

**CITY OF CRAIG  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 1, 2022**

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**ROLL CALL**

Mayor Tim O'Connor called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. Present were Chanel McKinley, Jim See, Hannah Bazinet and Michael Kampnich. Millie Schoonover attended telephonically. Julie McDonald was absent/excused.

**Staff Present:** Brian Templin, City Administrator; Heather Mendonsa, City Clerk; Hans Hjort, Harbormaster; Doug Ward, Parks and Facilities Manager; Patricia Gardner, Library Director; Tsai, EMS Director; Victoria Merritt, Recreation Director; Elli Flagg, Recreation Director. Kimber Mikulecky and RJ Ely attended telephonically.

**Audience Present:** Robert Patten, Roberta Patten, and Cheryl Fecko.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. City Council Meeting Minutes of November 3, 2022
2. Waiver of Operation Application – Zat's
3. Liquor License Renewal Application – Zat's
4. Liquor License Renewal Application – Alaska Commercial Company

KAMPNICH/SEE

Moved to accept the consent agenda.  
MOTION CARRIED

**HEARING FROM THE PUBLIC**

1. Resolution 22-24 Robert Patten Access Permit
2. Resolution 22-25 Holiday Benefit for Eligible Employees

No public comment.

**REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS**

**Administrator** – Submitted a written report. A piling is down at the city docks. It is being taken care of. Public works are shutting off the first water break of the season. City Hall staff will be out of office next week for the AML conference in Juneau. Councilman Kampnich asked if Brian had heard anything about the sale of the gas station because the signs are down. Brian said he has not.

**Treasurer** – Submitted a written report.

**City Clerk** – Submitted a written report. The next scheduled council meeting is December 15. Councilman See said that is the same night as Craig High School's winter

concert. Heather will check the high school and find a non-conflicting date for the meeting. She will update the council.

**EMS** – Submitted a written report. See said a lot of people will be gone in the next few weeks and asked if there is adequate coverage. Tsai said Venessa from Naukati will be covering the people who are out of town.

**Harbor** – Provided an oral report. A piling broke off the city float because of electrolysis. Heavy pitting was evident on the metal. It is now up on False Island dock. There were some crane problems, but the False Island crane is now working and the crane at the harbor will be fixed tomorrow. The Army Corps. Of Engineers wants to do more testing on the currents in the harbor. The harbor department will help them place the testing devices and pick up cargo. The devices will be left for a couple of weeks. The breakwater got low while Hans was gone. His solution is to pump everything and then install sight gauges with footmarks. There will be new, heavy-duty grading for North Cove ramp. See said he is hopeful that bleed through from the salt and wind might have caused the streetlight to go bad so fast. Mayor O'Connor suggested putting the light up over the wooden part. Mayor O'Connor said Brian mentioned Hans was thinking about damming around the hatches on the floating dock. Hans confirmed he wants to build some curbs to keep the water out. O'Connor asked how he will patch them. Hans said he would put up studs and screws and then forms around it and pour a 4-5" curb.

**Library** – Submitted a written report. The book to movie program had close to 400 books read. She started the winter reading program today. 200 kits are going out. 30 kids signed up. Activities are scheduled daily this month, with 19 total classes/activities.

**Parks** – Provided an oral report. The parks and public facilities department has had business, as usual. The department is ready for a snow event. They officially started putting the windows into the daycare center. Doug will take a personal leave of absence December 19 through March 31. Plans are laid out for the department operations in his absence and Doug will continue to call in on council meetings. Terry will be the go-to person in his absence. Terry is likely retiring in 2023, thus the reason they had another job opening. The wood boiler has been replaced with propane and petroleum products. The school is on diesel and the city is on propane. Viking is having trouble with supply because their machine that dries the chips is not working.

**Police** – Provided and oral report. A new special agent with the FBI has been hired for the state of Alaska. He will be helping with federal funding for cases and training. Next week, Pro-Com will be on site to do some upgrades and tuning to the radios. They are working with the NCC5500, the multi-select paging system. RJ has secured federal

funding for two officers to attend drug training. He also got confirmation for Sgt. Page to attend a forty-hour child forensic interviewing training next year. Once he is certified, our youth won't have to be shipped to Juneau specialized interviews. Lots of arrests were made recently. The jail is packed. In a recent case, numerous guns and 10,000 rounds of ammunition were seized. RJ is leaving for Anchorage tomorrow and will be in executive development courses all week. He will take some personal leave and will return December 17. Sgt. Page will be running the police department in RJ's absence. Police numbers are up from this time last year. Most arrests are drug and/or alcohol related. Fentanyl is on the island in liquid, pill, and powder forms. It is so potent a new or non-user would overdose if they took it. The federal prosecutor is helping with drug cases, and that results in keeping people locked up instead of getting a slap on the wrist and being back on the streets. Mayor O'Connor asked if the EMS radio in Ambulance 1 can be looked into. RJ said it will need to be coordinated with Sgt. Page and the EMS to make sure the ambulance is available. RJ said it can be tuned and tweaked. Part of the problem could be the antenna. The radio technician will cut the antenna to a specific length for each frequency.

**Public Works** – Russ Dill is on vacation. Brian Templin can answer any questions. Brian said the water leak is being taken care of.

**Pools and Recreation** – Provided and oral report. The back rooms at the gym were organized and Elli took inventory. Chip Acker from maintenance helped her, along with one of the inmates. She could not have completed everything without both of them. The gym now has fresh, white paint. The fall bazaar on Saturday was a success. Upcoming events include the Christmas bazaar, a Christmas tree lighting, and a kid's craft fair. The city employee Christmas party will be on December 16 at 5:30 p.m. Victoria's retirement party will be on December 31. The Moose Lodge provided \$2,000 for gym renovations. They will be donating an additional \$10,000 in incremental payments. Donations will be used to sand the benches and redo the floors. The pool had some issues with chemicals and mistrust from community members, but it has been resolved. The pool still needs to hire one more employee. Elli has signage for the garden that is ready to be put up.

## **READING OF CORRESPONDENCE**

- Burn Pit Update  
Kampanich asked how the new policy at the burn pit is working. RJ said the code enforcement officer's primary duty is to pull the last twelve hours of video to watch for violations. Word is getting out that it is being viewed daily. The three strikes policy means people who are caught violating the rules three times will be given a criminal charge and trespassed if they are on the property for six months. The new video paid for

itself within one month. Mayor O'Connor said the system is working with fewer infractions. Brian said the general maintenance of the burn pit has greatly improved.

- Alaska Troller's Association

See said a judge in Seattle ruled in favor of killer whales in Puget sound. There is a real chance all federal waters could be closed. The ATA is fighting the lawsuit. Mayor O'Connor added that if the lawsuit is successful it will shut down sport, sport charter, trollers, gillnetters, and seiners. The waters will be closed three miles offshore. The Troller's Association has paid over \$60,000 in legal fees so far. They need money to continue fighting. It could impact subsistence fishing, as well. The mayor got a text that some headway was on the case because they cannot prove the impact of the whales on the lobster fishing.

SEE/BAZINET

Move to set \$2500 out of the hatchery account to the ATA donation for the purposes of current litigation.

- CTA Longhouse Offer Letter – no response yet.

- Southeast Senior Services

- SEC Facility Proposal (Americulture)

We will have someone here on January 6 to talk to us more about this.

## CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

1. Resolution 22-24 Robert Patten Access Permit

SEE/KAMPNICH

Motion to extend the access permit and approve the resolution.

MOTION PASSED WITH 5-0 VOTE.

2. Resolution 22-25 Holiday Benefit for eligible employees

See suggested adding "Initial" instead of "Probationary." Councilwoman Bazinet asked if employees are allowed to use sick or vacation leave the first six months. Brian said they use sick because they are discouraged from coming home sick, but they cannot take paid leave. He found out recently that is how it has been done and wants to align the personnel handbook with what is happening in practice. McKinley said it is already in the budget, and if it is closed employees do not have the choice to come into work. See voted against the resolution.

MCKINLEY/BAZINET

Motion to approve resolution 22-25, approving changes to the Craig employee handbook

MOTION PASSED WITH 4-1 VOTE

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Project Graduation

Howie Daggs said four students from Pace will attend the senior night. The recommendation is to add \$400 to the original \$1300 donation for a total of \$1700. The fire department also paid \$1,000. McKinley said since they don't get to do senior trips this is something that helps them stay out of trouble. She thanked Brian for looking into this.

KAMPNICH/BAZINET

Move to donate an additional \$400 to Project Graduation using funds from the council discretionary fund.

MOTION PASSED WITH UNANIMOUS VOTE

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

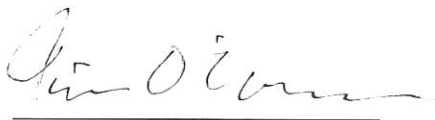
**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Kampnich said the forest service plan review has hired a company named Meridian. They have handled forest service public engagement projects. There will probably be 25-30 people on the committee. Discussion ensued about the wolf study. McKinley asked if a letter has been written by the city council regarding the wolves, and Mayor O'Connor said no.


**ADJOURNMENT**

SEE/BAZINET @ 7:34 P.M.

APPROVED on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023



TIM O'CONNOR, MAYOR



KECIA WEATHERWAX, CITY CLERK