

SITKA POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION

Wednesday December 5, 2007 – 7:00 P.M.

Harrigan Centennial Hall

REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Michael Wise Gwen Lazzarini Joseph Reeves Gail Roderick

Absent: Dennie Daniels

Others Present: Scott Elmer, Sitka Fire Chief Lt. Garry McCrary, Sitka Police Department

Members of the Public: Megan Pasternak Dave Miller

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Scott Elmer notated a correction on page 2 of last month's meeting minutes – change from Local Emergency Preparedness Commission (LEPC) to Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).

MOTION: M/S Lazzarini/Reeves moved to approve the corrected minutes from the November 7, 2007 meeting.

ACTION: Motion **PASSED 4-0** on a voice vote.

D. ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO AGENDA

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

F. COMMUNICATIONS

G. REPORTS

1. Chair – None
2. Vice Chair – None
3. Police Chief

- Lt. McCrary, on behalf of Chief Schmitt, discussed the monthly report for the Operations Division of the Police Department. Events, cases, call trends, statistics, training, domestic violence unit, marine, K-9 Team and staffing issues were subjects of this month's report.

- Mike Wise asked Lt. McCrary about the recruiting process for police officers since it's likely we'll lose an officer in the spring. Lt. McCrary went over the process and stated that it's very difficult to find and get qualified officers not only in Sitka but all over the country.

4. Fire Chief

- Chief Elmer stated that he is continuing to work on the items from last month's report. An ice measurement of 5 inches was reported on Swan Lake.

H. OLD BUSINESS

1. Tour bus parking on Lincoln St.

Gwen Lazzarini made the suggestion of removing the two bus parking spaces that are currently in front of Wells Fargo, turn Maksoutoff into a one-way towards Crescent Harbor and place the bus parking there.

After the tourist season is over it could revert back to a two-way.

Gail Roderick inquired about the large truck that currently parks on the sidewalk in front of Hermanos Restaurant. Making deliveries only in the morning hours is an option to keep Lincoln St. flowing.

Lt. McCrary stated that he has Mr. Litten's mirror and plans on mounting it to a post in front of Wells Fargo and the bus parking spaces.

MOTION: M/S Lazzarini/Reeves moved to turn the issue of tour bus parking on Lincoln Street over to the new Tourism Council, via the Municipal Clerk, for recommendations and come back to the Police and Fire Commission.

ACTION: Motion **PASSED 4-0** on a voice vote.

2. DeGroff Street Traffic Calming Options

Gwen Lazzarini presented an informational handout on options of speed bumps, humps, tables and cushions including price quotes and comparisons. A speed bump could be installed at the stop sign at Baranof and DeGroff Streets and a speed cushion could be installed on DeGroff as you come in from Sawmill Creek Road.

Lt. McCrary would first like to try installing 3 battery operated flashing lights, possibly motion activated, at approximately \$50 each. Most drivers believe DeGroff is a 25 mph zone and a flashing light gets most drivers attention.

It was agreed to move forward with Lt. McCrary's suggestion and wait for feedback from the community for any further action.

I. NEW BUSINESS

1. Parking Fine Increases

Lt. McCrary went over the proposals for parking fine and impound and storage fee increases. The current \$10 parking fine is not enough of a deterrent and suggests an increase to \$25-125. This would be in line with the state bail schedule. At the airport and Crescent Harbor a progressive fee schedule needs to be adopted with the first violation being \$25 on up to a fifth violation of \$300. He suggests the impound fee be increased to \$50 and the per day storage fee be raised to \$10. He advocates that these fees be placed back into the General Fund.

MOTION: M/S Reeves/Lazzarini moved to accept the recommendations from Lt. McCrary on parking fine and impound and storage fee increases as he presents them to the Assembly.

ACTION: Motion **PASSED 4-0** on a voice vote.

This topic will be advertised in the newspaper via the Assembly agenda.

J. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Gail Roderick thanked Lt. McCrary on the Customer Service Training.

K. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS

Next meeting date: January 2, 2008

L. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: M/S Reeves/Lazzarini moved to adjourn at 8:30 PM

ACTION: Motion **PASSED 4-0** on a voice vote.