



COMMITTEE AS A WHOLE

October 9, 2018 at 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 telephonically, M. Smith (Councilmember elect)- present, S. Savland-present, G. Skaflestad-absent Administrator Gray- present, Mayor Byers-present, and members of the community also present.

III. Agenda Revisions—None

IV. Items of Business:

a) Widening Harbor Drive-

Discussion- Administrator Gray said all we need is a recommendation to pursue design alternates for widening Harbor Drive. He also recommends this go to the Planning Commission for their input as well. Councilmember Wilson agreed that going to the Planning and Zoning is a great idea. Councilmember Savland clarified that this is referring to the road by Spud Creek down to the portion where it meets the access going to the airplane float. He shared his concern that when tourists are in town, that road is almost not drivable and not safe because tourists and pedestrians are everywhere. Councilmember Wilson expressed her concern as well for the locals' safety especially with the Youth Center there and the youth trying to walk back and forth. She shared that Council is looking to Planning and Zoning to help give options and come up with design ideas to make this safer for our visitors and community members.

Public Comment—None

Moved by Savland, Seconded by Murray to move this discussion of widening Harbor Drive, on to Planning and Zoning.

b) ANTHC- Project Alternate Management Agreement for Waste Water Treatment Plant-

Discussion- Administrator Dennis shared that this has been a year long effort to get this agreement in front of the council. This agreement would allow the City of Hoonah to assume control and build a waste water plant. It's a 4.7 million dollar project. It would need to be approved by the Council. This is the first time that ANTHC has done a CPA with a village that requires them to go to bid instead of a force account and took a long time. Councilmember Murray asked if this would allow us to be the general contractor and Administrator Gray explained that this would allow us to assume control and then hire a general contractor. Councilmember Murray asked, "Do we want to be in

charge of this contract?” Councilmember Savland said that he felt comfortable moving forward with this. Councilmember Murray asked if the bids came in over \$4.7 million what would we do? Administrator Gray explained that he had talked to Greg Jones and he said that with what we have budgeted, we could complete this project. Councilmember Wilson asked when this project would start and Administrator Gray stated that it could start as soon as next week after it is signed by the Mayor and the Council adopts it. Councilmember Wilson wondered if there would be local hire for the project and Administrator Gray said if it is a forced account there will be local hire, but not something we can dictate if we do a bid. If we do a bid, we get a better price and we will complete the project on time. Councilmember Savland wondered if this project would be completed within a year and Administrator Gray said that this project should have already been completed by this month. The original completion date was October 2018 so they are two years behind. Councilmember Wilson expressed again her concern for making sure we try to have local hire.

Public Comment— Mayor Byers asked if the project amount goes over 4.7 million dollars, who will be paying the rest. Administrator Gray said we won't be going over, because we have an accountant over this, himself and an engineer on staff to keep this from happening.

Moved by Savland, Seconded by Murray to send this on to council for approval.

c) EngelEntertainment Production Agreement-

Discussion- Administrator Gray shared that the City of Hoonah has been getting a request for EngelEntertainment to film our Police Department. This went to our attorney Jim Sheehan and he recommended not to sign as proposed but to have the city attorney and the administrator pursue negotiations if the city wants to go down this road. Councilmember Wilson asked if this was a reality show about our police department, and Administrator Gray said that was correct. She was not in agreement with this idea. Administrator Gray said that this was forwarded to him from Chief Groshong and that the chief was in support of this. Administrator Gray disagreed with him because he feels that this just shows the bad side of Hoonah. Councilmember McConnell wondered if this production company had any other shows on TV so that we could get an idea of what this is about and Administrator Gray said he was not sure. Administrator Gray also explained that potentially this show was going to document the hiring of a police officer from the lower 48 who moves here to Hoonah. The chief was looking at this kind of as a recruiting opportunity. Mayor Byers explained that initially they were thinking of recruiting a female police officer and document the transition from down south, up here. Councilmember Murray asked the audience what they felt about this idea. Councilmember McConnell said he could see one positive thing out of this. If it were indeed a documentation of a person coming from down south up here, it might be a way to attract people in other professions to the community. Councilmember Elect Smith said that if we brought the production company in, the show could become whatever they determine it to be and Councilmember Murray explained that there is a lot of over ride in the paperwork. Councilmember Savland shared that he has no problem with this production coming here to film. He felt like the Alaska Bush People had minimal impact on the community of Hoonah. We gained a couple of million dollars and people were employed here. He said that he felt comfortable with Administration and our lawyer having the final say to this. Councilmember Wilson said, that she agrees it could have some benefit, but at

what cost. She also felt like this was ambiguous on the agenda and couldn't understand what this all entailed. She would like this reworded in the agenda so that the community had a clearer understanding of what this was going to be about, and they could give their input. Councilmember Murray said that his concern is with the fact we have a small, young police force and to have a camera crew looking over their shoulders may not be the best idea. Councilmember Savland replied that maybe it might deter problems because they would be on TV. Administrator Gray restated that there are two production requests to film our Hoonah Police Department. Councilmember Savland asked, "How do we benefit financially from this besides jobs for the community?" Administrator Gray replied that he wasn't sure how we would benefit, but that Jim Sheehan is familiar with this and would probably know this information. Councilmember Murray asked to table this, and get more input from these people. Councilmember Savland expressed that he felt we needed to get written input from our police department and make sure that they are 100% on board. Councilmember Wilson agreed and said that she feels they should all be at the next CAAW meeting, and we should reword the title of this on the agenda so that the community was aware. She doesn't like this idea, but felt that maybe the community would like it, but we won't know if we don't get community input.

Public Comment—Glenn Johnson spoke against this reality TV show. He said that it wasn't good when the Alaska Bush People were here. The only good thing he could see coming out of this is if they try and fight against the drug problem here. He expressed his concern that if we are making money off of these reality shows like the Bush People, then the city shouldn't be raising the rates of the utilities. Jackie Dick stated that she was not in favor of this production company coming to town because it would shed a negative light on our city.

Moved by Savland, Seconded by Murray to reidentify this as a reality TV show for our Police Department and move it to the next CAAW in November.

d) Utility Rate Increase-

Discussion- Administrator Gray said this was discussed already in finance committee. He explained that in 2015 the state of Alaska recommended that the City of Hoonah raise the utility rates. Through an audit we were able to show that commercial rate payers were not paying their full fare of utilities so we were able to stave off the rate increase. The last time we raised the rates was in 2013 and then in 2009 before that. If we don't make the increase, then we are going to have a hard time making the revenue over the expenses. We have long term maintenance needs, employee needs etc... We are looking at a 7% increase for residential unit for sewer and a 10% increase for commercial. Water rates would go up also 7% and 10% again for commercial. Hoonah Cold Storage pays the most with a high demand for water and they would be grandfathered in at this time. The garbage department is the one department that would have a larger increase. It would be a 12% and 15% increase. All told it would be a \$10 increase for the average homeowner per month. He went on to explain that right now we collect about \$181,000 and we have about \$219,000 in expenses, so in order to get there we had to raise our rates 7% for residential and 10% for commercial. To keep our RUBA scores and assessments up, we need to show that we are thinking about the future. Administrator Gray gave examples of other cities in the Southeast Region where they may or may not give any kind of Senior discount. There are very few cities that do give discounts. He reminded the Council that we are offering a discount to the Seniors still, it just isn't as generous. Councilmember Wilson said that

personally she doesn't want to be like other cities. She questioned why this has to happen. She said she doesn't see the fixed costs or any of the information before the council. All she sees is the new rate schedule and there is no cost analysis. Administrator Gray said that this was all explained at the finance committee meeting. Councilmember Wilson replied that this information is still not before them and that they should have the whole of the information before them. Administrator Gray reiterated that he was going to share all of this information again at the next CAAW meeting. Councilmember Savland said that everything is going up so in order for the departments to equal 0, they are going to have to raise the rates. Councilmember Wilson said that she is concerned about making a hasty decision, when we have community member that will be greatly affected by the \$15 increase. Administrator Gray recommended that it be sent back to the finance committee and encourage the council to go to the finance committee. Councilmember Wilson asked if the council could see the fixed cost increase that is used to determine the percent rate increase to justify the amounts that is being proposed. There was some discussion about the information shared at the finance committee and wanting to make sure the community was aware of it. Councilmember Wilson then clarified that at the next finance meeting all council members will attend and will have an understanding of where the fixed rate cost increase is, and where the numbers came from for the percentages to cover the fixed cost increase. Administrator Gray said that he would be happy to go over all of it again.

Public Comment- Bill Miller feels that the increases should be across the board. He feels like the Senior Citizens are getting picked on. He thinks it should be a percentage increase. Genevive Cook wanted to know if the rates were raised, would they increase the number of times that garbage is dumped. She shared that in years past, garbage was picked up two times a week, and then it stopped. Councilmember Savland explained that there was an added expense of needing to man the dump and keep someone there at all times. This may be why there is only garbage pick-up one time a week. Denny Mayer said that if we are paying for a man at the dump, he never sees one. Glenn Johnson felt like the increases are just for paying for the employees' insurance. Bill Miller shared that he would like to also see an increase in the septic tank rate.

Moved by Savland, Seconded by Murray to address utility rates at the next finance committee.

e) Access to Beach Front-

Discussion- Councilmember Murray explained that this is up for discussion because next year we are going to get an influx of up to 7,000 tourists a day, and there needs to be more for them to do. He shared that they want to possibly put some stairs down by the city dock to get them down on the beach to entertain them. Administrator Gray felt that this should go to the Planning Commission for their input for more public outreach as a good first step. Councilmember Savland stated that there is already a set of stairs minus the handrails down by Miller's house so at a minimum they should have handrails added. Councilmember Wilson expressed her agreement with having a beach access, but that framing it for the tourists isn't going to get us any public favor because there are community members that live here year round that it would benefit. It's important to look at how it would benefit our locals as well as how it would benefit our guests. We also have children here that would like to be on the beach and with our limited beach it would be nice to have beach access. Councilmember Murray clarified that he said it was beach access for the tourists because part of the excise tax would pay for it. Councilmember elect Smith said he was concerned about a possible audit and could excise tax be used for it. Councilmember Murray said that his concern is the number of people coming in, and we need to have a plan for them. He isn't sure how we will entertain this many people

Public Comment-Bill Miller felt like this topic should go to Planning and Zoning. He thought it would be nice to have two totem poles carved and placed at each end of the beach. He also reminded the council that in winter when there was snow removal, that knocked out the handrail on the stairway that is by his house, so when designing possible stairs that is something to think about.

Moved by Savland, Seconded by Murray to recommend council to spend \$5000 of excise tax dollars to studying beach access and widening Harbor Drive.

Moved by Savland, Seconded by Wilson to move this to P & Z to study beach access.

f) Land Trade Request (Byron ‘Barney’ Johnson) -

Discussion-Councilmember McConnell said that he is reiterating that land trade requests should always go to Planning and Zoning before we discuss it in CAAW. Councilmember Savland wanted clarification on which rock quarry Barney was talking about. Administrator Gray explained that it is up by Coutlee’s lot.

Public Comment— none

Moved by McConnell, Seconded by Savland to move this to Planning and Zoning.

g) Harbor Fees Collections

Discussion- Administrator Gray explained that this has to do with a tugboat owner that is in arrears with the city of Hoonah for roughly \$19,000 and he is not a resident of the state. He got an estimate from Jim Sheehan for what it would cost to pursue collections and Jim said anywhere from \$5,000-\$6,000 with no guarantee of any recovery so we could end up spending \$24,000. Administrator Gray wanted to run it by committee to see if we wanted to chase down \$19,000. Councilmember Savland wanted clarification on how much money the city is out as opposed to just collecting moorage. Administrator Gray explained that the city spent about \$4,000 just on electricity for this vessel not including moorage he didn’t pay. Councilmember Wilson wanted to know if we could sell it. Councilmember Murray wondered if there was salvage value and Administrator Gray stated that we couldn’t even use it for firewood. Councilmember Savland wondered if we use our attorney or do we go to a collections department and Administrator Gray explained that we would need to use our attorney to pursue him civilly. Councilmember McConnell wondered if there was a provision to turn this over to a collection agency. Administrator Gray wasn’t sure because we’ve never used one. Councilmember Savland said he was not in favor of having our lawyer pursue this because it is too expensive but possibly investigating a collection agency to go after this for a percentage. Councilmember Murray wondered what the procedure is for getting the title to the boat and Administrator Gray assured him that we do not want ownership of the boat and that it is already in Tenakee.

Public Comment-none

Moved by Savland, Seconded by Wilson to direct Administration to look for a collection agency to go after this harbor bill.

h) Updating Voter Registration List

Discussion- Administrator Gray explained that this came from a canvass board request and asked Clerk Bidiman to explain why this came about. Clerk Bidiman explained that we have 708 registered voters on the precinct voter list and only 752 people in Hoonah, so clearly this voter list is not

accurate. There are people on the list that are deceased or have moved away from Hoonah and we want to know the quickest way to update the voter registration list so that it is accurate and shows a true percentage of the number of people coming in to vote. This year 31% of registered voters came in and voted and we know this number would be much higher if we had an accurate voter registration list. Clerk Bidiman went on to explain that she called the Division of Elections and they said the number is high due to people wanting to keep residency in the state of Alaska in order to collect a PFD. We don't have the right to just move someone off the list even if we know they have moved. Councilmember Savland asked what our course of action should be. Councilmember McConnell wondered if we could send our voter registration list to PFD and have them double check against people who are filing out of state that don't live in our community.

Public Comment- none

Moved by Savland, Seconded by Wilson to direct Administration to look into Voter Registration further and see if there are ways to get people off the list.

- i) **Ordinance 18-05-15 Amending Title 16 Public Lands, Chapter 16.16- Regulation of Tidelands**
Discussion- Administrator Gray explained that this came from the Planning Commission. He said the only changes to this ordinance came in paragraph 7. Everything was stricken from the ordinance and one sentence was added. The Commission wanted to prohibit sales to private individuals that were only going to have a private dock for their boat, but if they could prove that it was going to have an impact to the city as a whole then we would sell tidelands, otherwise it would be prohibited. Councilmember Elect Smith wondered who determines if it would be an economic development for the city as a whole, and Administrator Gray explained that the Planning and Zoning would determine that. Councilmember Wilson asked about whether there could be something that would have community impact and not necessarily economic, perhaps an improvement for children or education. She felt if maybe it was only economic, it may not be for the good of the community.

Public Comment- none

Moved by Murray, Seconded by Savland to move this on to Council.

- j) **Ordinance 18-06-18 Adding Exemptions from Sales Tax: Z) That portion of the selling price for passenger fees related to the Hoonah Cruise Ship Dock Company**
Discussion- Administrator Gray explained we got a lot of information from the attorney and some information from Johan Dybdahl. He recommends that in order for the Council to understand and digest what is in front of the Council, we postpone this discussion until November CAAW so that the information can be read. It will also give time to ask questions of Jim Sheehan and have ISP come in to answer questions as well.

Public Comment- none

Moved by Savland, Seconded by Wilson to move Ordinance 18-06-18 to the CAAW in November

- k) **Ordinance 18-10-22 Terminating Ordinance 15-11-19 by concluding the Economic Development Committee as an official standing committee**
Discussion- Administrator Gray explained that this came from the Mayor because this committee was created by the previous Mayor and this is a duplication of the existing committee that meets the

first Thursday of every month. The Mayor would like to see the Economic Development Committee be disbanded.

Public Comment- none

Moved by Wilson, Seconded by Murray to forward this on to Council.

l) Ordinance 18-10-23 Authorizing rezoning of HTC land at ISP from Rural Residential to Commercial

Discussion- Administrator Gray shared that this ordinance came from the Planning Commission. Huna Totem and ISP had asked for a rezone of their property looking for commercial from rural reserve. What this means is that it shows rural reserve on the map and this doesn't allow there to be commercial activities. They'd like to expand their operations. It needs to be changed to commercial if this is going to happen. The Planning Commission asked that this be brought to City Council.

Public Comment-none

Moved by Murray, Seconded by Wilson that this be passed on to City Council.

m) Ordinance 18-10-24 Dalton Creek Subdivision Block E

Discussion- Administrator Gray explained that the Planning Commission worked over the summer to create residential lots off an existing road in the Dalton Creek Subdivision. They settled on a 6 lot configuration. Now the city can go forward with the land sale in Dalton Creek. Councilmember Savland clarified that this was behind the skatepark and it would create 6 lots. He agreed that this would be a good idea to do this. Water and sewer passes right by those 6 lots and he feels this would be a good use of this land. Councilmember Wilson asked how the land would be sold and Administrator Gray answered that it would be sold by sealed bids. If they didn't all sell by sealed bids, they could be sold over the counter. Councilmember Wilson said she would like to see that there are options that take into account the economic status of our community and that it's not just into the same pool of people. Administrator Gray said that they did take this into account which is why it took awhile to get this done. The Planning Commission started off with 4 big lots and decided they were too big and locals couldn't afford it, so they broke it down into 6 lots. We offer financing from the city.

Public Comment-none

Moved by Savland, Seconded by Murray to move this on to Council.

n) Community/Council Comments

Councilmember Wilson expressed her concern about clarity on the agenda on the topics being discussed so that the community is clear on it as well. She especially wanted clarity on the Beach Front title and wanted it to say possibly "Stairs."

Councilmember Murray wanted to readdress the issue at CAAW again about what we should do about the additional people coming here next summer.

Glen Johnson wondered if there was a way to do away with the structure down at the baseball field. Bill Miller shared that the Senior Citizens had a picnic down on the far corner, and they purchased a gazebo purchased from Wes Tyler. He felt like it would be a good idea to put the gazebo down at the park with some tables so that people could use it. This way the Seniors could use the park just like the youth.

Councilmember Savland wanted clarification on what a gazebo is and Wes Tyler explained this.
Councilmember Wilson agreed that she would like to see a pavilion down at the park.
Councilmember Savland asked if we could please put the topic of pavilion on the next CAAW in November.

V. Adjourn—8:46 pm.