

## **ROLL CALL**

Mayor Millie Schoonover called the meeting to order and the roll was taken. Present were Greg Head, Joni Kuntz, Jim See, Don Pierce and Mike Douville. Absent excused was Marge Young

Staff present: Jon Bolling, City Administrator; “Corky” Timpe, Aquatic Manager; Vicki Hamilton, City Clerk; Brian Templin, City Planner; Mark Habib, Police Chief; Hugh Fleury, Public Works Director; Joyce Mason, Treasurer; and Dr. Thomas.

Audience present: Sealaska Representatives and public (a sign-up sheet was passed around).

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The consent agenda was presented; it contained the city council minutes of November 5, December 10 and December 18, 2009.

PIERCE/HEAD: moved to approve the consent agenda. MOTION CARRIED

## **HEARING FROM THE PUBLIC**

Sealaska representatives were in the audience and asked to do a presentation to the council concerning their proposed land selection bill, S 881 that is before Congress now.

There was a lengthy presentation and some discussion afterwards concerning Sealaska’s interest in selecting land outside the ANCSA selection areas. The public spoke for and against the legislation.

## **REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS**

CLINIC PHYSICIAN-The transition team from Peace Health was in Craig working at the clinic this week. Their intent is to take over the operation of the Craig Clinic the evening of April 16<sup>th</sup>.

MAYOR-Millie Schoonover reported she is still recuperating from her broken ankle.

ADMINISTRATOR-Jon Bolling reported meeting with the Craig School District superintendent, Jim Thomas, to discuss the coming year school district budget as well as city budgeting items. A combined workshop on the budget is in future plans for the school board and city council.

AQUATIC MANAGER-Carl Timpe announced the annual swim meet is to be held in Craig in a couple of weeks. The swimming pool was drained over the Christmas holiday. The pool was emptied, cleaned and re-filled in three days. Over the Christmas holiday there was a large turn out at the pool.

CITY CLERK-Vicki Hamilton provided a written staff report in the packet. Vicki has been working on the different sales tax exempt cards to get things cleaned up. Vicki will be starting the lien process on unpaid 2009 property taxes.

**CITY PLANNER**-Brian Templin reported the city assessors are planning to be in Craig the last week of January for the annual assessment for the city. Per councilman Douville's request, Brian obtained a copy of a letter from Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority to the United States Forest Service concerning a proposed land exchange on Prince of Wales Island.

**POLICE CHIEF**-Mark Habib reported the final phase of the stimulus package grant for the JAG Grant is completed. A live scan finger printing system was installed. The finger printing is taking half the time to get it done.

**PUBLIC WORKS**-Hugh Fleury reported the month of December was slow. The quirks are being worked out in the SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system.

**TREASURER**-Joyce Mason reported emailing the audit to the city council. Joyce is working to collect unpaid debts at the harbor. The city's EDA grant money of \$700,000 was received.

## **READING OF CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no comments.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**Discussion on Sealaska Land Selection**-Sealaska Corporation representative, Rosita Worl spoke on behalf of Sealaska and their new land selection request, i.e. S 881. Other speakers were, Ron Wolf, Clarence Jackson, Ed Thomas, Sr., Jaeleen Araujo, and Albert Kookesh.

During Senator Albert Kookesh's presentation he commented to the council "I hope you're glad to see me because I'm going to make a decision here for everybody. I'm going to be the last Sealaska speaker you'll hear and we're going to leave and leave some of our people here in case you have questions. I appreciate that you need more time but let me just first start off by thanking everybody here. You all just sat there for two and a half hours. I really appreciate your time. I want to thank the audience. You've done a wonderful job of sitting here listening and I know it is a torture to some of you. I know I'm probably one of the most hyper person in this room and I had a hard time sitting here for 2 ½ hours, but I'm the last Sealaska person you're going to hear tonight and I want to tell you all that we really appreciate you taking the time to listen to us. Whether you agree with us or not, we really appreciate the time you've taken to listen to us. We have a concern, we have a plan and we want to go forward with it. We really would appreciate two things, one, if you have problems with our legislation, tell us what areas you have a problem with, let's work on them. I don't think you can take the whole legislation and say the whole thing is bad. We've worked and we've changed this legislation from day one. If you went back two years or three years and looked at this legislation, it has changed dramatically and we can change it again. We want to be in a position of being in negotiating with you, to sit down and talk to you. We're your neighbors. We're the neighbors in this area that own 210,000 acres on this island. If you add the rest of the native communities up, we're almost 400,000 acres on this island, native land. We're a huge economic impact. How do we make that work? We become better neighbors. Sealaska's been a good neighbor. You have low cost electricity because you're sitting on our land.-for the hydro projects that you have. Reynold's Lake is going to be another hydro project by Hydaburg that is sitting on Sealaska Land. You drive over our land every day. Your power lines run across our land with right-of-ways that we gave. Not to be ungrateful, not to be mean, we wanted to do it because we were good neighbors and we want to continue to be good neighbors. We're looking at the survival of Prince of Wales Island as much as we're looking at the survival of Sealaska.

We can survive as a corporation no matter what happens in this room tonight. Last year alone, just so you know the financial impact of Sealaska Corporation, last year alone, we gave out \$23,480,000 in distributions including 7i payments. Take that away from Southeast Alaska and see what you have, \$23 million dollars. We want to continue to do that. We want to continue to do that. We want to continue to make sure that Craig gets more than its share of Sealaska business. We want to continue to do that. How do we do that? We do that by working cooperatively with you. We've never come to you to ask you for your help. We have never done that. We're a self-sufficient corporation. We're here now asking you for your help. We're saying help us get this legislation through. Let's talk about the problems that you have with our legislation and let's try to fix it. There are people in this room with really strong ideas, with really strong ideas of which way you want to go, including me. And I'm just as easily to get offended as anybody else in this room. I'm the state senator who represents Craig, I'm not a vindictive person, I see you're going to have your 2010 capital projects on the table here tonight, and who's it going to go to? It's going to go to me and to Bill Thomas who is also a Sealaska board member. We have to be good neighbors. There are times you're going to need my help and Bill Thomas' help and this is the time we need yours. We're not here begging, we're here asking. We don't have a handout because we want you to give us something, we have a hand out because we want you to grab it so we can work together. You have a tough decision to make. We would appreciate your support. We're asking you for your support. And if you can't support us, remain neutral and let us go forward with what we think we have to do to make sure we continue to be a force in the Prince of Wales Island area. We see too many towns like Thorne Bay disappear. Angoon, where I'm from, we had some of the strongest basketball teams in southeast Alaska, we beat Metlakatla three out of four times we played them, now we barely have a high school team because people have left. It'll happen here. We don't want it to happen here. We want all our villages to build back up. But how do we do that. We do that by working together. We do that by helping you and you helping us. It's not a one-way street here. It can't be a one-way street here. Sealaska's here to inform you, to give you information, and to ask you for your help. Ladies and gentlemen of the council, honorable mayor, thank you for listening to our people tonight, thank you for being patient with us. This bill isn't perfect. I look around southeast Alaska and see where's the options for our villages. Where are the options. We have an option, we're presenting it to you now. Does somebody have a better plan than we. We'd love to listen to it. We would love to listen to somebody else's plan on the survival of Prince of Wales Island. We just don't see it yet. Maybe it's out there. We'd love to see it. This area, along with the rest of southeast Alaska is losing population, we're losing population. I may be serving my last term as a senator for unit 3."

The council took a five-minute recess at 9:25 p.m.

Mayor Schoonover brought the council back order at 9:33 p.m.

Other persons spoke in regards to the Sealaska Corporation presentation, addressing their concerns about the land selection.

At this time council did not take any action on S 881.

Before continuing on, the council agreed to address three items from the agenda tonight: (1) Resolution No. 10-01, (2) Change order, Community Streets Project and (3) Approval of the 2009 Audit. The remaining action items will be moved to the next council meeting on January 21, 2010.

## **CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES**

**Resolution No. 10-01**, Establishing Capital Projects for 2010, was presented.

PIERCE/HEAD: moved to approve Resolution 10-01.

Discussion: Jon asked the council to prioritize this Capital Projects list (18 projects are listed) before it is sent to our state legislators.

SEE/KUNTZ: moved to place item No.7 (Connect Craig Tribal Hall to the Wood Boiler) to the No.10 (Wood Fired Boiler Debt Reduction) position and move No.10 to No.7 position.  
MOTION CARRIED BY UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Change order, Community Streets Project-**

PIERCE/HEAD: moved to approve Change Order No. 1 of the Craig Community Streets Paving Project.

Discussion: Jon stated there are two change orders, No. 1 and No. 3.

No. 1 doesn't add to the bottom line costs of the project because \$157,000 will be paid to Southeast Road Builders when it would have been obligated and used by the "Tribe". We are transferring that expenditure from Craig Community Association to Southeast Road Builders. There really is no bottom line change there.

No.3 does have a bottom line change of plus \$48,112.50. It accounts for additional work that became apparent during the course of the paving work, stabilizing banks and shoulders, as well as some head walls that need to be constructed for drainage on some of the improvements.

Mayor Schoonover commented that the dollars were designated for paving streets not for culverts, drainage, etc.

### **MOTION CARRIED**

PIERCE/HEAD: moved to approve Change Order No. 3 of the Craig Community Streets Paving Project. MOTION CARRIED

### **Approval of 2009 Audit-**

PIERCE/KUNTZ: moved to approve the City of Craig's fiscal year 2009 audit as presented by Christine Harrington, CPA. MOTION CARRIED

**ADJOURNMENT**

HEAD/PIERCE: moved to adjourn. MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

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MAYOR MILLIE SCHOONOVER

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_  
VICKI HAMILTON, CITY CLERK