

Special Ketchikan City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Williams at 7:01 p.m., December 1, 2009, with the following members present: Dick Coose, Jason Harris, Kj Harris, Matthew Olsen, Jack Shay (via teleconference), Robert Sivertsen and Marty West.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all persons in the Chambers.

Staff present were Manager Amylon, Assistant Manager Martin, Finance Director Newell, City Attorney Bradford, Acting Gateway Center for Human Services Executive Director Medford, Human Resources Manager Miller, Senior Librarian Pearson, Museum Director Naab, Police Chief Talik, Acting Public Works Director Allen, Solid Waste Division Manager Neeley, Streets Division Supervisor Jenne, Wastewater Division Manager Mackey and City Clerk Suiter.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Williams said several items were laid on the table, including: a revised Revenue and Appropriation Summary; revised information regarding the Port Payment In Lieu of Taxes; information regarding the Fire Department assistant fire chief and training officer positions; and information regarding the Fire Department Operations Division's Safety Program Account No. 46.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Resolution No. 09-2291 – Draft 2010 General Government Annual Budget – Deferred from November 30, 2009

In response to a question from Councilmember Olsen, City Attorney Bradford said once any kind of conflict of interest has been disclosed by the councilmember, abstention is the decision of the mayor. He said the decision can be overridden by a majority vote of the Council, but it is the mayor's determination to decide whether there is a substantial financial interest in the matter. He felt it was a judgment call, and not an easy one. He explained the important factors are whether that councilmember's family would have a direct, substantial financial interest from the decision that is being made.

City Attorney Bradford said the mayor could choose to "line item," or draw those particular items out and have the councilmembers not participate in votes pertaining to those line items, while allowing them to vote on the remainder of the department items. He felt, taken to an extreme, the entire budget does have some financial impact on each and every City employee, including the councilmembers. He did not feel, however, a court of law would view it as being a material impact.

Mayor Williams felt they should abstain from voting on the Finance Department budget, but not the whole budget.

Library Department

Senior Librarian Pearson answered questions from the Council. No action was taken.

Museum Department

Museum Director Naab answered questions from the Council. No action was taken.

Civic Center

No action was taken.

The Council took a short break at 7:55 p.m. and reconvened at 8:05 p.m.

Gateway Center for Human Services

Manager Amylon explained staff made the decision to fund the department for an entire year because of the unknown length of the privatization process. He noted staff is trying to get answers to questions related to PERS and hopes to have something back in January. He said another consideration is the negotiations with the company taking over the department, and the requirements they may have regarding financial support in the short term.

No action was taken.

Public Works – All Divisions

Acting Public Works Director Allen and Manager Amylon answered questions from the Council.

Councilmember Sivertsen pointed out that the Solid Waste Division Operating Equipment Account No. 93 showed a spreader and a bobcat push plate, and noted those were purchased last year. No action was taken.

Harbors

Port and Harbors Director Corporon answered questions from the Council.

Moved by Jason Harris, seconded by Coose to amend by transferring the amount received from the raw fish tax from the General Fund into the Harbors Fund.

Motion to amend passed with Jason Harris, Sivertsen, Olsen, Shay, Coose, Kj Harris and West voting yea.

No further action was taken.

Port

Moved by Jason Harris, seconded by West the City Council increase the Port

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Department's Payment of Lieu of Taxes Account No. 79 by \$97,702 in 2009 and \$101,000 in 2010.

Finance Director Newell answered questions from the Council.

Motion passed with Coose, Jason Harris, West, Kj Harris, Sivertsen, Olsen and Shay voting yea.

No further action was taken.

Mayor Williams asked if there were any objections to deferring this item until December 8, 2009, and none were heard.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Jason Harris said he will be teleconferencing in on Thursday.

Councilmember Sivertsen said he attended a lunch today at which Governor Parnell spoke, and it was good to have the whole Cabinet in town.

Councilmember Coose reminded the Council to know the needs of the commercial fishermen so we can use the raw fish tax funds appropriately.

Councilmember Kj Harris said he would like to re-open the discussion related to the City's union negotiator, and possibly reinstate the \$23,000 that was removed the other night. He said he will bring it back up Tuesday. He stated he didn't understand why the Council won't discuss non-profits before Thursday's meeting, and sometimes it strikes him that the Council doesn't really realize how serious things are. He said one thing he remember Chuck Freeman saying is "wants versus needs." He felt he has lots of wants, but may have to consider needs only.

Councilmember Olsen said he went to the lunch with the legislators, and it was nice to chat with a couple of them.

Councilmember West said she also attended the lunch.

Councilmember Shay said a friend of his who is retired and has a PhD in Statistics, was helping him with his computer so he could access budget information. He noted his friend was impressed with the format, so he congratulated staff because it is so easy to use.

Mayor Williams said he and the manager met with the governor and went over power and port projects. He advised they also met with the head of the Department of Social Services to go over Mental Health. He said on Tuesday when the Council finishes up the

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last of the General Government budget, discuss any of it and finish up things they may want to deal with.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, the Council adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Lew Williams III, Mayor

ATTEST:

Katherine M. Suiter
City Clerk