

  
**Haines Borough**  
**Borough Assembly Meeting #183**  
**July 27, 2010**  
**MINUTES**

**Approved**

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

2. **ROLL CALL**

**Present**: Mayor Jan **HILL**, Assembly Members Jerry **LAPP**, Daymond **HOFFMAN**, Norm **SMITH**, Scott **ROSSMAN**, Joanne **WATERMAN**, and Steve **VICK** (via teleconference).

**Staff Present**: Mark **EARNEST**/Borough Manager, Jamie **HEINZ**/Deputy Clerk, Brad **MAYNARD**/Director of Public Facilities, Gary **LOWE**/Chief of Police and Jerrie **CLARKE**/Museum Director.

**Visitors Present**: Tom **MORPHET**/CVN, Libby & Bill **KURZ**, Janet **KURZ**, Pam **RANGLES**, Stephanie **SCOTT**, Chris **BROOKS**, Andy **BOUTIN**, Burl **SHELDON**, Joyce **TOWN**, Chip **STRONG**, Ned **ROZBIKI**, Nancy **BERLAND**, Roger **MAYNARD**, and others.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA & CONSENT AGENDA**

**Motion**: **LAPP** moved to "approve the Agenda/Consent Agenda," and the motion carried unanimously.

\* 4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Regular: 7/13

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**SCOTT** introduced Chris **BROOKS** and Andy **BOUTIN** presenters of the upcoming Wood Pellet Feasibility meeting.

**BERLAND** encouraged the Assembly to adopt policies in favor of the local production of food, which would also create jobs. She explained that there was a minimal food supply in Alaska and talked about the potential impacts if there were a disruption in the food supply. She spoke about a conference that she attended where she learned from Public Health officials that many epidemics around the country are diet related and eating locally is important. She said that a food bank contingent spoke at that meeting as well that discussed the high cost of food which local food production could help to mitigate.

**KURZ** spoke again against public money being spent on a building (Chilkat Center) that is not owned by the Borough.

**ROZBIKI** spoke briefly about the high taxi insurance rates required by code. He pointed out that the limits are higher than the Mat-Su Borough, Fairbanks North Star Borough and the City and Borough of Juneau.

6. **MAYOR'S REPORT/COMMENTS**

Mayor **HILL** pointed out that there was an extra ship in town today and said she was happy that people were out and about.

The Mayor announced the Community Picnic on August 15<sup>th</sup> as a part of the Centennial celebration. She explained that Main Street between 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue will be closed off for a street dance with live music and challenged any former Mayor still in Haines to help grill at the picnic. She said that the old pictures at the bank are great and said that she's heard great comments on pictures in the old Coliseum building. She thanked Jerrie and the Centennial Committee for their hard work.

Mayor **HILL** also talked about the fair starting on Thursday and that Governor Parnell would be in town for part of the day on Saturday. She encouraged everyone to start working on floats for the parade.

The Mayor explained a dangerous situation she was involved in with pedestrians on the roadway and encouraged everyone to be careful when walking and bicycling on the roads.

7. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

A. **Ordinance 10-07-233** – First Hearing

**An Ordinance of the Haines Borough determining whether foreclosed property deeded to the Borough shall be retained for a public purpose.**

**Motion**: **LAPP** moved to "advance ordinance 10-07-233 to a second public hearing on 8/10/10," and the motion carried unanimously.

**8. STAFF REPORTS**

**A. Borough Manager**

The manager summarized his written report that included the following items:

- Harbor Appropriation
- Bear Summit
- Emerson Field Property Acquisition
- Haines Borough Comprehensive Plan Update
- Chilkats' Portage Cove Development Corrective Deed
- Crystal Cathedrals
- Downtown Revitalization Action Plan

In addition to his written report, **EARNEST** clarified that components of the harbor expansion project go both North and South. He also explained that the only components of the plan that are eligible for federal funding through the Corps of Engineers are those in navigational waters which would be channel dredging or breakwater construction. He explained that the rest of the construction is required to be local funding which would be either the Borough or the state.

He also reported that there was potential for taking some bear proofing measures and tie them into the Safe Routes to Schools program and that he would present more information as it became available. **VICK** said that he could see the value of this topic and supported a draft ordinance going to the Government Affairs & Services committee.

**EARNEST** suggested a potential Ad-Hoc working group for the Downtown Revitalization Action Plan received by MRV Architects, he suggested that a core group of stake holders meet and discuss formulating implementation, discussing how many others should be involved, if any, and how long a commitment the group would need to make. He explained that other Southeast Alaska communities have gone through the process and that it would likely be a four or five year process that needs to be largely driven by the business community and supported by the Borough. **VICK** asked what the first step would be, how the meeting would be facilitated and what the expectation was of the Assembly. **EARNEST** explained that he'd like to send the report out and ask for volunteers, invite those interested to come to an informal meeting that he would facilitate to get the process started. **VICK** said he'd like to see the Assembly direct the manager to put the Downtown Revitalization plan out to the community and see who might be interested in serving on a committee.

**HOFFMAN** requested being involved in the Comprehensive Plan Update team.

**EARNEST** gave an update on the Harbormaster position, explaining that six applications were received in the second round of recruitment and that he was moving forward with the short list and interview process. He pointed out that candidates in the first round are still in the running and they would be considered as well.

**B. Borough Clerk**

- \*C. Chief Fiscal Officer
- \*D. Chief of Police
- \*E. Museum
- \*F. Library
- \*G. Chilkat Center

**9. COMMITTEE/COMMISSION/BOARD REPORTS**

**A. Commerce Committee**

**B. Finance & Budget**

**LAPP** reported that the finance committee had met prior to this Assembly meeting, discussed the hardship exemption applications, and recommends an ordinance come before the Assembly for consideration. He also reported that the committee recommends adoption of the budget amendment ordinance currently before the Assembly.

**C. Personnel and Labor Relations**

**D. Government Affairs & Services**

- \*E. Planning Commission
- \*F. School Board
- \*G. Chilkat Center Advisory Board
- \*H. Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
- \*I. Tourism Advisory Board

- \* J. Boat Harbor Advisory Committee
- \* K. Public Safety Commission
- \* L. Waterfront Improvement Committee
- \* M. Energy & Sustainability Commission
- \* N. Service Area Boards

## 10. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Resolution 10-07-218

**A Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly authorizing the manager to execute a contract extension and change order with Henry Construction for the Chilkat Center Pedestrian Bridge project to construct an additional set of access stairs for an amount not to exceed \$18,000.**

**Motion on the table:** ROSSMAN moved to "adopt Resolution 10-07-218."

During discussion, SMITH asked where the money was coming from. EARNEST said the money was a designated legislative grant.

**Motion to Amend:** WATERMAN moved to "amend by substituting the staff drafted resolution," and the motion carried unanimously.

The main motion carried unanimously.

## 11. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Resolutions

#### 1. Resolution 10-07-223

**A Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly authorizing the Borough Manager to enter into a construction agreement with Dawson Construction, Inc. for the Mosquito Lake School Heating System Renovation project for an amount not to exceed \$201,550.**

**Motion:** WATERMAN moved to "adopt Resolution 10-07-223," and the motion carried 4-2 with ROSSMAN and SMITH opposed.

During discussion EARNEST pointed out that this project was funded through Department of Education and Early Development and was approved by the governor. He also explained that the school district had budgeted the required match prior to the Assembly appropriation. SMITH expressed concern with the high cost to renovate the heating system for a school with ten students. WATERMAN pointed out that it's a redundancy system and that it had been discussed many times in the past.

#### 2. Resolution 10-07-224

**A Resolution of the Haines Borough Assembly authorizing the Borough Mayor to sign a corrective quitclaim deed to correct a mistaken legal description of certain tidelands in a 1997 quitclaim deed by the City of Haines to Chilkats' Portage Cove Development Company.**

**Motion:** WATERMAN moved to "adopt Resolution 10-07-224," and the motion carried unanimously in a roll call vote.

STUDLEY spoke on behalf of Klukwan, Inc., pointing out that it was a clerical error and thanked the Assembly for correcting the error. Ralph STRONG, General Manager of Klukwan, Inc., thanked the Assembly for passing the resolution. EARNEST said this was one of the more interesting situations that he's come across and said he was glad that the work was done to review the history through the decades and thanked those involved for their patience and understanding that the borough had to go through the steps to get resolution.

### B. Ordinances for Introduction

#### 1. Ordinance 10-07-234

**An Ordinance of the Haines Borough Assembly providing for amendment of the FY11 budget.**

**Motion:** **LAPP** moved to "Introduce Ordinance 10-07-234 and set a first public hearing for August 10, 2010," and the motion carried unanimously.

**LAPP** reiterated that the finance committee recommends adoption.

**2. Ordinance 10-07-235**

**An Ordinance of the Haines Borough amending Haines Borough Code Title 12, Section 12.08.110 to clarify how roads with a cul-de-sac are to be measured and to provide a mechanism for allowing temporary roads longer than 500 feet to have one end closed.**

**Motion:** **WATERMAN** moved to "Introduce Ordinance 10-07-235 and set a first public hearing for August 10, 2010," and the motion carried unanimously.

**C. Other New Business –**

**1. Energy Sustainability Commission – Discussion**

During discussion, **HOFFMAN** said he'd like to start a discussion about the possibility of creating another part to the Energy Sustainability Commission (ESC) to deal with food production policies, and also possibly making the commission/committee permanent. He explained that if there was a permanent committee with interested community members, they would take the time to educate themselves and advise the Assembly.

**SMITH** expressed concern that local grocery stores occasionally run out of eggs and milk and felt the ESC could be tasked to include this topic. **LAPP** said he didn't think he could support a committee on food production; that he's not in favor of more committees. He pointed out that Bob Henderson gave his farm to the Eagle Foundation and the Covenant Life Church still produces and sells what they've grown. **ROSSMAN** said he's not against the committee, but is not in favor of a paid position. He pointed out that in the end, it is economics that drive the gardens and he doesn't know what it is that the Borough can do to make people grow their own food.

**VICK** reiterated that statewide, 90 to 95% of Alaska's food comes from outside. He pointed out that Haines is vulnerable if the barge didn't make it in one week and could see a need for a committee. He suggested looking at historic uses of food in the valley and land use or tax exemption possibilities to encourage people to grow their food. **EARNEST** said he could see it logically fit under the ESC and it could be an overall component of the committee. **SCOTT** said she hadn't discussed the topic with the commission and encouraged the Government Affairs & Services Committee and ESC meet and discuss. She pointed out that state and federal governments had taken steps to bring food security to the table and that it was an emerging movement as people are learning how to get into it and make it a small business. She also explained that specific states have been marked as "challenged states" which gives them the ability to apply to USDA to have a portion of transportation for supplies paid for because of the difficulties growing produce. She said that the existing commission could take this on, but pointed out that the current body may not be interested in energy and food.

**HOFFMAN** said his intent is certainly not to increase staff's work but didn't want to turn down volunteers and thinks volunteers would be interested.

**ROSSMAN** suggested that locally grown food could be tax exempt.

**WATERMAN** said she supports the idea and remembers a time when it was a common occurrence to run out of eggs or milk. She also pointed out that studies have shown that the closer to the ground you can eat the better a person is health wise. She also pointed out that there is a push for locally produced food worldwide.

**12. CORRESPONDENCE - None**

**13. SET MEETING DATES**

Reminder of the meeting in Excursion Inlet on Tuesday, 8/3.

**14. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**KURZ** said he has nothing against the Chilkat Center but thinks the community and the building would be well served if the Borough entered into the process of owning it. He also thanked **SMITH** for

pointing out that grant funds are paying for the current upgrades. He also said that he thought that the ESC was a good committee for the food production discussions.

**LOWE** spoke to the food production concept, explaining that his wife has a licensed farm that produces milk and eggs which she does as a hobby. He pointed out that it is not cost effective, but likes the idea of a committee.

**SCOTT** said that grocery stores are willing to sell locally grown food, but it is somewhat complicated as far as food processing goes. She encouraged the Assembly to read the most recent ESC Coordinator's report as it has the Energy report for the fiscal year. She also spoke about the school district offering a new class called power systems and energy science, which is a local spin off of the federal "Wind for Schools Program." She explained that the class will be mounting an anemometer on the school as well as a vertical access wind turbine and solar panels. She explained that they are not sure what they will do with energy, but whatever they do, it will be obvious and will have the ability to be tracked. She said that fourteen students had signed up for the class. She also said that the students will resurrect the radio show "Energy Talks."

**15. ANNOUNCEMENTS/ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

**SMITH** said he'd like to see life preservers at the dock and suggested that with the recent fireworks display on the dock, there should also be fire extinguishers. **VICK** said he regrets not being able to attend the meeting in Excursion Inlet. He also said he wouldn't be able to attend the next Assembly meeting.

**16. ADJOURNMENT – 7:53 p.m.**

**Motion:** **LAPP** moved to "adjourn the meeting," and the motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

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Janice Hill, Mayor

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Julie Cozzi, Borough Clerk