

Special Ketchikan City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Williams at 7:03 p.m., December 10, 2009, with the following members present: Dick Coose, Jason Harris, Kj Harris, Matthew Olsen, Jack Shay, 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, Fire Chief Hill, Museum Director Naab, Police Chief Talik, Acting Public Works Director Allen, Electric Division Manager Kline, Telecommunications Division Manager Abbott, Water Division Manager Kleinegger and City Clerk Suiter.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

There were several items laid on the table, including: staffing costs for the Police Department per the PSEA Collective Bargaining Agreement; a revised revenue and appropriations summary; a proposed adjustment to the Wastewater Division capital budget; a revision regarding the 2010 community agency funding requests; miscellaneous information regarding the time of contract employees vs. KPU employees; a revised estimate of funds available for KPU; and a report regarding the purchased power rebates.

### **PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

Joann Flora, representing Big Brothers Big Sisters, read a letter supporting the organization. She cited the services provided, the benefits derived for children and families, and statistics relating to the success of the program. She urged the Council to fund their full request. She reported BBBS received \$10,000 from the Borough.

Mike Elerding read a letter from Dr. Norm Herron in support of the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program. Dr. Herron's letter urged the Council to support a more modest budget cut. Mr. Elerding continued by thanking the Council for their time and efforts. He expressed support for Big Brothers Big Sisters, stating that anytime the Council can do something good for kids, they're doing the right thing.

Margaret McCloy, representing Ketchikan Youth Court, spoke in support of the organization and thanked the Council for their past support. She cited statistics regarding recidivism as well as programs they are offering regarding drug and alcohol prevention. Several leaders from the Ketchikan Youth Court spoke regarding the program and the benefits to their peers.

Chris Rose spoke in support of Ketchikan Area Arts and Humanities Council. He thanked the Council for its past support, noting it has created opportunities to enrich the lives of residents of Ketchikan. He addressed the value relating to their programs, citing figures concerning dollars spent in the community.

Holly Handler and Debra Mylan, representing Alaska Legal Services, spoke in support of the program. Ms. Handler described the program and its benefits for citizens of Ketchikan.

Marianne Mills, representing Catholic Community Services Care Coordination Program, cited the mission of the program and thanked the Council for its past support. She reported the funding serves as required matching funds for the State grant they receive. She related the services they provide, and urged the Council to support their full funding request to enable seniors to stay home rather than go into a long-term care situation.

Sharon Monrean spoke in favor of the Care Coordination Program by relating to her family's experience. She described the services they helped provide.

Elizabeth Nelson, representing First City Players, spoke in support of their request. She thanked the Council for its past support, and cited the benefits they provide to the community. She urged the Council to find a way to fund the community agencies that help to keep the community's soul going.

Michelle Gadbois spoke in support of First City Players. She described her profession and the benefits that First City Players brings to her clients. She urged the Council to provide as much funding to the organization as possible.

Trevor Millar, Anchorage Director of Young Life, said he was part of a group hoping to start a chapter in Ketchikan. He thanked the Council for the ability to hear from many in the community regarding the programs for youth, and said there are some of the most generous and kind people in this community. He said they are a non-denominational Christian organization that reaches out to middle school and high school kids.

Gary Boatwright, representing Ketchikan Committee for the Homeless, related the operations of their program. He said their budget supports a minimum wage part-time manager, heat and lights. He said they are a temporary place for people who are trying to get on their feet. He said they get no funding from the Borough.

Dawn Rauwolf, representing PATCHWorks, said she believes in the message of PATCHWorks. She requested the Council support full funding of the organization, and related her experience in it.

Becky Irish, part-time Director for PATCHWorks, said she has a priority of diversifying their funding. She felt youth are the community's most important resource. She read the results of a survey administered by youth.

Rodney Dial said he was probably outnumbered and was probably the only person present asking the Council not to spend money. He felt the mill rate was only part of the equation, noting the assessed property values have risen in the recent years. He cited the mill rate in several communities, stating Ketchikan's is double over some communities.

He reminded the Council that dozens of people have lost their jobs in the community. He spoke against the community reception during the legislative fly-in. He spoke to money he felt was thrown away on blueprints for a new library that probably would never get built. He addressed several projects from the past few years, saying it would have been easier if non-profits had received a little less over the years when we all knew this time was coming. He continued by suggesting across-the-board cuts to non-profits, getting out of Gateway completely, stop buying statues and art, and eliminating the Juneau lobbying parties. He concluded by asking if the Council thought it was more important to pay the non-profits, or allow people to pay their mortgage.

Joey Wharton spoke in support of the Ketchikan Visitors Bureau, stating he is available for questions. He said their total budget is approximately \$840,000.

The Council took a short break at 8:14 p.m. and reconvened at 8:27 p.m.

Erin Reeve, representing Community Connections OARS Program, urged support for the program. He described the program, stating the City's funding is extremely key in providing respite care, basic services and independence for seniors. He gave examples of the need for senior care.

Bess Clark, Executive Director for Community Connections, thanked the Council for their past support, and said they would appreciate the Council's support for the future. She said they received no funding from the Borough.

Katherine Wylie, representing Ketchikan Senior Center, requested the Council support their funding request. She said it pays for food and fuel to transport seniors and deliver meals. She emphasized for some it is their only meal of the day. She said they strive to run the program efficiently, and she thanked the Council for its support.

Nancy Tietje, representing Rendezvous Senior Day Center, described the programs they provide.

Jan Andrews, representing Rendezvous Senior Day Center, read a letter from the daughter of one of the persons served by the organization. She said none of the organizations before the Council is unworthy, so you have it tough.

Ione Shewey Wilson spoke in support of Rendezvous Senior Day Center. She said the funding is a way for the community to give back to citizens who have made Ketchikan the community it is today. She said all the senior services are needed, and cited reasons for that opinion.

Kevin Gadsey, representing Southeast Alaskan Independent Living, listed the programs they provide. He said the Borough has funded them with \$10,000 for the past two years.

Megan Hanifin, Prevention Specialist for Women In Safe Homes, said she helps kids make safe and healthy choices. She provides basic safety and support services. She thanked the Council for funding WISH last year, noting the funding is a vital match component for their grant programs.

Naomi Michelsen, Executive Director of WISH, thanked the Council for all they do. She hoped the Council would keep WISH high on the priority list, stating they wouldn't be able to do many of the things they have done without the City's help. She advised they have no money for repair and maintenance of their old building. She pointed out they are open 24-hours a day, and asked their request is fully funded. She said their total budget is just over \$1 million, with the majority of it coming from the Department of Public Safety. She informed the Borough funded them for \$12,000.

Kathleen Patterson, representing the Boys & Girls Club, said they are looking for a building. She said average attendance is 17 kids a day and they operate from 2:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. She noted snacks are coming out of managers' pockets.

Susan Peters, representing Downtown Steering Committee, felt that cutting non-profits by 50% is too hard. She said the amount of money is small in comparison to the City's total budget, and this is not the time to cut what makes the community what it is. She said she knows the importance of the arts for making Ketchikan competitive to the tourist industry.

Terry Wanzer, representing Historic Ketchikan, reminded they have had the same funding request for the past 15 years. He highlighted the publications they publish and the projects they work on. He said they designed and built the welcome arch.

Dave Kiffer related how Historic Ketchikan expanded outside City limits, noting the Ketchikan Gateway Borough funds them through provision of the majority of printing costs for *Our Town*. He outlined the projects they are working on the Borough assists in, and he said five years ago the Borough used to fund more community agency grants than the City did. He said they faced a budget situation worse than the one the City is facing, which involved the budget being cut by \$1.5 million, property taxes being raised and sales taxes going up. He pointed out the amount of money the Borough is giving to community agencies over the past three years has gradually been going back up. He didn't feel it would ever get over \$1 million like it was before.

Eric Muench, representing Ketchikan Volunteer Rescue Squad, said the City has been reimbursing them for their boat moorage and electric power for the rescue boat at Bar Harbor. He cited anticipated figures for 2009 and 2010. He requested the same funding as in the past.

David Smith urged the Council to support the non-profits. He related his experience as a hospital social worker with many of the groups represented, and he is impressed with

what Ketchikan has. He felt the community was reaching a crisis point regarding long-term care for the elderly.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Resolution No. 09-2291 – Draft 2010 General Government  
Annual Budget – Deferred from December 9, 2009**

Moved by Coose, seconded by Kj Harris to increase Park Avenue Temporary Home to \$31,776.

Motion failed with Coose and Olsen voting yea; Kj Harris, Sivertsen, West, Shay and Jason Harris voting nay.

Moved by Shay to reduce the amount appropriated to community agencies in 2009 by ten percent for the 2010 budget. Mayor Williams declared the motion dead for lack of a second.

Moved by Sivertsen, seconded by West review community agency funding the first meeting in June 2010.

Councilmember Sivertsen confirmed his intent was to fund the community agencies as recommended by the manager. He also confirmed that the Ketchikan Visitors Bureau was excluded from the motion.

Councilmember Olsen expressed he would like to see a committee formed with the Borough to deal with community agency funding requests.

Moved by West, seconded by Jason Harris to amend by eliminating the Ketchikan-Kanayama Exchange.

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

Councilmember Coose said he hoped a group with the Borough is started soon as they will begin their funding process in the next few months.

Mayor Williams said it was his intent to allow anyone who wanted to participate feel free to do so, along with Councilmembers Sivertsen, Olsen and himself.

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

Moved by Kj Harris, seconded by Shay to fund the Ketchikan Visitors Bureau with \$300,000 until it is examined again in June 2010.

Patty Mackey of the Ketchikan Visitors Bureau answered questions from the Council.

Moved by Shay, seconded by Jason Harris to amend the amount to \$360,000.

Mayor Williams said if the motion passed, it would substitute for the main motion. No objections were heard.

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

Moved by Jason Harris, seconded by West the City Council increase the Police Department's 2010 request for salaries & wages and employee benefits by \$28,486.

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

Moved by Jason Harris, seconded by West the City Council amend the 2010 General Government Budget by increasing the Wastewater Division Capital Account 94 by \$70,000 to provide funding for the Treatment Plant B Splitter Box.

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

Councilmember Jason Harris reminded the Council that employees will be taking half of Christmas Eve and half of New Year's Eve off, and he also reminded of the action a couple of years ago that allowed City employees to have the entire day off. He asked if there were any objections to this repeating this scenario, and none were heard. So ordered by Mayor Williams.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business, the Council adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

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Lew Williams III, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Katherine M. Suiter  
City Clerk