



City of Hoonah

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## COMMITTEE AS A WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

**January 4, 2018**

**7:00pm**

**In Council Chambers**

### Agenda:

- I. Call to Order-** 7:00 pm
- II. Roll Call-** A. Wilson- present, J. Murray-present, S. McConnell-present, G. Skaflestad-present, E. Phillips-present, S. Savland-present. City Administrator, Mayor Byers and members of the community also present.
- III. Agenda Revisions** – Per council approval, Todd Thingvall land purchase request added to the agenda as letter g and letter from attorney as letter h.
- IV. Items of Business:**
  - a) **City Business License-** Mayor Byers explained to council that we are experiencing a lot of accountability issues with business not paying sales tax. Setting up a city business license with a fee would help with tracking and give the city more options to collect from business that aren't paying sales tax. City Treasurer Billie Jack stated that according to how our code is written we are very limited on what we can do on past due accounts. The city needs to update our ordinance so that we have more control and an enforcement method. Suggested using something like Skagway since they deal with a lot of tourism and seasonal business owners. Councilmember Skaflestad thinks that adding more fees to business is not needed and suggested not charging anything but still making them fill out a business application. Councilmembers McConnell and Murray wants to make sure that if something is added to the code for collection that its something that can be enforced because that seems to be a problem already. Councilmember Savland agreed with both the Treasurer and Mayor that we need to have a better collection method. The City needs to operate as a business and needs to be able to collect on the tax that's not getting paid and we need to make it easier to do that. Committee members requested to have Administration bring a draft to the next Committee meeting for further discussion.

1. Public Comment- Bill Miller – The City needs to get the ordinance cleaned up. Business's that aren't in good standing with city shouldn't be able to operate here.
- b) **Animal Control Issues-** Chief McKillican updated the council on the progress of enforcement of animal licensing. Recently received door hangers and are going to be going around and hanging on people's doors as a warning to register their dog. Will give people a certain amount of time to comply and if they don't then a citation will be issued. Chief is also going to bring a change to the ordinance because right now it requires you to register every January, would like to change the wording the wording to annual so if you register a dog late in the year you're not paying the fee again in a few months. Also, would like to look at the possibility of making it a 2-year registration.
- c) **Blue Warehouse Repair** – This was a request from the last council meeting. The city currently only has raw data pertaining to the condition of the pilings. This would allow the city to bring in an engineering firm to prepare an engineering plan and cost estimate to repair. M/S Phillips, Skaflestad to forward to council the approval of \$17,000 for the blue warehouse repair.
- d) **ISP Bus Traffic** – Councilmember Savland brought up concerns with the routing of the bus traffic through the harbor, by the youth center and playground. Urged ISP to look for other solutions. Mentioned the City possibly negotiating with the church or help paying for use of the parking lot.  
After discussion, Councilmembers agreed that this has been an issue for a long time and the city needs to look at viable options.
  1. Public Comment – Tyler Hickman- Explained that 2004-2011 the buses went through the harbor. It wasn't until 2012 that a deal was made to pay a fee for use of the church parking lot. In 2017 they wanted to raise the rate and it wasn't in the best interest of ISP to pay the additional money, so they went back to the original way they started. Buses or not that corner by Tideland tackle is dangerous and the city should look at other options for traffic. Possibly a 3 way stop at that corner, better road lines, sidewalks etc. Jon Kveum- Tideland tackle building is too close to the road. Need to look at alternative parking plan and possibly widen the road.  
Don Bolton- Much more foot traffic in the harbor now than in the past. Not sure if sidewalks are the answer since they don't even use the ones we have.
- e) **Tunnel Bluffs Repair Cost Estimate-** PND Engineers are working on this and should have estimate ready for Tuesday's council meeting. M/S Phillips, Skaflestad to forward to council.
- f) **Employee Handbook Changes** – Handbook should be adopted annually by resolution. Administrator Gray proposed a change to the annual leave cash out. Currently employees that are at the max of 240 hours can cash out a 100 hours of leave time. This is not a common benefit and one the city can no longer afford. M/S Skaflestad, Phillips to move employee handbook on to council with included changes.
  1. Public Comment – Chief McKillican pointed out that continually cutting benefits is going to make retention of employees even harder. That for the past 3 years benefits have been getting cut and if it continues employees might look elsewhere.

- g) **Land Purchase Request; Todd Thingvall-** M/S McConnell, Skaflestad to forward to P &Z.
- h) **Letter from City Attorney-** Received letter from city attorney in response to the meeting scheduled for January 16<sup>th</sup> regarding the HIA tunnel bluffs lawsuit. Attorney recommended to the council that the meeting should be canceled, that it could be detrimental to our case.  
Councilmembers Phillips, McConnell, Skaflestad and Murray agreed that we should listen to the advice of our attorney. The city could make the lawsuit available on the website and copied in the office for the public to pick up. Also ask the attorney to write a summary on the case that is available.  
Councilmembers Wilson and Savland both disagreed with the attorney's advice and think the meeting needs to happen. The public aren't informed, and the meeting is a way to get all the information out there. Need the community to help solve this.  
M/S McConnell, Phillips to forward to council.
- i) **Community/Council Comments** – Councilmember Phillips- The monthly letter from the Mayor in the bills were nice to get and very informative.

**V. Adjourn-** 9:05 pm