

Sitka Port and Harbors Commission Minutes

Wednesday January 11, 2023, 6:00PM
Harrigan Centennial Hall

Port and Harbors Commission Members:

Andrew Callistini, Dave Gordon, Jorgen Eliason, Shauna Thornton,
Tyler Green, Michael Nurco, Tamy Stevenson
Chris Ystad (Assembly Liaison)

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Thornton called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00pm.

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Andrew Callistini, Tyler Green, Shauna Thornton, Tamy Stevenson, Mike Nurco.

Assembly Liaison: Chris Ystad.

Staff: Harbormaster Stan Eliason, Harbor Office Manager Alicia Soto.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

IV. AGENDA CHANGES

None.

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None.

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of the December 14, 2022, meeting minutes.

M – Stevenson / S – Callistini motioned to approve the December 14, 2022, meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. REPORTS

Harbormaster – Harbormaster Eliason presented results of a comparison of harbor revenue sources between 2021 and 2022, and discussed how COVID may have impacted revenue totals. Eliason noted that RV lot and harbor shower revenues showed large increases, while the hoist revenue declined due to Sitka Salmon Shares no longer using the hoist to offload fish from vessels. Eliason was working on a plan with Cruise Line Agencies of Alaska (CLAA), to have CLAA provide security at the GPIP, to eliminate Harbor Staff from performing the duties.

City Staff – None.

Chair – None.

Assembly Liaison – Ystad reported that there would be a public GPIP meeting on 1/12/2023 which would include an opportunity for public comment regarding the vessel haul out project. An RFP for the vessel haul out project manager had been advertised. The Assembly recently passed a motion to support the Alaska Trollers Association in their lawsuit against the Wild Fish Conservancy regarding the southern resident killer whales, an ordinance would be presented to the Assembly for funding amount. A future resolution would be presented asking for City Support.

Other (s) – None.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. None.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

C. Cruise ship tender/security fee increase.

Eliason explained to the commission that he was wanting to increase the cruise ship tender/security fees before the start of the cruise ship season in April 2023. By increasing the fees now, rather than July 1 when the new fiscal year begins, Eliason could present the rates to the cruise ships for budgeting purposes, as well as maximize revenue for the Harbor Fund. Eliason noted that he was proposing an 8.3 % rate increase to the cruise ship tender/security fees.

**M - Stevenson / S - Nurco Motioned for the Port and Harbor Commission to support the recommend 8.3% rate increase to the cruise ship tender/security fees.
Motion passed 5/0.**

X. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS

1. The next regular scheduled meeting would take place on February 8, 2023, at 6:00pm.
2. Harbor Parking Fees.
3. Dog waste on floats.
4. Flat rate dockage fee for cruise ships utilizing the Port Facility/seawall.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Thornton adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:30pm.

Attest: Jeremiah Johnson, Deputy Harbormaster