

Sitka Port and Harbors Commission Minutes

Wednesday January 13, 2021 6:00PM
Harrigan Centennial Hall

Port and Harbors Commission Members:

Dave Gordon, Chris Ystad, Shauna Thornton,
Tyler Green, Michael Nurco, Tamy Stevenson
Kevin Knox (Assembly Liaison)

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Tyler Green, Dave Gordon, Chris Ystad, Tamy Stevenson, Shauna Thornton. Mike Nurco joined the meeting at approximately 6:10pm.

Assembly Liaison: Kevin Knox joined the meeting at approximately 6:15pm.

Staff: Harbormaster Stan Eliason, Deputy Harbormaster Jeremiah Johnson, Finance Director Melissa Haley. Harbor office manager Alicia Soto participated by videoconference.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

None

IV. AGENDA CHANGES

None

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None

VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Approval of the December 9, 2020 meeting minutes

M – Stevenson / S – Thornton motioned to approve the December 9, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion passed 5/0.

VII. REPORTS

Harbormaster – Harbormaster Eliason noted that Mike Nurco had been reappointed to another three year term on the Port and Harbor Commission, Eliason thanked Nurco for his continued service on the commission. Eliason stated that the harbors had fared well during the recent windstorms, no major damages had been reported. The Harbor Department would be impounding a number of vessels next week. Harbor staff had been working with the Multi Service Officer at the Police Department on identifying abandoned vehicles and addressing harbor parking issues.

City Staff – Finance Director Melissa Haley provided the commission with a Harbor Fund financial model report. Haley outlined the impacts to the Harbor Fund caused by COVID-19 and the large decline in the Raw Fish Tax revenue. Haley explained that State grants for harbor projects cannot be relied upon as much as in the past, it was still unknown if the program would be funded in FY2022 and funding had been capped at \$5,000,000. Haley made note that some harbor

infrastructure projects had cost more than projected in the Harbor Master Plan created in 2012. Haley recommended that the Harbor Master Plan be updated to increase accuracy of projected costs of harbor projects and to update the timeline of infrastructure projects. Haley reviewed FY2022 capital projects and provided estimated costs. Haley discussed harbor rates and options to lower future harbor rate increases, including not replacing infrastructure or delaying replacement of infrastructure. The risks of continued harbor rate increases, not replacing infrastructure, or delaying projects would have to be considered before making any decisions as those decisions could impact the community and economy.

Chair – None

Assembly Liaison – Knox informed the commission that the Assembly had been working on finalizing the details of the RFP for constructing a vessel haul-out at the GPIIP, the RFP was nearing completion.

Other (s) – None

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. Discussion to change 25% annual discount to include vessels up to 23’.

Commission members discussed the pros and cons of extending the 25% annual discount for vessels up to 23’ from 20’. Based off the scenarios and numbers provided by Harbormaster Eliason, the Harbor Fund was more likely to see a reduction in revenue vs an increase. Seeing no benefit, or financial gain, by extending the discount to additional vessels, the commission decided to take no action on the topic.

C. Ticket violations load zone (increase bail).

The commission discussed the ordinance regarding use of the Gear/cargo loading float at Eliason harbor (13.10.170) and the fines for violating the rules outlined in the ordinance. Currently the fine for violating 13.10.170 was \$25.00 per offence. The commission discussed increasing the fine to detour people from mis-using the facility.

M – Green / S - Stevenson made a motion recommending that the ordinance 13.10.170 (Gear/cargo loading float) adopt the fine schedule listed under 11.40.170. Roll call vote as follows: Green- yes, Gordon- yes, Nurco - no, Thornton - yes, Stevenson - yes, Ystad- yes. Motion passed 5/1.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

D. None

X. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS

1. The next regular scheduled meeting would take place on February 10, 2021.
2. Election of commission officials
3. Discuss harbor rate increases
4. Discuss appropriation of funds to update the Harbor Master Plan
5. Live-aboard garbage fees.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no objection, Chairman Gordon adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:50pm.

Attest: Jeremiah Johnson, Deputy Harbormaster