

## **Mayor Report**

June 15, 2017 Regular Council Meeting

### **COUNCIL MEETING TIME CHANGES**

The council has modified meeting start times for both workshops and regular city council meetings.

Monthly workshops are on the first Tuesday of every month and will now begin at 5 PM rather than at 6 PM.

Regular city council meetings are on the third Thursday of every month and will now begin at 6 PM rather than at 7 PM.

Note that public hearings are generally scheduled to begin 15 minutes prior to the regularly scheduled meeting start time.

Other city council meetings will be held as scheduled and advertised.

### **CITY SUMMER SEASONAL WORK**

The City is looking for seasonal workers to cut grass, clear brush and other work as assigned.

State of Alaska Labor Department laws, rules and requirements essentially limit the City to employing those 16 and over for the type of work we're hiring for.

The council has set the wage at \$10 per hour.

All interested persons are encouraged to apply with the City Clerk.

### **CITY FIREWOOD IN THE OLD GYM**

The City is liquidating its supply of firewood. Please contact the City Clerk for details.

### **WASTE MANAGEMENT SCRAP METAL PROGRAM**

The Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority (SEASWA) and others have been negotiating with representatives of Waste Management to arrange for a major cleanup of scrap metal from Prince of Wales Island and other Southeast Alaska communities.

Waste Management conducted a site visit of Coffman Cove recently to evaluate our scrap metal waste site and to look around town at other potential sources of scrap metal.

Their plan is to consolidate all island scrap metal, from municipal scrap sites, at the old sort yard in Thorne Bay and then to bring one or more very large barges up to load and transport scrap to the Lower 48. Waste Management will bring their own trucks and machinery for this.

We've asked Waste Management to consider collecting scrap, especially vehicles, from individual sites around town. This is not agreed to but indications were positive.

Please provide a list of materials that you would like removed from your property under this program to the City Clerk.

Vehicles must be prepared by draining all fluids and removing tires.

There is no guarantee at this point that Waste Management will take scrap from anywhere but our scrap metal waste site but, if they agree, we should be prepared with a list.

### **PERSONAL USE FIREWOOD COLLECTION FROM STATE OF ALASKA LANDS**

Greg Staunton, Southeast Area Forester, in charge of the Coffman Cove timber sale has opened some areas up to personal firewood collection.

Before collecting firewood on State of Alaska land please contact the Ketchikan Division of Forestry office at (907) 225-3070 or visit this web site for a permit:

<http://forestry.alaska.gov/wood/firewood>

Two important reasons to obtain a permit are:

1. Greg Staunton will use the record of use documented through the permitting process to argue for keeping some logging roads open. Otherwise they will be closed.
2. Personal use collection areas are rumored to be monitored by camera and violators are subject to prosecution.

### **FY18 CITY BUDGET**

The June 15<sup>th</sup> meeting begins with a public hearing prior to the second and final reading of the budget ordinance for concerned residents and others to address the council regarding the proposed FY18 budget.

### **ARTS & SEAFOOD FESTIVAL**

The FY18 budget contains a line item to transfer or gift the Arts & Seafood City owned account to the newly independent Arts & Seafood non-profit.

Also, the council has directed that the ownership of all physical property used by the Arts & Seafood non-profit be transferred from the City to the Arts & Seafood non-profit with the understanding that should the non-profit dissolve or otherwise stop being a viable entity all ownership of transferred physical assets will revert back to the City.

### **CITY RIGHT OF WAY AND OTHER CITY PROPERTY SIGNAGE POLICY**

The city council addressed the issue of private commercial signage on City property and in City rights of way (ROW) during the June 6<sup>th</sup> council workshop.

The emerging consensus appears to be to prohibit all private commercial signage on City property.

The council discussed three categories of signage:

1. Government signage,
2. Community centered and special community event signage,
3. Private commercial and other private signage.

Government signage would be allowed.

Community related signage would be allowed on a temporary basis with prior written approval from the council.

Private signage would be prohibited.

The council asked the mayor to prepare either a City policy or an ordinance on this and to look into the possibility of grandfathering any existing signage that had been approved by the council prior to installation. The grandfather issue will be referred to the City attorney for an opinion.

### **STATE OF ALASKA DOT RIGHT OF WAY**

The status of the ROW from the Coffman Road intersection with Logger's Lane to the ferry terminal has been brought into question. The State of Alaska may be claiming ownership or control of the road right of way (ROW) along that route.

The City will be working with DOT to determine the status of the affected ROW.

The State of Alaska has strict standards for ROW signage with five different sign types allowed.

Some information from the DOT website:

*Tourist-Oriented Directional Signs (TODS) are: "...rectangular, 90 X 18 inches, and have a white border and legend on a blue background. Each sign has an approximate symbol indicating a general class of business or activity, a directional arrow, distance to the facility, and up to two lines of legend."*

*The application and permitting process is: "...applicant must include a \$100 nonrefundable application fee. We will review the application, and if it is approved, we will notify the applicant and a \$400 nonrefundable issuance fee will be due (\$300 if the application is a renewal). A permit is required. The initial permit is issued for a period of between four and five years."*

*Additionally: "The manufacture, installation, maintenance, seasonal closings, and removal of the TODS are the responsibility of the permittee, but must be performed by a sign contractor."*

Existing private commercial signs that exist in that ROW appear to be prohibited under DOT rules and may be subject to removal by DOT.

See this website for details:

<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/stwddes/dcsrow/hwysigns.shtml>

## **OPEN MEETINGS ACT AND EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Alaska Statute 44.62.310, Government Meetings Public, requires that governmental meetings be public to allow for citizen participation.

Exceptions to this requirement include (from the statute):

1. *“matters, the immediate knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the public entity;”* and
2. *“subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion.”*

Matters of this type can be limited to executive session and Coffman Cove ordinances allow for these same exceptions.

There are specific requirements around advertising and posting of meetings and procedure for calling an executive session that the City will follow.

Thank you and I hope to see you at the meeting.

PJ Olson.

Mayor, Coffman Cove.