges made a motion to excuse Brad Von Wichman from today's meeting.

SECOND: Charlie Eldridge seconded the motion.

VOTE: Motion passed unanimously

Ed Hedges Y Marilyn Heddell Y Brad VonWichman O Jerry Proztman O RC Collin O Larry Bussman Y Charlie Eldridge Y

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

PUBLIC CITIZENS PRESENT

Christopher Bender
Peter Denmark
Pete Heddell

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Ed Hedges made a motion to approve the Special Meeting Agenda of March 19, 2013.

SECOND: Charlie Eldridge seconded the motion.

VOTE: The vote passed by unanimous decision.

Ed Hedges Y Marilyn Heddell Y Brad VonWichman O Jerry Proztman O RC Collin O 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 February 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 O Gerald Proztman O RC Collin O Larry Bussman Y Charlie Eldridge Y

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

A. Harbormaster Report

See written report in original P&H packet.

Charlie Eldridge asked Sue if the boat lift is out of order. Sue replied that the boat lift gets inspected and certified each year.

Marilynn asked Sue if the parking fees will remain the same this year and Sue answered in the affirmative.

B. City Manager Report

Tom Bolen stated that he has been employed since February 8th. He has spent the majority of his time meeting with the department heads and getting familiar with the projects that they are working on. He was able to spend some time with the City Attorney and got a briefing on legal issues. He has also spent some time with the Corp of Engineers, discussing projects that involve them. He took some time today to study the various grants the City currently has. He then stated that it has become very clear

to him that the waterfront and the harbor is what defines Whittier. He went on to say that that has to play very prominently into all of the City's doings. Marilyn thanked Tom for his report and welcomed him.

Charlie Eldridge asked Thomas Bolen if he found the \$47,500 grant that Bob had located. Tom replied that he had located that grant earlier in the day. He said that it is an open ended grant, which means that it can be spent on quite a number of different things. He had a prior discussion with the harbormaster and found that the harbor is need of float repairs. He went on to say that he wants to spend the money appropriately. He wants to further investigate what all the needs are and what the priorities are, and what type of monies we have to make the decisions. He added that there is a very short window of opportunity left to spend the money, so he'll have to act quickly.

NEW BUSINESS

R.C. Collin's Attendance

Marilynn stated that she spoke to R.C. Collin today and was told that he was going to resign as he is no longer able to attend the meetings due to his schedule. Marilyn directed Jennifer Rogers, the Commission Clerk, to contact both R.C. Collin and Gerald Protzman to provide a written document stating their intentions to resign from the Ports & Harbor Committee. Though R.C. gave a verbal resignation, Marilyn stated that she would like to receive some type of written document.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Harbormaster's Findings on Title 12

Before Sue was able to disclose her findings on Title 12, Tom Bolen stated that he had a conversation with Sue and she made mention of the fact that some of the revisions dealt with deleting references to Ports or Port; specifically focused on correcting Title 12 to always put Harbor. Without knowing more about the situation, he is concerned as to why we would want to make the deletion. It has been his experience that Codes often contain language which isn't appropriate, meaning, language about something that we might not actually do, something which we might not actually have in our municipality. He went on to say that unless the language is actually incorrect, or has some negative impact, it makes more sense to leave it in tact and just have it there. As appose to deleting it and find later that we actually needed it and work through the process to undo that. He further went on to explain the term port authority. He recommends leaving the code as is for the time being.

Pete Heddell thanked the City Manager for explaining the importance of the Ports & Harbor to the City of Whittier.

Sue disclosed that the changes she made to the Title were minor.

b. Update on Smitty's Cove

Tabled

c. Condition of Lu Young Park

Cam Bender stated that he wanted to re-address his concerns for the area. He believes there is great potential there for visitors, kayak launch, fishing, and other great things that we love about Whittier. He will have something for us to look and and prioritize in the near future. He explained that all he wants to do is make the area nice. He'd like to cut the brush and trim some branches so that others can get a descent cast out from underneath the trees. He had nothing else to report at this point. With the support of locals, he is sure that he'll have something for us to review in the future.

He went on to say that the City department maintains the area anyways, so there isn't much out of the scope in terms of what they already do. He added that the citizens can help maintain it as well by cleaning the grills and taking the trash out. And perhaps citizens can help with suggestions on how the area can be improved. Lastly he added that there are a few citizens who are interested in helping and have the resources and ability to contribute.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Peter Denmark, owner of Alaska Sea Kayakers, gave the Commission Clerk a report to distribute to the Ports & Harbor members. This report is available in the P&H packet in the City Office. He went on for several minutes to explain in detail the handout which explains the ongoing reduction in salt water access which has created significant safety concerns for kayakers. He stated that he would like to have this subject on future agendas. To sum up his presentation, he stated that he would like to have access to both sides of the fjords.

COMMISSION COMMENTS

Ed Hedges asked if the City will take back the dock from the cruise company. He heard a rumor that they wanted to give it away. Charlie Eldridge added that he received a flyer in the mail that stated the building was for sale for \$85,000. Peter Denmark said that the building is on skids and there is no plumbing in the building, so it can be moved. The rail road controls the uplands, he suspects that they control the pier as well. Pete Heddell commented that the dock was owned by Prince William Sounds Cruises and Tours. Scott Korbe said that CIRI has left the City. The gangway, upper structure and pilling belongs to the City and will leave them in place for future development.

Charlie asked Sue about the insurance coverage of the dock. Sue stated that it has liability coverage only, not property. She stated that they are looking into correcting that.

Pete Heddell asked Sue if she can review the concerns in regards to Bravo and have the staff take a look at what might be the problem. She stated that she will review it.

NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Title 12**
- B. Update on Smitty's Cove**
- C. Condition of Lu Young Park**
- D. Floating Dock Repairs**
- E. Peter Denmark- Alaska Sea Kayakers**

NEXT MEETING ATTENDANCE PLANS

MOTION: Larry Busman made a motion to hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, April 16, 2013 at 5:30 pm.

SECOND: Ed Hedges seconded the motion.

VOTE: The vote passed unanimously

Ed Hedges Y Marilyn Heddell Y Brad VonWichman O Gerald Proztman O RC Collin O Larry Bussman Y Charlie Eldridge Y

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Larry Bussman made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

SECOND: Charlie Eldridge seconded the motion.

VOTE: The vote passed unanimously

Ed Hedges Y Marilyn Heddell Y Brad VonWichman O Gerald Proztman O RC Collin O Larry Bussman Y Charlie Eldridge Y

Meeting adjourned at 6:20pm

Attest:

Jennifer Rogers
Commission Clerk

Marilynn Heddell
Port & Harbor Commission Chairperson