

**CITY OF CRAIG
CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 22, 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 were Brian Templin, Administrator; Mary Salazar, City Clerk; Kimber Mikulecky, Finance Director; and Samantha Wilson, Planner.

CONSENT AGENDA

Meeting Minutes February 2, 2024

SCHOONOVER/BAZINET

Motion to adopt the consent agenda
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

HEARING FROM THE PUBLIC

Loni Bennett expressed her support for the CTA's land sale application. Mrs. Bennett highlighted the importance of reclaiming ancestral land for indigenous communities, expressing concern over the gradual loss of cultural identity among younger generations. She emphasized that the aim is not to diminish the integrity of the community but rather to contribute to it, providing a sense of pride and purpose for future generations. Mrs. Bennett expressed the potential benefits for both the people and the community. She also criticized the recent zoning and planning meeting for causing division rather than unity, advocating for collaboration to address both the need for a new library and the land sale. Mrs. Bennett closed with a quote from a former Mayor, underlining the necessity of utilizing land as a valuable resource for the community's benefit.

Rob Yates expressed his support for the CTA's land sale application, highlighting the historical significance of Haida sites in Craig. He described three specific locations: Cannery Point, Fish Egg Island, and the lagoon. Remnants such as petroglyphs and gardens still exist in Craig from the Haida people. Mr. Yates recounted how his family's land was taken by the US Forest Service in 1913, leading to a history of colonization, displacement, and marginalization for indigenous communities. He emphasized the importance of reclaiming this land, expressing a willingness to fight for it if necessary, and stressed that the presence of a Haida longhouse would benefit Craig without causing division.

Mayor Smith clarified that at the planning commission meeting, there was no opposition voiced against the idea of a longhouse. The discussion was evenly split between those in favor of the land sale and those proposing leasing the land. Mayor Smith expressed satisfaction with the overall conduct and outcome of the meeting.

Ed Douville, on behalf of Shaan Seet Inc., voiced strong support for the CTA land sale application, noting that he had previously submitted a letter outlining the benefits to the council. He emphasized the positive impact the sale would have on the community.

Mike Jones, Kassan Tribal President, expressed his support for the land sale application on behalf of his Haida village.

Clinton Cook Sr, Craig Tribal Association President, addressed a lawsuit facing Southeast Alaska concerning the endangered status of king salmon, expressing the tribe's priority to overturn it and emphasizing their commitment to protecting resources. President Cook inquired about the city's stance on opposing the Ketchikan rural status application, expressing concerns about the impact on resources on Prince of Wales Island. President Cook also discussed comments made at a planning and zoning meeting regarding the CTA's land sale application, addressing concerns about the lot size and clarifying the city's lack of development of Cannery Point. President Cook highlighted the importance of cultural preservation, stating that the CTA makes choices that are best suited for the community and ensures there would be public access to land similar to their tribal hall.

Mayor Smith clarified his previous remarks regarding the size of the lot in the CTA land purchase application, indicating that the requested size might necessitate additional time for the planning commission due to the need to run utilities in the area.

Councilwoman Chanel McKinley clarified her comments made during the planning commission meeting. She expressed a concern about whether the carving shed would follow a native preference like the cultural classes held at the CTA, or if it would be open to everyone. Additionally, she addressed comments implying that nothing has been done with Cannery Point, emphasizing the efforts of the planning commission who have dedicated time to discussing the topic.

June Durgan expressed support for the land sale both as a tribal member and as a lifelong resident of Craig.

Fred Hamilton Jr. expressed his support for the land sale, emphasizing its significant community benefits and inclusive nature. He highlighted the project as a substantial opportunity for community development and emphasized its potential to positively impact all members of the community.

John Bolling emphasized the significant value and potential of the cannery property. He encouraged the council to maintain an updated development plan and to consider a lease-only approach for the land. Mr. Bolling advocated for the city to retain ownership of the property.

Rob Yates emphasized the importance of having a sacred Haida longhouse on land owned by the tribe rather than leased. He expressed concern that leasing the land would diminish the sacred significance of the longhouse. Mr. Yates also raised concerns about the consequences if the city were to terminate the lease agreement.

Tim O'Connor expressed support for leasing the land, highlighting the potential tax benefits compared to selling it to the tribe. He noted that a concept drawing from three years ago included a space for a longhouse. Tim urged the council to consider putting the matter on the next ballot for public vote.

President Cook acknowledged that the tribe's efforts to obtain land in trust in Craig had caused some division between the city and the tribe. He expressed pride in having a tribe within the community capable of achieving this. President Cook highlighted the recognition from the BIA among 230 tribes in Alaska for their efforts. President Cook agreed with Mr. Yates regarding the potential for leases to be terminated. He emphasized the significance of tax contributions from the tribe, noting the importance of what taxes do for the City of Craig.

Councilwoman Millie Schoonover emphasized that leasing the land is not viable for the tribe, as ownership is necessary to access grants and funding for a longhouse. Councilwoman Schoonover clarified that cultural classes are only restricted to tribal members when federally funded through grants, highlighting that the CTA previously hosted a cultural camp open to the public.

Wendy Hamilton voiced support for the land sale, emphasizing the importance of having a native longhouse on native-owned land rather than city-leased land. She highlighted the potential for the sale to boost tourism in the area.

Felicia Dupea expressed support for the land sale, noting a lack of activities for children in the community. She proposed utilizing the carving shed to provide children with activities and aiming to support their mental health.

Council member Mike Kampnich highlighted the rarity of proposals for the land over the 18 years of city ownership, stating that the current land sale application from the CTA is the first suggestion he deems worthy of consideration. Council member Kampnich stated the application fits the land and it is fitting for our community. He commended the planning commission for their careful consideration, emphasizing the importance of patience in waiting for the right project to emerge over the 18 years of city ownership. He stated that there has been an indigenous presence on this island for as long as the herring have been spawning on Fish Egg Island.

READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

Catholic Community Service Letter

Southeast Senior Services Letter

2Tongass Plan Revision: Invitation for Engagement- Mike Kampnich stated we should be paying attention to this plan. Mayor Smith stated this plan hasn't been updated since 1997.

Game Day T-Shirt Project for Craig High School- The council directed staff to purchase a sponsorship for a sleeve spot.

USDA and SEARHC Prescription Produce Program- The council directed staff to send a letter of support.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

Ordinance 767, Adoption of the FY 2023 Supplemental Operating Budget
MCKINLEY/SCHOONOVER Motion to adopt Ordinance 767
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Ordinance 768, CTA Land Purchase Application
SCHOONOVER/BAZINET Motion to adopt Ordinance 768
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

KAMPNICH/BAZINET Motion to amend Section 3, effective date. This Ordinance shall be effective upon completion of report from the Craig Planning Commission as to development scenarios for the property as a whole with specific consideration for the proposed sale or lease of property identified by the Craig Tribal Association as a site for establishment of a longhouse, carving shed, and museum. Reports should be submitted by July 31, 2024.
NOT PASSED (2-4)

BENNETT/BAZINET Motion to amend the Ordinance to remove "lease."
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

MOU/Agreement Between the City of Craig and the Craig Tribal Association- The council directed staff to draft a MOU and send it to the Craig Tribal Association.

Budget Committee Selection FY2025- The council selected Josh Bennett, Shauna Thomas, Millie Schoonover, and Mike Kampnich to be on the budget committee.

Appropriation of General Funds for Fiscal Year 2022 & Fiscal Year 2023 Audits
MCKINLEY/THOMAS Motion to appropriate \$70,000 from the General Fund to complete the fiscal year 2022 and 2023 audits.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Craig Medical Director
MCKINLEY/BAZINET Motion to accept Dr. Joseph Livengood as the Craig Medical Director.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Executive Session - City Administrator Evaluation

BENNETT/THOMAS

Motion to move to executive session.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

KAMPNICH/BAZINET

Motion to move back into session.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Amendment to City Administrator Employment Agreement

BENNETT/BAZINET

Motion to amend the Craig City Administrator contract.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Shauna Thomas formally requested a meeting with Venessa Richter-Russel to discuss the status of the daycare.

Shauna inquired about Addam Parsons' status, referencing Chief Ely's report stating that Addam did not complete the Police Academy. Brian Templin clarified that Addam is still allowed to work for the Police Department and he is planning on attending the academy again in August. Shauna raised a question regarding the fees for the swim club. Brian clarified that while the fees are not waived, there is an agreement in place for a discount.

Shauna thanked staff for their efforts in getting the council meeting streamed on YouTube again. Mike Kampnich expressed satisfaction with the proactive approach of the staff in reminding individuals to pay sales tax.

Josh Bennett suggested that the Public Works department should wear high visibility clothing or vests to enhance their safety.

Chanel McKinley offered to donate a vintage fire truck located on her late father's property to the city, if they are interested in accepting it.

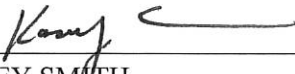
Millie Schoonover commented that the council chamber needs new chairs, and they are very uncomfortable.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 pm.

MCKINLEY/KAMPNICH

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



KASEY SMITH
MAYOR, CITY OF CRAIG



MARY SALAZAR
CITY CLERK