

# Sitka Port and Harbors Commission Minutes

Wednesday November 9, 2022, 6:00PM  
Harrigan Centennial Hall

## **Port and Harbors Commission Members:**

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:** Jorgen Eliason, Dave Gordon, Mike Nurco, Shauna Thornton, Tamy Stevenson.

**Assembly Liaison:** Chris Ystad.

**Staff:** Harbormaster Stan Eliason.

### **III. CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

### **IV. AGENDA CHANGES**

None.

### **V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

None.

### **VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. Approval of the September 14, 2022, meeting minutes.**

**M – Stevenson/ S – Nurco motioned to approve the September 14, 2022, meeting minutes.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

### **VII. REPORTS**

**Harbormaster** – Harbormaster Eliason reported that the 2021 Raw Fish Tax revenue had been received, the amount was approximately 1.4 million dollars, an additional \$330,000 was received from the ARPA totaling approximately 1.7 million dollars into the harbor fund. Harbor staff were in the process of assigning permanent moorage to vessels from the waiting list, 36 stalls of various sizes were to be assigned. Eliason noted that an RFP for the Crescent Harbor high load zone project had been advertised, three engineering firms were to be interviewed for the harbor condition assessment project, recruitment for port security officers for the 2023 cruise ship season had begun, and Deputy Harbormaster Jeremiah Johnson had submitted his letter of resignation, effective April 14, 2023.

**City Staff** – None.

**Chair** – None.

**Assembly Liaison** – Ystad reported that the Assembly decided on first reading, to pursue the “full buildout” option for the new Seaplane Base project, the City’s 6.2% match for the project would be approximately 2.1 million dollars, which would come from the General Fund. The Assembly passed a resolution to fully fund the 50/50 harbor matching grant program which would help fund the harbor’s work float project. The 8.1 million dollars from the sale of the Sitka Community Hospital

had been transferred into the GPIP fund which would be used to begin constructing a marine haul out facility.

**Other (s)** – None.

## **VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **B. Passenger wharfage/development fee.**

Harbormaster Eliason purposed implementing a \$4 per person, Passenger wharfage/development fee for passengers aboard the small cruise ships that utilize the Marine Service Center's seawall. The \$4 per person fee would mirror the fee already in place at the GPIP dock.

**M – Stevenson / S – Nurco motioned for the Port and Harbor Commission to move forward with the purposed \$4 per person passenger wharfage/development fee for passengers aboard small cruise ships utilizing the Marine Service Center's seawall. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **C. State launch ramp.**

Eliason informed the commission that the State of Alaska now had a year-round staff member and that they were working to contract someone for snow removal services, assistance from the City should no longer be needed.

### **D. Vessel insurance.**

Nothing new to report, would remain under unfinished business.

## **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

### **E. Long term parking permits Eliason Harbor.**

Michael Nurco explained to the commission the current long term parking permit regulations. Nurco proposed a change to the regulations, to allow for more monthly permits to be available in a calendar year. Ystad stated that in order to change the current regulations, both the Port and Harbor commission, and Police and Fire commission would need to be in support of the change before bringing it to the assembly for approval. Nurco would schedule a meeting with the Police Chief to discuss, and report back to the commission on the topic.

### **F. Harbor property insurance.**

Eliason provided a quote for harbor property insurance which had a \$142,000 annual premium, with a \$100,000 deductible. Eliason felt that in most cases it was not cost effective to purchase harbor property insurance, the arson that occurred at Crescent Harbor would have been the first event warranting an insurance claim in roughly 20 years. Eliason noted that in the event a vessel was to cause damage to harbor infrastructure, the vessel's insurance may cover damages.

**M – Stevenson / S- Nurco motioned to endorse the City of Sitka obtain harbor property insurance.**

**After further discussion, roll call vote as follows:**

**Eliason - no, Gordon - no, Nurco - no, Thornton - no, Stevenson - no.**

**Motion failed 0/5.**

**G. Election of Chair and Vice Chair.**

**M – Stevenson / S - Gordon motioned elect Shauna Thornton as chairman of the Port and Harbor commission. Motion passed unanimously.**

**M – Nurco / S – Gordon motioned to elect Tamy Stevenson as vice chairman of the Port and Harbor Commission. Motion passed unanimously.**

**X. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS**

1. The next regular scheduled meeting would take place on December 14, 2022, at 6:00pm.
2. Discussion GPIP vessel haul out planning.
3. Electrical vehicle plugins at harbor facilities.
4. Vessel insurance (unfinished business).
5. Parking Permits (unfinished business).

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**Chairman Thornton adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:49pm.**

Attest: Jeremiah Johnson, Deputy Harbormaster.