



Sitka Port and Harbors Commission Minutes

May 13, 2026, 6:00PM
Harrigan Centennial Hall

Port and Harbors Commission Members:

Chair-Shauna Thornton, Vice Chair-Tamy Stevenson
Joshua Badder, Andrew Callistini, Jorgen Eliason, Tyler Green,
Justin Peeler, JJ Carlson (Assembly Liaison)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Tamy Stevenson called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Tamy Stevenson, Joshua Badder, Andrew Callistini, Jorgen Eliason, Justin Peeler

Excused: Shauna Thornton

Unexcused: Tyler Green

Assembly Liaison: JJ Carlson

Staff Present: Harbormaster Brandon Calhoun, Port and Harbors Office Assistant René Tuttle

III. AGENDA CHANGES

None.

IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD *(Public participation on any item OFF the agenda – time limit not to exceed 3 minutes for any individual)*

JJ Carlson updated the Commission on the motion regarding the fish box tax increase, which was forwarded to the Assembly. The item is moving through the process, but the code language needs to be updated to reflect an excise tax before Assembly consideration.

Terry Perensovich discussed the careful demolition of abandoned boats—including material separation, cost recovery, and contaminants—and noted that the Society of Marine Engineers could provide 3D scans if historical significance is found.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Meeting minutes of April 8, 2026

A motion was made by Callistini to approve the April 8th, 2026, meeting minutes as written. Motion passed 5-0.

VI. REPORTS

Chair – None.

Harbor Master Report

Calhoun reported that to mitigate vessel traffic congestion, lightering facilities have been transitioned to a reservation-only system. This operational change has secured five new paying operators, resulting in an estimated revenue increase of \$20,000 to \$30,000.

For the 2026 season, all reservations and hot-berth moorage placements are being managed through sitkadockspace.org, a newly implemented, internally built software program.

The 2026 season currently stands at 37 reservations across 233 nights, projecting a baseline revenue of \$104,000 so far.

2026 summer staffing levels will be lower than normal due to one retirement and a maintenance Full-Time Equivalent employee being away until August. For the summer season, the department has hired three temporary port security officers and one temporary maintenance employee.

Staff are currently developing the detailed scope of work for Eliason Harbor improvements, and project progression remains on schedule.

City Staff – None.

Assembly Liaison Report

JJ updated the Commission on the motion regarding the fish box tax increase, which was forwarded to the Assembly. The item is moving through the process, but the code language needs to be updated to reflect an excise tax before final Assembly consideration.

The Assembly also adopted a 4% increase to avoid a funding gap, noting that the Commission's recommended 3% increase was received too late for Assembly consideration, and the Commission had not specified any alternative funding sources.

The Port Director position is paused; while the harbor fund is healthy, neither the GPIP nor airport funds have sufficient revenue to cover their respective shares.

She notes at their bi-annual joint meeting, the Assembly and the Sitka Tribe of Alaska reviewed the future of the seaplane base and a potential property transfer to the Tribe.

Other(s) – None.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

B. Discussion/Recommendation regarding available Federal Harbor Infrastructure Funds

The Commission reviewed the requirements for utilizing Federal Harbor Infrastructure Funds, noting that the grant program demands strict adherence to submission deadlines, accounting details, and timelines. The discussion emphasized that an infrastructure project must be existing and viable before initiating grant applications, rather than seeking funding opportunities first.

C. Set a date for a work session to discuss revenue streams for the Harbor Department

The Commission scheduled a work session to discuss revenue streams for the Harbor Department on June 3rd, 2026, at 6:00 PM at the Wild Strawberry Lodge.

IX. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (*Public participation on any item ON or OFF the agenda – time limit not to exceed 3 minutes for any individual*)

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Member Peeler made a motion to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 7:18 PM.

Attest: Brandon Calhoun
Harbormaster