



SITKA POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION

Wednesday, April 28, 2021
Centennial Hall – 5:30 PM



Regular Meeting Minutes

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Present: Loyd Platson, Gregg Olson, Neil Akana, Wayne Young and James Mellema

City Staff: Chief Warren, Chief Baty, Exc. Assistant Serena Wild and Assembly Member Nelson

B. AGENDA CHANGES/CORRESPONDENCE

1. Tad Lara sent the Commission an email regarding taxicabs and licensing.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 24 24, 2021

Motion: M-Platson/S-Mellema approved the March 24, 2021 minutes.

Action: Motion passed by unanimous consent.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Jeff Budd, former owner of Sitka Bike and Hike and an avid biker, came forward and expressed support in passing a three-foot passing rule for bicyclists on the roadway. His experience has been that vehicles pass too closely to bicycles.

E. PARKING CITATION HEARING BOARD

F. REPORTS

1. Chair – the proposed bicycle ordinance that was scheduled to appear on the agenda had been pulled due to the ordinance needing to be vetted the Legal Department before the Commission reviewed it.
2. Chief Baty – very busy couple of months with high profile cases. Will be hosting a Street Level Drug Training with outside departments attending. ACO Buxton will be resigning and hard to replace. Recently researched the area Lael Grant was last suspected to be and had over 30 searches and covered over 720 miles of ground.
3. Chief Warren – recently found that all EMT's will have to get recertified and working on in house trainings. Vaccines are still available.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Update on Review of Taxi Ordinances

The Police Department has been working on redoing the ordinances regarding taxicabs and once vetted by Legal Dept, will bring them to the Commission for review.

2. **Commissions Role as the Parking Citation Hearing Board**
Olson and Chief Baty had a discussion with the Municipal Attorney on how the scope of review is very strict and talks only about if the citation is legal or not and does not necessarily give the Commission any leniency. Mellema shared when he joined the Commission, it was more of an advisory and the chief made the decision. The Municipal Attorney will be invited to next meeting for questions and clarification.

H. NEW BUSINESS

I. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Plaston spoke with an ER doctor who shared that there has been an alarming uptick in youth with mental health and substance abuse issues. Drug Take Back Day was a success with about fifty pounds of drugs collected.

J. NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS

Next meeting: **Wednesday, May 26, 2021 @ Harrigan Centennial Hall**

Agenda items:

K. ADJOURNMENT

Chair adjourned the meeting at 6:04 PM.