


Haines Borough
Borough Assembly Meeting #151
March 24, 2009
MINUTES

Approved

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG Mayor HILL called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Assembly Chambers and led the pledge to the flag.

2. ROLL CALL Present: Mayor Jan HILL and Assembly Members Scott ROSSMAN, Jerry LAPP, Doug OLERUD, Pete LAPHAM, Steve VICK, and Norm SMITH (via teleconference).

Staff Present: Tom BOLEN/Borough Manager, Julie COZZI/Borough Clerk, Jila STUART/Chief Fiscal Officer, Stephanie SCOTT/ESC Coordinator, Brad MAYNARD/Director of Public Facilities, and Gary LOWE/Chief of Police.

Visitors Present: Jessica EDWARDS/CVN, Tara BICKNELL/KHNS, Michael BYER/School Superintendent, Duck and Karen HESS, Roger MAYNARD, Bill and Libby KURZ, Mike CASE, Julia HEINZ, Pam SLOPER, Marnie HARTMAN, Dave BERRY, Chris SCHELB, Anna JURGELEIT, Kelly LOWE, Donnie TURNER, and others.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA & CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by LAPP: Approve the Agenda/Consent Agenda. It was seconded by LAPHAM. The motion carried unanimously.

* 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - 3/10/09 Regular

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

HARTMAN spoke to the assembly about plans for a community fitness/wellness center. She represents a group of citizens working to develop a business plan. This group will be seeking borough support and hopes to make a formal presentation to the assembly in April.

K.HESS and R.MAYNARD both spoke in support of Resolution 09-03-151 and asked the assembly to adopt it.

6. MAYOR'S COMMENTS/REPORT

Mayor HILL reported on the Southeast Conference Mid-Session Summit that she recently attended in Juneau along with the borough manager.

The mayor had the privilege of presenting a *key to the town* to the Haines High School cheerleaders who just won their third state championship.

HILL explained that the US Forest Service (USFS) is seeking applications for appointment to the Icy Straits-Lynn Canal Resource Advisory Committee. This committee will recommend uses

BOLEN introduced Brad Maynard, the new Director of Public Facilities.

The manager distributed a document showing the results of a survey of tourism dollars spent in Sitka, Ketchikan, Homer, Petersburg, Seward, Wrangell, Skagway, and Haines. He explained the difficulty in getting the information and said the document may not be very meaningful. One reason is because other communities do things differently. Most are different than Haines in that the tourism function is performed by private chambers of commerce or convention & visitors bureaus. He attempted to estimate a dollar value per visitor but admitted that it was more or less a wild guess. He believes it does paint a clear picture that the communities with a lot of cruise ship traffic are in better shape than those that don't. These communities get a lot more bang out of the tourism dollars spent. **VICK** said the document brings up more questions than it answers. With the economy the way it is, it would be important to have a strategy for increasing visitor numbers. He wondered if there are ways to spend tourism dollars differently to attract the non-cruise visitors. **BOLEN** agreed that it raises questions that are not easy to answer. **LAPHAM** said if you don't advertise you don't get anything. Haines has to be out there putting its name forward. He observed that everyone would like to see the dollar values that Skagway and Ketchikan enjoy, but Haines is still in the plus column. The assembly doesn't have a lot of control over what the economy does but should keep supporting the current marketing efforts. **VICK** agreed that marketing and advertising is very important. He interjected that a friend in Fairbanks has never been to Haines, and he wondered if money should be spent to target areas like that. **ROSSMAN** believes Haines must market itself aggressively in order to get anything. **OLERUD** said he is surprised that a government agency was able to realize a 19% return on its investment. The tourism director reevaluates things annually and should be asked how the percentage might be increased, however 19% is not bad. **LAPP** said the Tourism Department along with the Tourism Advisory Board are working on ways to deal with the poor economic situation.

OLERUD believes the borough's current Washington D.C. lobbyists are doing a good job.

BOLEN reported on the current status with the harbormaster recruitment. Ten applications were received by the deadline and two were received late. The mayor joined him in interviewing the two short-listed individuals, and they both agreed that the interview process should continue. **OLERUD**

10. OLD BUSINESS

A. Resolution 09-03-151

A resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly urging the State of Alaska Legislature to modify the current state standards governing the discharge of cruise ship waste water to reflect fair standards based on scientific evidence, and for related purposes.

Motion by **ROSSMAN**: Take from the table consideration of Resolution 09-03-151. It was seconded by **LAPP**. It carried 5-1 in a roll call vote with **VICK** opposed.

This brought back for discussion the motion to adopt Resolution 09-03-151.

SMITH does not believe this resolution will make a difference regarding HB134. That bill is changing so that it will not be the same as introduced. It has come to his attention that there are people who believe adoption of this resolution will result in Haines getting more cruise ship dockings. He believes the resolution is "dead on arrival," and he does not support it. **LAPP** said the resolution does not mention HB134 so its passage should not be affected by any changes in that bill's language. **VICK** said the cruise ships have until 2010 to comply so he doesn't see any need for immediacy and does not support the resolution. **OLERUD** asked the manager if he found out what it might cost the borough to meet the same water treatment standards required of the cruise ships. **BOLEN** said it would be many millions of dollars and nobody could afford the rate increases it would cause. **OLERUD** stated that his reason for supporting this resolution has nothing to do with a belief that it will bring more cruise traffic. He supports it because it is wrong to single out one industry. Even the ferry system is not required to follow the same water treatment standard. Anything can change before the end of the legislative session, and it's important for Haines to send the message of fairness.

The motion carried 4-2 in a roll call vote with **VICK** and **SMITH** opposed.

11. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolutions

1. Resolution 09-03-155

A resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly authorizing an owner-built sewer and water main extension within the Townsite Service Area to service lots on Chilkoot Street, Chilkoot Loop and Chilkoot Court within the Chilkoot Estates Subdivision.

Motion by OLERUD: Adopt Resolution 09-03-156. It was seconded by LAPHAM.

LAPP asked if there will be an ongoing energy coordinator position. BOLEN said the coordinator's contract is a separate issue and should not be tied into the Plan. VICK said his understanding is that there is no requirement to do everything listed in the Plan. ROSSMAN believes it is well done and supports it.

The motion carried unanimously in a roll call vote.

3. Resolution 09-03-157

A resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly authorizing the disposal of borough-owned land dedicated to public use by vacation of right-of-way to Jim and Anna Jurgeleit.

Motion by LAPHAM: Adopt Resolution 09-03-157. It was seconded by VICK. The motion carried unanimously in a roll call vote.

4. Resolution 09-03-158

A resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly urging the federal congressional delegation to take any possible steps to accelerate the remediation of the Lutak Army Tank Farm Property and its subsequent transfer of title to The Chilkoot Indian Association, and for related purposes.

Motion by LAPP: Adopt Resolution 09-03-158. It was seconded by VICK.

OLERUD said he has a few problems with the resolution. It does not make any reference to the borough's condition that the property be owned by a taxable entity. He proposed a replacement resolution that was distributed to the assembly members.

Motion to Amend by OLERUD: Replace Resolution 09-03-158 with the replacement resolution. It was seconded by LAPP. The amendment motion carried unanimously.

The main motion carried unanimously in a roll call vote.

B. Ordinances for Introduction

1. Ordinance 09-03-201

An ordinance of the Haines Borough amending borough code section Title 18 Chapter 100 to update and clarify subdivision regulations.

Motion by OLERUD: Introduce Ordinance 09-03-201 and set a first public hearing for April 14, 2009. It was seconded by LAPP. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Other New Business

1. Advisory Board Appointments

4. Borough Officer Employment Agreements

Motion by **LAPP**: Approve Employment Agreements for the Chief of Police, Chief Fiscal Officer, and Borough Clerk. It was seconded by **LAPHAM**.

Regarding the severance pay section, **OLERUD** said the Clerk has requested that "benefited salary" be added to all three contracts. He is supportive of that change.

Motion to Amend by **LAPP**: Change the severance pay section to say three months of "benefited salary." It was seconded by **VICK**. The amendment motion carried unanimously.

The motion carried unanimously in a roll call vote.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

A. DCCED - Corrected Haines Borough Population (2,274 to 2,310). There was no discussion.

13. SET MEETING DATES

The Waterfront Improvement Committee will meet on Thursday, April 2 at a time to be determined based on the availability of committee members. Staff will poll them, and the time will be at the call of the chair. The meeting was requested by the borough manager in order to present a new conceptual drawing of the Port Chilkoot Dock area.

14. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

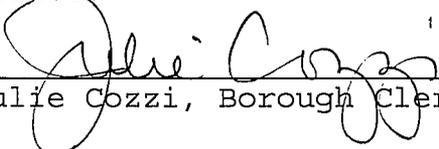
SMITH took issue with the towing bill submitted by Big Foot Auto. He said if the owner can't produce documentation and the police department doesn't have it, then he doesn't understand why a business would willingly tow vehicles without agreements and documents in place. He would like to see the borough move forward with a clean slate.

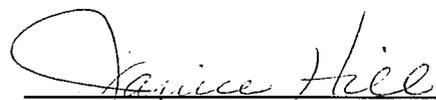
OLERUD asked when the manager evaluation forms should come back to the mayor. **HILL** said no later than April 10th.

16. ADJOURNMENT - 9:02pm

Motion by **OLERUD**: Adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by **LAPP**. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:


Julie Cozzi, Borough Clerk


Janice Hill, Mayor

