

**CITY OF CRAIG
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 4, 2024**

ROLL CALL

Mayor Kasey Smith called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Present were Hannah Bazinet, Shauna Thomas, Josh Bennett, Michael Kampnich, Chanel McKinley, and Millie Schoonover.

Staff present: Mary Salazar, City Clerk; Kimber Mikulecky (telephonically), Finance Director; Samantha Wilson, City Planner; Venessa Ritcher-Russell (telephonically), EMS/Fire Coordinator; Hans Hjort, Harbormaster; RJ Ely, Police Chief; Stephanie Merritt, Library; Oliver Lewis, Public Works/Parks and Public Facilities.

CONSENT AGENDA

Meeting minutes December 14, 2023

Ordinance 765, Unauthorized Use of Power in Harbor Slips

Ordinance 766, All Purpose Vehicles on City Streets

SCHOONOVER/BAZINET

Moved to adopt the Consent Agenda

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

SWEARING IN OF COUNCIL MEMBER

Shauna Thomas was sworn in as a City Council member.

HEARING FROM THE PUBLIC

Clinton Cook Sr made comments about mariculture in our community. He stated every bay around Craig has been used for sustenance gathering. NOAA released findings that our area is prime for kelp farming, but they harm the sustenance users. Craig Tribal Association has been working with Kelp Blue in finding solutions to these areas in Sea Otter Sound. Clinton stated there was a kelp farm in Port Real Marina and the CTA were the only ones that spoke against this location due to the important gathering of seal and halibut. He stated before long, there will be "No Wake" signs in areas that we are using the waters. Doyle Bay is now useless to sustenance users because of kelp farming and oyster farming. He stated that Kelp Blue came out with a map of kelp farms that would directly affect the herring spawn that we rely on in the spring and it may also alter the route of the king salmon. Clinton urges the city to consider how these farms affect our community. Clinton shared that he dropped off an application for land purchase at the cannery point. The CTA plans to construct a longhouse, museum, and carving shed. He stated this land is indigenous to the Haidas and the CTA would be doing our community a great justice by having cultural sites there. Clinton commented on how destroyed the grass at the cannery point is and the mud and standing water is terrible.

Julie McDonald made a comment on behalf of the school board. Julie requested to schedule a meeting between the school board and the city council. The school board is meeting with an auditor and has appointed a budget committee to go over this year's budget. The middle school is extremely old and needs to undergo extensive renovation. The school has acquired \$13 million in grants for maintenance on the middle school and minor repairs on the elementary, but there needs to be a \$1.7 million match. Julie has requested help with this project.

Resolution 24-01, EMS Response Stipend and Bonus

Resolution 24-02, Capital Projects 2024

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Mayor- Mayor Smith and Mike Kampnich met with the CTA about concerns that both parties can work together on in the community. Mayor Smith was happy with the meeting. He stated other municipalities and tribes have a memorandum of understanding with each other to show collaboration in supporting the same things. An MOU will be on a future agenda for discussion. They also spoke about the boundaries of the kelp farms and how those areas are important to our community. Mayor Smith stated we need to ensure any letter of support to Kelp Blue is site specific and not within our boundary. There has been a concern about streetlights and AP&T advised we do a streetlight audit, preferably at night, then AP&T can investigate those poles. Oliver Lewis commented that approximately 75 lights are out, to include 12 major intersections and there is a limited budget on fixing streetlights.

Clinton commented that the city can reach out to the CTA to collaborate on allocating funds to streetlights for safe streets for the children.

Hans commented that the Harbor purchased lights from North Cove Lighting, and he has often seen these lights missing a shorting cap, which is an inexpensive repair.

Shauna commented that we should also look at streets that have no streetlights at all, specifically Thomas Court. There are 23 children on that street without any streetlights at all.

Administrator- Brian was absent but submitted a written report.

Mike Kampnich commented that the executive session for Brian's evaluation is scheduled for February 1st, but Mike will not be out of town until the 17th. Mayor Smith commented that he would like the executive session to take place with a full council.

Josh Bennett commented that a previous council voted to end the harbor project and was asking why it is still being brought up. Mayor Smith commented that the harbor is not a priority item for capital projects unless there is collaboration from all entities in the community. Clinton Cook commented that he received a call from Mary Peltola, and she was approached by Brian at the Alaska Municipal League Conference asking her for support in the cannery project. Clinton stated it was a shocking call to find out words were being put in the tribe's mouth. Clinton stated that there needs to be a meeting with the Mayor and the Administrator to discuss how far this will continue to be pushed. Clinton stated he has been bribed and threatened by the Administrator for not supporting the harbor expansion. Mayor Smith assured Clinton that the harbor project is not a priority. Shauna asked Clinton if there was a discussion for support from the CTA for a new harbor study. Clinton said no but he is interested in discussing how to repair what is currently there. Mike Kampnich commented that a modestly scaled project is appropriate and it needs to fit the needs of the community.

Millie Schoonover asked if the applicants for the Recreation Director job received a letter that they were not selected. Mayor Smith said he would follow up to make sure the letters are sent out. Mayor Smith expressed disappointment in not being involved in processes that he was expecting to and would like to update policy on applying for jobs in-house. Shauna Thomas commented that the new Recreation Director was announced at the city's holiday party and two applicants were

also present. Those applicants were unaware that they did not get the job. Mayor Smith was unaware of this and stated he would extend his apologies to those applicants.

Josh Bennett asked Mayor Smith if the managers were present for their evaluations. Mayor Smith stated that three evaluations have been done so far and he was unsure if they were done in person.

Treasurer- submitted a written report.

City Clerk- submitted a written report. Shauna Thomas asked if it is feasible to call the remaining residents on the list for the senior property tax exemption. Mary Salazar responded that she had already started to call people and only had about 20 people left on the list but was able to speak to everyone or at least leave a voicemail. Shauna suggested reaching out to Kari Mackie, Craig's Tlingit and Haida Community Navigator, with reaching out to tribal members or assisting them with their application.

Millie Schoonover thanked Mary for following up with the seniors.

City Planner- Samantha Wilson shared the CTA turned in a land purchase application and the first viewing will be February 1st and it will be viewed a second time and voted on by the council on February 15th.

Millie Schoonover asked if the capital projects list was put in order of priority. Samantha stated she put the list in the order that Mayor Smith had written.

Josh Bennett asked when the Power building will go back up. Samatha reported that she received test results back that reported there were double the reportable amount of lead in the building and there needs to be proper disposal of that material.

Fire/EMS- Venessa reported they received two oxygen concentrators for EMS, two batteries for the fire department, she is working on budgets and capital projects.

Josh Bennett asked about their search for an MES coordinator. Venessa stated that they do have a doctor on staff, but that doctor was away responding to the disaster in Wrangell.

Millie Schoonover commented that it is very important for department heads to be present for council meetings because it is difficult to understand people over the phone.

Harbormaster- submitted a written report.

Police Chief- submitted a written report. Chief Ely reported the DMV Agent/EMS Assistant gave notice of resignation, and her last day is January 14th. That position is currently being advertised. Chief Ely extended an offer to a candidate for the Code Enforcer position, and he accepted. Chief Ely has been staying busy with limited staff and also covering for dispatch.

Mayor Smith asked if he could share Chief Ely's contact details with the town's new pawn shop owner and Chief Ely agreed.

Shauna Thomas commented that Jim Seley contacted her about getting an ordinance drafted to prohibit citizens from buying alcohol for individuals who are on the no alcohol list. Chief Ely stated that he has also been in contact with Mr. Seley, and they agreed it would be beneficial in helping people staying sober. Chanel McKinley asked how they would fine people, and Chief Ely stated they would need proof, which would most likely be by video recording.

Library- submitted a written report. Shauna Thomas commented that the gift-wrapping station provided by the library was great to offer.

Recreation- no report submitted due to the new Recreation Director not starting work yet. Mayor Smith commented that Victoria Merritt has been helping with the Recreation department. Mayor Smith stated that the Recreation Director will also be overseeing the pool until a new Pool Director has been hired. Chanel McKinley commented that both roles may be too much for one person. Mayor Smith commented that a new Pool Director may be coming in February.

Public Works/Parks and Public Facilities- submitted a written report. Mayor Smith stated he was contacted by a concerned Port St. Nick citizen about the roads and requested the debris be cleared. Oliver Lewis stated they had hired Shaan Seet to clear the road up to 62 pit and it will be a continued effort.

Chanel McKinley commented on the potholes by the post office and how huge they are. Oliver stated he received authorization to fix the pothole with city staff.

Josh Bennett asked what needs to be done for the daycare. Oliver stated plumbing is an issue because the toilets are much smaller than an average sized one, making it harder to find parts and materials to repair them. The carpet and base trim have been installed. Oliver stated meeting with the daycare operator is the next step in moving forward.

Josh stated the burn pit is in bad condition right now and suggested closing the gate. Oliver stated he has received many complaints about materials being in the burn pit that aren't supposed to be. Chief Ely stated that closing the gate at night may help the situation until the Code Officer can mitigate the improper dumping.

Oliver showed the council the new garbage cans that will be going on Tanner Crab Court.

Clinton commented that the city can reach out to the CTA to collaborate on allocating resources for maintenance throughout the city. Mayor Smith commented that an MOU will help the city and tribe collaborate on projects.

Mike Kampnich shared that Cheryl Fecko cleaned off graffiti at Ralph James Park and Mike also cleared trees off the overhead of the park. Mayor Smith stated he would send a thank you letter to Mrs. Fecko.

Josh Bennett suggested that Oliver should look into purchasing more vehicles since that department is at full staff.

READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

Landmark "Landless" Legislation Passes Committee for First Time in History Murkowski 2023

2023 Postal Rates Article

Mike Kampnich is pleased to see Congress' support for maintaining reasonable postal rates.

Craig Waverunners & Swim Club Letter

Hannah Bazinet asked why the club is asking for funds toward swim fees when she recalls the council waiving the club's rental fees as well as half of the cost of their swim coach. Mayor Smith stated he would look into this matter with the Finance Director.

Action to Support Alaska Seafood Industry

Mike Kampnich pointed out that bycatch is not mentioned in this letter of support, and he advised against us supporting this letter.

Update on Island Daycare

Josh Bennett asked why the daycare is asking for an extension on paying rent when the space is only \$1 per month. Hannah Bazinet stated that there was a loan given to the daycare director that still needs to be paid back.

Josh Bennett asked if Venessa has the qualifications to operate the daycare. Venessa responded that paperwork was submitted to the state six months ago and she has been following up with them regarding her application status. Mayor Smith expressed how important this daycare will be for our community and stated he would like to reach out to the state as well to put pressure on moving forward.

Shauna Thomas asked why the building isn't ready. Venessa stated that she was waiting on grant money to move forward with purchasing supplies for the building.

Letter from James Seley, Streetlights and Maintenance

Shauna Thomas shared that Jim Seley is concerned about streetlights and offered to help in any way that he can. Mr. Seley also pointed out that Craig was not very festive this holiday season and he proposed to ask businesses in the community to sponsor festive lights. Oliver commented that he recently found out that the city has decorations, and we can also purchase more. Mayor Smith stated that the city will be working with AP&T to resolve the streetlight issues. Shauna stated that Mr. Seley also mentioned the 4th of July decorations were also sparse. Mayor Smith stated that we need to be mindful of how the decorations are displayed because they may become a hazard to the power lines.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Resolution 24-01, EMS Response Stipend and Bonus

BAZINET/MCKINLEY

Moved to adopt Resolution 24-01, approving the EMS Response Stipend and Bonus.

APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE (4-1). Millie recused herself.

Resolution 24-02, Capital Projects 2024

SCHOONOVER/BAZINET

Motion to adopt Resolution 24-02, approving the 2024 Capital Projects.

APPROVED BY ROLL CALL VOTE (6-0).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Property Tax Exemption Memo

Mike Kampnich commented that he agrees with Samantha's recommendation, there needs to be a clearer solution for a property tax exemption. The council directed staff to explore other avenues of providing a property tax exemption.

NEW BUSINESS

Craig Harbor Policy Manual

BAZINET/MCKINLEY

Motion passed to approve the Craig Harbor Policy Manual.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Harbor Advisory Committee Seat Appointment

KAMPNICH/BENNETT

Motion to approve the Harbor Advisory Committee Seat Appointment.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Kelp Blue 49 Lease Site Letter of Support

The council directed staff to send the letter of support to Kelp Blue.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Millie Schoonover- Millie commented on the form the council received for the Administrator's evaluation and asked staff for a more in-depth evaluation form.

Mike Kampnich- Mike commented that policy may need to be revised to include guidance on conducting the Administrator's evaluation.

The council directed staff to find a different manager evaluation form and bring it to the next meeting.

Chanel McKinley- Chanel commented that instead of directing staff in drafting ordinances regarding alcohol sales or marijuana, the city should be more concerned about the distribution of illegal substances.

Josh Bennett- Josh requested a council meeting for January 18th.

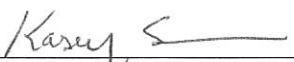
Mike Kampnich- Mike requested to continue the conversation regarding Kelp Blue at the next council meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 pm.

SCHOONOVER/BAZINET

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY


MAYOR KASEY SMITH




MARY SALAZAR, CITY CLERK