

CITY AND BOROUGH OF YAKUTAT

Minutes – Approved Final

City and Borough Assembly

Mayor - Cindy L. Bremner

Mayor Pro Tempore - Nick Holcomb

Marry Knutsen, Samson Demmert, Daryl James, Sheri Nelson, Gayla Valle

Thursday, April 2, 2020

7:00 P.M.

City Hall

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mayor C. L. Bremner called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. telephonically.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: 3 - Demmert, Holcomb, James

Telephonic: 4- Bremner, Knutsen, Nelson, and Valle

QUORUM PRESENT

Staff Present: Jon Erickson, Borough Manager and Alfredo Munoz Jr. Acting Clerk

3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

M/S N. Holcomb/ S. Demmert moved to approve the agenda as presented

QUESTION ON THE MOTION:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Gayla Valle- Yes Marry Knutsen – Yes

Daryl James – Yes Nick Holcomb- Yes

Sheri Nelson – Yes

PASSED

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

4.1 March 19, 2020 – Regular Meeting

M/S M. Knutsen/ N. Holcomb moved to approve the minutes of March 19, 2020.

QUESTION:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Gayla Valle – Yes Marry Knutsen - Yes

Daryl James – Yes Nick Holcomb - Yes

Sheri Nelson – Yes

PASSED

4.2 March 24, 2020 - Special Meeting

M/S M. Knutsen/ N. Holcomb moved to approve the minutes of March 24, 2020.

QUESTION:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Gayla Valle – Yes Mary Knutsen – Yes

Daryl James – Yes Nick Holcomb – Yes

Sheri Nelson – Yes

PASSED

5. MANAGERS REPORT:

Borough Manager, Jon Erickson: Commented on many topics including updates on the COVID-19 pandemic, the CBY website, Assessment Notices were mailed out and the City and Borough Offices are closed to the public at this time. Commented that the YPD is creating a list of actions that Yakutat residents cannot do and that this list is pending approval from the COVID-19 Incident Command. Commented on how small businesses can apply for the Disaster Loan Assistance through the U.S. Small Business Administration. Commented that the City Office will email Yakutat businesses the most recent mandates and restrictions regarding COVID-19.

Assembly Member, Gayla Valle: Inquired whether the quarantine restrictions would apply to Yakutat residents if they are traveling within the state for medical purposes.

Borough Manager, Jon Erickson: responded yes, once a Yakutat resident leaves and comes back that individual is required to isolate for 14 days.

Mayor, Cindy Bremner: Inquired on when Yakutat Police Officer William Henry will be done with training.

Borough Manager, Jon Erickson: Responded not until June.

Mayor, Cindy Bremner: Commented that she is happy that the Manager is publishing letters to Lodges and B&B's. Also commented that late this afternoon Assembly members received a signature page, signed by many residents in Yakutat with travel concerns. Stated that the signature page is a testament regarding the growing concern of COVID-19 and what the City and Borough are doing to mitigate COVID-19 arriving in Yakutat and would like to hear the Borough Managers thoughts regarding it.

Borough Manager, Jon Erickson: Commented that the first thing he is concerned about is the health and safety of Yakutat residents. Stated that all of the finances are secondary. Commented that he has no interest in making regulations less aggressive. Commented that the City is concerned with the airport and Yakutat Seafood's has a program approved by the State of Alaska regarding quarantine. Yakutat Seafood's has taken preventative actions regarding COVID-19 towards its employees. Stated concerns about Yakutat business during this pandemic.

Mayor, Cindy Bremner: Commented that Yakutat has two ports of entry that are of concern, the airport and the harbor. Concerned that the Governor has issued mandates without any enforcement support to Borough's and communities. Commented that air carriers are not

under any obligations to verify whether or not someone is essential and that is creating concerns with Yakutat residents. Thanked the Lodges that are only housing essential workers according to the State mandates. Inquired what actions the City is taking to ensure the B&B's are also housing only essential workers. Commented that the City needs to do more to ensure travelers know what is expected of them locally.

Borough Manager, Jon Erickson: Commented he will do what the assembly wishes. Commented that the Yakutat Police Department created a list of actions not allowed and if approved at the COVID-19 Incident Command Meeting, it will be posted at various locations and online. Encouraged residents go online helpful resources regarding COVID-19. Commented that Charter Boat trips are not legal and that if you are not essential you need to self-quarantine for 14 days.

Mayor, Cindy Bremner: Commented that it is a difficult time not just for small business but for the Borough as well. Concerned that the CBY staff could be infected with COVID-19 and to plan for that situation if it were to arise and to keep operations going.

Borough Manager, Jon Erickson: Commented that multiple staff are working from home and not coming into the office. Commented that if staff becomes infected with COVID-19 then the work will be distributed to other staff members.

Assembly Member, Gayla Valle: Commented that she shares concerns and wanted to address the Steelhead fisherman visiting town. Suggested a handout of local information regarding COVID-19 to all who come into town.

Borough Manager, Jon Erickson: Commented that he agrees with Valle. Commented that it is very likely that instead of 2 flights a day it will become fewer and to have staff wear PPE and meet passengers coming into Yakutat.

Mayor, Cindy Bremner: Inquired about having fewer flights.

Borough Manager, Jon Erickson: Commented that Alaska Airlines has cut 70% of their routes, and Raven Air cut 90% of flights. Commented that Alaska Airlines canceled flight the previous day due to not having enough passengers.

Mayor, Cindy Bremner: Commented that Alaska Airlines holds the Essential Air Service Contract with Yakutat and are subsidized by the Federal Government. Commented that from meeting attended with Department of Transportation, Alaska Airlines is fully funded through September.

Borough Manager, Jon Erickson: Commented that he agrees, but is concerned about flights into Yakutat decreasing.

Mayor, Cindy Bremner: Inquired where the information is coming from.

Borough Manager, Jon Erickson: Commented that Raven Air had the same contract and it is not delivering to multiple villages at the moment.

Larry Powell: Commented that Alaska Airlines has no plans for canceling flights 61 and 66.

Borough Manager, Jon Erickson: Commented that a person is speaking out of turn.

Mayor, Cindy Bremner: Call a point of order

Assembly Member, Sheri Nelson: Inquired on what plans the Clinic has in regards to COVID-19. Commented that the Clinic has limited resources. Concerned about the number of Medavacs coming in and out of Yakutat with the influx of sport fisherman.

Mayor, Cindy Bremner: Commented that only essential travel is allowed and Sport Fishing is not essential travel. Commented that an Emergency Response Team has been working closely with the Clinic.

Assembly Member, Sheri Nelson: Inquired about the protocol for switching providers and possibly spreading the virus.

Mayor, Cindy Bremner: Commented that individuals would be required to quarantine for 14 days.

6. COMMUNICATIONS AND APPEARANCE REQUESTS: NONE

7. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Larry Powell: Commented that their needs to be testing for essential workers. Commented that the essential workers need to test negative to COVID-19. Commented that not only charters but guides may be bringing in clients and they need to be addressed. Inquired about mobile hospital.

Jeff Fraker: Commented that he would like to hear the answers to Larry Powell's questions.

Mayor, Cindy Bremner: Commented that the City and Borough of Yakutat does not have control over testing essential workers. Commented that as of right now there is a shortage of tests across the Nation. Commented that if travelers followed the state mandate then there should not be Sport Fisherman because they are non-essential.

Larry Powell: Commented that he agrees with the Mayor.

Jeff Fraker: Commented that he believes no one should be coming into town if you do not live in Yakutat.

Assembly Member, Daryl James: Commented to the Mayor that there is a point of order for all audience members to identify themselves.

Mayor, Cindy Bremner: Commented that Larry Powell spoke first followed by Jeff Fraker.

Mayor, Cindy Bremner: Inquired if there was any more audience participation. Commented that the Assembly will continue with agenda items

**8. HEARINGS, ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS: INTRODUCTION:
INTRODUCTION:**

8.1 **ORD 20-666:** AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ALASKA REMOTE SELLER SALES TAX CODE AND AMENDING PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 6.40 FOR PURPOSES OF CONSISTENCY

M/S M. Knutsen/ S. Nelson moved to introduce Ordinance 20-666 and set the public hearing for the next regular scheduled meeting.

QUESTION:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Gayla Valle – Yes	Marry Knutsen – Yes
Daryl James – Yes	Nick Holcomb - Yes
Sheri Nelson – Yes	Samson Demmert – Yes

Motion Carried

9. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

10. NEW BUSINESS:

10.1 Declaration of Forfeiture of Assembly Seat (Sheri A. Nelson)
M/S M. Knutsen/ N. Holcomb to approve S. Nelson’s request to excuse absences

QUESTION:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Daryl James – Yes	Nick Holcomb – Yes
Marry Knutsen – Yes	Samson Demmert – Yes
Gayla Valle – Yes	

PASSED

11. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Larry Powell: Inquired on why the City has an officer out for training at this time. Requested to have an officer at the airport every day for a short period of time when the Alaska Airlines flight arrives to ensure that visitors are essential, ask where they are staying and for how long they will be in Yakutat. Commented that Alaska Airlines is under no obligation to check if a passenger is essential and if a passenger claims to be essential he or she is allowed on the plane. Commented that if the traveler is not essential then he or she should be told to get back on the plane or go quarantine.

Joe Valle: Thanked the City Assembly for being on top of the COVID-19 situation. From what Joe has observed there is much appreciation among the locals for the effort. Commented that the town is behind the Mayor and City Assembly. Suggested that a large sign with red letters stating “Town Practicing Self Isolation for Essential Travelers” would help get the message out. Commented that postings are important but a very large sign would be more optimal in

grabbing attention. Agreed with Larry Powell's request to have a police presence at the airport as well as the Harbor Master at the harbor. Valle would like everyone to stay informed and also be aware of supply chain issues. Commented that there are Southeast Groups starting up for those interested in making PPE whether sewing masks or receiving a kit to assemble. Thanked everyone.

Gayla Valle: Addressed that the City's Law Enforcement is stretched really thin and suggested deputizing volunteers to be at the airport twice a day. If the City and Borough had a presence at the airport that would be a giant step ahead. Thanked everyone.

Larry Powell: Commented that he disagrees with the Emergency Shelter being placed under School Pavilion. Highly recommended using the School Facility for this purpose, it would provide warmer conditions and a better overall place. Noted that several people have commented on the placement of the emergency shelter to him.

12. MAYORS REPORT, ASSEMBLY MEMBERS COMMENTS

Marry Knutsen: Commented that she is grateful the Assembly Members excused Nelson's absences for very understandable reasons. Concerned about outsiders coming into Yakutat and the potential impact that could have on not only her family who are immune system compromised but for the community elders as well. Commented that Yakutat has lost too many the past 2 years and the community cannot afford to lose any more. Stated that she is frustrated and angered hearing local guides trying to bring in their clients and trying to keep them out of town. Commented that regardless of the precautions taken, Sport Fishing is not an essential service. Thanked everyone.

Nick Holcomb: Commented that after speaking with citizens there is a concern about going too far. Recommended individuals to keep following the mandates in place. Stated that through his own research the virus can live on hard surfaces for weeks. Encouraged everyone to wipe down surfaces, be smart about what you are bringing into your home and with anything that comes through the mail. Noted that the majority of Yakutat's mail goes through Seattle. Commented that if we say no more people in town it is ineffective unless we say no mail. Commented that it could hurt the community in the long run when the community begins to ramp things up and have a fishing season or any kind of season at all, it's going to be impossible if we really clamp down on all of the communities businesses. Commented that people need to be aware of the ramifications of saying Yakutat is shutting down everything at this point. Thanked everyone.

Gayla Valle: Inquired if there are any residents in the Icy Bay Area at this time.

Jon Erickson: Responded that the City will send out a quarantine reminder letter to all lodges and B&B's.

Sheri Nelson: Thanked everyone for their vote. Thanked everyone for doing such a great job in protecting Yakutat through this unfortunate time.

Mayor Cindy Bremner: Thanked Jon Erickson and CBY Staff. Agreed that a letter to the all the Lodges and B&B's is a good idea. Agreed with Joe's idea that a large sign at both ports of entrance would remind all that Yakutat is practicing social distancing. Appreciated Jon Erickson bringing up the small business loans and noted that \$10,000 is not much compared to what a

business is losing. Concerned that local residents may not recognize essential workers and may lead to mistreatment. Cautioned everyone to follow state mandates and CDC recommendations. Commented that despite the mandate being issued still seeing people out and about. Thanked everyone and final comment to Stay Healthy Be Happy as much as we can, this is new to all us, and we are all learning to live with it.

13. ADJOURNMENT:

M/S N. Holcomb/ S. Demmert moved to adjourn this meeting at 8:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Nick Holcomb – Yes Samson Demmert – Yes

Gayla Valle – Yes Daryl James – Yes

Mary Knutsen – Yes Sheri Nelson – Yes

PASSED