

City of Coffman Cove
City Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday September 19th, 2013
7:00 p.m. @ City Hall

Call to Order: Called to order at 7:08PM

Roll Call: Mariana Carter, present. Randy Neuberger, present. Bryce Brucker, present. Cindy Huff, absent (excused). Brian Wilson, present (7:50). Carolyn Duncan, present. Randy Lenz, present.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Public Comment: None

Persons to be heard: None

Consent Agenda: Carolyn made the motion to adopt the consent agenda with the exclusion of items #5 and #7 and #8. All were in favor.

1. Meeting Minutes
2. W/S Report
3. Administrator's Report
4. Financial Report
5. IFA Report
6. Mayor's Report
7. Rain Forest Island Ferry Report
8. Tourism Report
9. Prince of Wales Watershed Report

- **Correspondence & Issues:**

Barbara Sheinberg presentation teleconference: Barbara talked with the council about the borough, taxes, mining, economic development, property tax, education and the borough, taxing the lodges and fish boxes. Commercial caught fish and a tax was also discussed. Also discussed were exemptions on taxes and who would apply. The advantages of certain taxes and disadvantages of certain taxes were discussed also.

Carolyn said that the council is required to come up with a plan for a proposed borough and what the City of Coffman Cove would like to do with taxes.

This will be done later in the meeting.

Resolutions & Ordinances: None

Unfinished Business: Randy Neuberger made the motion to relax the agenda. Bryce second the motion all were in favor.

Wharfingers Insurance-Paul Bryner AMLJIA presentation teleconference. Paul Bryner and Grady Fisher went over the coverage for Marine Liability for our small boat harbor. The proposal that they presented is called supplemental coverage. They explained what this would cover and the cost. Mr. Bryner took questions about the coverage from the council. Carolyn asked if the ferry terminal and plane float would be covered with this insurance. They thought it would probably cover the whole harbor. Randy N. stated that the only benefit he could see for our harbor, since we do not have a haul out facility, is the possibility of an accident on our ramp. They explained that this insurance would cover liability for third party. This is not property coverage for damage to the harbor facility itself. This quote is for liability coverage only.

Doug Rhodes proposal: Doug is in agreement to postpone his proposal until after he meets with Misty to go over the details. We will discuss his proposal at the October meeting.

New Business:

1. **Etolin View Subdivision Conservation Easement**-Deedee Jeffreys: Deedee is working on the wetland permit. The permit has gone through all the steps for it to pass. The last step is for the council to decide on the compensatory mitigation. This is a Federal Law that the state is now enforcing. The council must set aside or do something to make sure the wetlands are compensated for. A conservation easement of 2.5 acres was suggested. Maps and locations were gone over. Deedee said that after this process, another permit through Fish and Game is the next step.

Randy N. made that motion to offer the 2.5 acres along the fish bank, however long it would take (the depth and length) to accommodate the 2.5 acres. **Brian W. seconded the motion. All were in favor by verbal call.**

- 2. USFS Luck Creek Restoration Project:** Carolyn said that we all have seen the mitigation report that the Forest Service has proposed. Randy N. read a letter to the council from Steve Mathews suggesting they oppose the proposal from the Forest Service. (Letter from Steve is in Sept. packet).

Leonard Leach also spoke on the subject. He said that he was against this. As a gill-netter, that stream is within ½ mile of a major gill net fishery. The fishery has been there for 70 plus years. Eagle Creek, Luck Creek drainage has always had a substantial run of fish in it. Leonard said he has walked the stream with Steve Mathews. They looked at the places that the Forest Service has flagged; it is right in the major spawning beds. We have a world class steel-head stream right here, one of the best on the Island. We have sockeye, coho and humpies in that run. None of which are in jeopardy. Leonard does not see fixing something that is not broke and it is not broke at all. He does not believe the Forest Service plan will enhance the stream. There is not any time of the year that they can go into that stream without doing some real massive harm.

Carolyn said July is month they would go in there. Bryce said that is the time sockeye go up into the lake.

Leonard also stated the alder that is in there is holding back the flood waters, if they cut this, it could be disastrous. Councilman Bryce brucker said it could ruin the silt-beds.

Leonard also said that there might be some streams in the Tongass that could use some rehabilitation, but this is not one of them. This stream survived very well after the logging.

Randy Lenz said it is a good fishery as it is. Why would we want to gamble to try to make it better when we already have something that is good? He does not think it is worth the risk.

Carolyn said she talked with Fish and Game. Their concern is not economic. She said that they want to trade stable habitat for spawning ground. This was the sport biologist that she talked to.

Mariana asked what stage the project is in. Carolyn said we are in the comment period; we need to make a decision on it, whether we support it, condemn it, or leave it flat. We could take no position also. Mariana agrees with Steve Mathews and Leonard Leach because they are educated and have been doing this for years. She (Mariana) said she supports their position and she opposes the Forest Service proposal.

Brian Wilson said he has been involved in quite a bit of these, and they don't work. They change every year. When the first high water comes in, it does what it wants to do. He said a lot of the time they will use shot-rock and they will sprinkle a little bit of stream bed on top, that stuff will all wash away right off the get-go. They do the same thing with fish pipes; water that comes through washed everything out of those things. And we spend millions of dollars on these things. And it is the same thing with these creek restorations. They do more damage than good, because they do not account for the high waters. It has destroyed creeks and he said he is dead-set against it, and he has worked on these projects.

Bryce said he agrees with Leonard and Steve. They have not done a study since they did the Harris River Project. Has it done any good, or harm? They have no idea. It has been too soon, so why are they jumping into a creek that is not having any problems? There are no erosion problems in Luck Creek. Bryce said he does not agree with jumping into something that has no warrant.

An audience member said if they (the Forest Service) have it on paper, and they have put their flags up then we (the city) will have a hard time stopping this. If this is at the final stages, the city will have to do some fighting to get this stopped.

Two other audience members had comments opposing the Forest Service Proposal.

Randy Neuberger made the motion that the city recommends the Forest Service do the no-action on the Luck Creek Restoration project.

Mariana Carter seconded. All were in favor by verbal vote.

Carolyn asked the clerk to put an e-mail into the Forest Service right away stating the council's position. Randy N. said this needs to be done right away so we don't miss our opportunity stressing the fact that was a unanimous decision.

3. **Council Appoints Three Election Judges: Randy Neuberger made the motion** to accept Judy Adamson, Jan Adamson, and Heather Hedges as election judges. Heather will be the chair. Randy L. seconded the motion. All were in favor by verbal call.

4. **City Administrator Raise Recommendation: Mariana made the motion to raise the City Administrator's wage to \$22. Carolyn seconded.** Discussion: Bryce said that this is poor timing and would prefer to put it off until the new council convenes. Randy N. suggested we vote negative on the proposed motion and we address it at the November meeting. Randy L. said he thinks she deserves it now and we should pass it now. Brian W. said he has no problem giving her the raise, but he has been gone for a long time, and would like to look into this more. **Roll call: Mariana, yes. Randy N. no. Bryce, no. Brian W. no. Carolyn, yes. Randy L. yes. 3-3 motion fails.**

Randy N. stated that Misty does deserve a lot more than we are paying her. His suggestion is that we acknowledge Misty and Bill for their work.

That this is not the appropriate time to address raises when we are asking for money from the people for taxes.

Randy N. made the motion that (for both Misty and Bill) the council recognizes their outstanding work they have done, that the council does not feel at this time that it is not appropriate to address raises when we have ballot questions asking for additional revenue due to our financial situation, and we re-address the issue at the November meeting. He would also like to add that a letter be written to both individuals complementing them on their work and advising them on what the council decided on the timing. **Bryce seconded.** Roll call: Randy N. yes. Bryce, yes. Brian W. yes. Carolyn, yes. Randy L. yes. Mariana, yes.

It was pointed out that none of the council is opposed to the raises, it is just the timing.

5. Maintenance Supervisor Raise Recommendation: tabled until November.
6. **Community Development Block Grant Workshop-Administrator Travel Request: Randy N. made the motion** to send Misty to the training. **Carolyn seconded.** Bryce, yes. Brian, yes. Carolyn, yes. Randy L. yes. Mariana, yes. Randy N. yes. Motion passes.
7. Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks Conference-Clerk Travel Request: Jean pulled her application from this agenda and will address it at the next meeting.
8. **Wharfingers Insurance: Randy N. made the motion to NOT purchase addition insurance. Bryce seconded.** Roll Call: Brian W. yes. Carolyn, no. Randy L. yes. Mariana, yes. Randy N. Yes. Bryce, yes. Motion passes 5-1
9. **Borough:** Carolyn asked the council how they feel about property tax. Randy N. said that he does not feel that property tax is a viable

consideration. Sales tax is obviously going to be there, he recommends the lodging tax and also the 6% that other boroughs have done. Another one in question is the fish box; he feels this is viable but questionable. Another one is the alcohol tax; it is easy to do a sin tax, which is tobacco, alcohol etc.

Mariana wanted to make it clear that this is protocol, so we have a voice on this project, and we are not committed 100%. Randy N. said that our mission tonight is to form a recommendation that we will forward to the POWCAC committee for the formation of the Borough. There are several steps to do this.

Our recommendation to POWCAC will be as follows: 1) Commercial fishing 2) Mining 3) Timber 4) Lodging 5) Fish Box tax 6) Sales Tax 7) Alcohol, with a note that the percentages are adjustable.

Public / Council Comment: City Clerk, Jean Soderberg, informed the council that our government special advised us not to put our tax questionnaire on the ballot. We will have a questionnaire for those voting after they have cast their ballot.

Adjourn: Randy N. made the motion to adjourn at 9:40. Brian seconded. All were in favor.

Carolyn Duncan, Mayor

Jean Soderberg, Clerk