

Sitka Port and Harbors Commission Minutes

Wednesday October 14, 2020 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, Mike Nurco, Shauna Thornton.
Chris Ystad and Tamy Stevenson participated by videoconference.

Assembly Liaison: Kevin Knox participated by videoconference.

Staff: Harbormaster Stan Eliason, Deputy Harbormaster Jeremiah Johnson.
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 September 9, 2020 meeting minutes

Dave Gordon requested to have a portion of his seaplane base report amended before the meeting minutes were approved. The September 9, 2020 meeting minutes would be approved during the next regular scheduled meeting.

VII. REPORTS

Harbormaster – Harbormaster Eliason reported that a contractor would be returning to Crescent Harbor tomorrow, to complete instillation of the security cameras. An RFP had gone out for instillation of the new wastewater pump system at Crescent Harbor, the deadline to respond to the RFP was November 2, 2020 and the deadline for instillation was December 31, 2020. Eliason was working with PND Engineering on drafting an RFP for the Thomsen Harbor anode project. Eliason noted that the City was not awarded any grant funding for an electrical system upgrade for Eliason Harbor, Eliason would be pursuing alternative funding for the estimated 4.2 million dollar project. A 300' cruise ship had inquired about using the GPIP dock for loading and unloading of passengers next summer, Eliason was working on the logistics and would report back once the details were worked out. Eliason was working on developing an RFP for the needed Crescent Harbor net shed repairs.

City Staff – None

Chair – None

Assembly Liaison – Knox reported that the newly elected assembly members had been sworn in and commission liaison assignments were issued, Knox and Christianson would continue to work with the Port and Harbor commission. Knox noted that the assembly would continue discussions of developing a marine haul-out facility.

Other (s) – None

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. > 90 day past due moorage accounts.

Harbormaster Eliason explained to the commission the process the City goes through to pursue past due moorage. Eliason noted that roughly \$445,000 was owed to the City from past due moorage. Eliason was working with the legal department on developing a policy to enforce an existing ordinance which would allow the City to cancel a vessels permanent moorage once payment was 30 days past due. Eliason noted that due to reduced full-time staffing in the harbor office, only 90 day past due letters were being mailed out. Alicia Soto noted that roughly 180 past due moorage notifications were mailed out during the last billing cycle. Eliason would also be working with the legal department on updating the City's moorage agreement to allow the City to run credit checks on new customers before providing permanent moorage, permanent moorage would not be provided if the customer was found to be in collections.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

C. Unseaworthy vessels.

Harbormaster Eliason explained that a vessel was required to be seaworthy in order to be moored in the Sitka harbor system. Harbor staff had generated a list of vessels that were potentially inoperable, 18 of which were in the 40' category. Eliason explained to the commission the process the City goes through to impound and dispose of unseaworthy vessels. Eliason noted that the necessary ordinances and policies for dealing with unseaworthy vessels were in place, however the process takes time. The process of dealing with unseaworthy vessels sometimes gets delayed due to availability of the legal department to generate the necessary paperwork. Harbor staff, and commission members, felt that if the City had a member of the legal department dedicating they're time to dealing with harbor related issues, the process of dealing with impounded vessels could be quicker. Johnson noted that the harbor department had limited funds to spend on vessel disposal, and that the City can only afford to dispose of so many vessels each year. Due to Halibut Point Marine no longer wanting to haul out vessels for disposal, the City was having to get creative when it comes to disposing of vessels.

X. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS

1. The next regular scheduled meeting would take place on November 11, 2020.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

M – Nurco / S – Green motioned to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:43pm.

Motion passed unanimously.

Attest: Jeremiah Johnson, Deputy Harbormaster