

City of Aniak
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Aniak City Office
Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 6:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order by DBonanno at 6pm

II. Roll Call

DBonanno-P, SCharles-Excused Absence, AFolz-P, AMorgan-P, CMorgan-P, LSeavey-Called in, BWilson-P

Staff Present: LKameroff-P, MSimeon-P, MJohn-P, FVaska-P

LKameroff- Added an item on New Business Alberton's Subdivision Tracks A & B

III. Approval of Agenda AMorgan made a motion to approve the Agenda, CMorgan seconded, all approved.

IV. Public Participation-Rebekah Moras

V. Previous Meeting Minutes

A. December 19, 2024, Regular Meeting Minutes

BWilson makes a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes as printed out, AMorgan seconded, all approved.

VI. Reports

A. Mayor Report-D. Bonanno- Our community has been through a rough week with recent losses. Made adjustments and having our meeting, thanks for all the preparation. We brought up problems with dogs beforehand talking with Missy, we talked about it at our last meeting. We will further discuss the Fire Department. Thanks to Francis working on the roads.

B. Aniak Volunteer Fire Department – 1 Vehicle fire on roadway reported on 12/26/24 at 730am. It had been burning for some time. AST were there along with Leonard Morgan Jr, Karlton (RJ) Morgan, and Ken Smith. The vehicle was empty. They had a couple fire extinguishers on hand and put out remaining embers and made sure no one was still around the vehicle. Troopers requested we (The City) inform the public to call our Emergency SCERP phone number for fire emergencies before calling 911 for help. If the fire was bigger, it would have taken too much time or a quick-fire response. We also need to work on our Flood Plans for this year. We should try to have at least 2 meetings before so we all can review and refresh ourselves in case of a flood.

C. Public Works - F. Vaska- This has been a bit of a slower month. We started to haul fuel in 250-gallon tanks to keep on top of the fire station's heating fuel. We transferred about 500 gallons. We also took the opportunity to push the dumps with the dozer while the temps were higher than usual. We also dealt with a trash basket that wasn't quite full and plan on doing another soon. We replaced a few lights to newer automatic lights both outside, in the shop and the library. We went and were able to get both water trucks started and let them run for a bit before shutting back down.

D. City Clerk- M. Simeon- This past month has been quite challenging, without Missy and Maciel I wouldn't be able to get through my duties, thank you ladies. We've been constantly busy in the office after Christmas, New Years & Slavic, mostly updating the Ordinances. It is going to be very busy after everything slows down, must file our 2024 Vendor Files and make new folders. I'm sorry that's all I have for my report this month as we are going through a loss in my family and our community.

- E. Library- Closure-still debating? The option is to combine with school, I am getting more information on this. MOU's, partnership, space, collection. We would also need to have the library closure on the agenda and hold a Public Hearing. The school would fill out for E-Rate and IMLS and everything we fill out for. We will know more next month.
- F. Bookkeeper/Financial Statement - M. John BWilson made a motion to approve the Financial Statement, CMorgan seconded, all approved.

This Month, I continued to fulfill my monthly responsibilities which included managing accounts payable and receivable, processing payroll, reconciling bank statements and preparing the Financial Budget sheet and making sure it matches QuickBooks all the way back to July. I've been working more with Missy on understanding some of my duties and more on how we code expenses. I've been working on how to prioritize my daily duties and how to utilize my hours efficiently to get the most out of my day.

- G. City Manager - L. Kameroff- **Public Works-** I will be working with Francis and Dakota on planning for this spring/summer for work on the levee and landfill. The main issue with the levee is brush clearing on the end sections. We also need to look into the toe end of the concrete blocks, which should be the SOA/DOT section, but it is a concern due to the toe end washing out. I will also look into the encroachment issues. For the landfill, we will need to plan where we will be putting the Burn Cage and how we plan to collect solid waste for disposal. A Mechanic is currently working on our excavator, they could not find another wiring harness, so they are trying to fix the one that is on there. **Finance Director/City Clerk Assistant-** Maciel is a fast learner. I am very grateful for her work. We will finish up working on our payroll/tax reports this week and start on our FY23 and FY24 Budget reviews so they will be ready for when we work on our FY25 budget with Nicholas Martinez, our Local Government Specialist. He'll be here the week of April 7th to assist with creating our next year's budget. **City Clerk-** Morgan and I will also start working on updating our Ordinance Book. There are a few changes that are not incorporated in the book. I would also like her to finish uploading the Ordinances to our meeting website. Council members are welcome to come and participate! He will also hold a short "Newly Elected Officials" training for council members. Would need to know which day would work for you all.

VII. Old Business

- A. **Ordinance 24-06 Amendment to Section 5.30 Sales Tax Definitions-Digital Goods**
BWilson made a motion to approve a public hearing for next month's meeting, AMorgan seconded, all approved.
- B. **Ordinance 24-07Amendment to Section 2.15.030 Regular Council Meeting Dates-**
BWilson read Ordinance. BWilson made a motion to approve, AMorgan seconded, all approved.
- C. **Ordinance 24-08 Amendment to Ordinance 5.25.010 Sec 2 Definitions Sec 3 Utility Rates & the addition of Sec 4 Adjustments & Annual Review**
BWilson made a motion to approve for public hearing on next meeting, LSeavey seconded, all approved the Customer Agreement Application.
- D. **List of Open Small Claims/Past Due-DISCUSSION-**At our last meeting last month we had a confidential listing of past due customers. LKameroff: Sent out the small claim handbook to the council, list of the current small claim's accounts, next process is garnishing wages and filing liens. Looking into filing liens, haven't done that as well as garnishment of wages. Start sending notices next week for customers that have balances over \$500, sending notices for small claims for wage garnishments and lien properties. A list of new claims for council approval at each meeting may start in February or March. These are legal actions, would rather have the council approve small claims to start the process. BWilson: Are we seeing any payments from small claims. LKameroff: No payments. The previous council requested wage garnishments and lien property for who's not paying. LSeavey: Can we look into looking into entities to help with payments. LKameroff: The bills go to the homeowners. AMorgan: LIWOP helps with mortgage, and LIHEAP helps with heat. LKameroff: Against writing off, and not fair to customers paying their sewer. BWilson: We raised all sewer rates and public rates. We're not collecting from people who owe, the community is bothered by this, especially the ones that are continuing to pay their sewer bills. AMorgan: In the future is there a way we can turn their water off, so they will pay their bill, look into something down the road. DBonanno: Far as raising our rates, not great.

Have pumping stations, and a lagoon.

LKameroff:

Would like to send out notices and start letting our small claims customers know were looking into it. Will work on the letter within the next few days and send to council emails for approval before sending out.

BWilson makes a motion to approve the customer agreement, AMorgan seconded, all approved.

E. Sales Tax-Discussion-Bed Tax Flat Rate Charges

Need to come up with an ordinance for the Bed Tax Flat Rate Charge. All agreed to \$10 a head, there were only four people at the last meeting and BWilson wanted more input.

CMorgan makes a motion to approve the bed tax flat rate for the next meeting, AMorgan seconded, all approved.

Exemptions for Nonprofits & Tribes

Looking at the proposed language for the Exemptions for Nonprofits and Tribes. The purpose of this was to exempt the tribe and clinic, the sales tax wanted us to clarify the exemptions because the current language wasn't clear.

CMorgan makes a motion to approve of amending the ordinance for nonprofit organizations to be exempt from our sales tax for our next meeting, AFolz seconded, all approved.

VIII. New Business

A. Aniak Small Business Initiative-Discussion

BWilson: No idea what the first year of income is, first year can file an exemption. Exemption for small businesses, there are only two businesses in Aniak as of right now. Make it a way so we have better services for our community. A form that we can get rid of in the future, entities need to pay. LKameroff: You're saying this is for the sewer, public works fee and the landfill, BWilson: Yes, for the small businesses. MJohn: There are only two, LKameroff: they don't have sewer, they are still bringing trash in the community and disposing at the landfill where the landfill fee can cover. LSeavey: Supposed to show income to qualify for the exemption, not many businesses. BWilson: Was supposed to be an exemption just for the utility's fees. LKameroff: What about a split rate instead of the whole rate all together. AFolz: That would be an incentive. LKameroff: Would be the public works and sewer fees. CMorgan: We raised that to help the city. LKameroff: When Nicholas is here and does his training, the clerk's job and finance director is to protect the City's funds at all times why I am in defense of letting all this money go, I've worked this job for ten years now, our staff is not working full time and not making what they should be, have to find the money somewhere. The bed tax was a good way to look at things, but we have to take care of our city, every year we are having a harder time with having a balanced budget. These issues are real, it won't go away, and The City is hurting for money, and this is the only way we can keep it maintained. Up to the clerk and finance director to protect our municipal funds. DBonanno: Do we need more time, LSeavey: We all understand it was a good intension, see the difference. No motions or discussions needed.

B. Albertson Subdivision Tracks A & B- No easements or road that would affect their land subdivision.

They wanted to make sure there were no easements or roads that would affect their land subdivision. All we need is approval. We will have more at the next meeting.

IX. Council Comments- AMorgan-Reported at 7am, was referred to Fairbanks after calling the Alaska State Troopers.

AFolz: Regarding loose dogs, can we amend the ordinance on dogs, not institute police measure, may assist with that. DB: We don't have a dog catcher, AF: have a citizen assist.

CMorgan: Mentions is the City or Traditional Council have equipment or drag lines for future for drowning, had to make do of what they found. FVaska: There is a pair at the shop.

BWilson: Room set aside for library, have to have access for public to use it. Show ways we're cooperating and working with other entities. LKameroff: If we transfer the library to the school, they will then have to fill out all the grant fundings, will know more next month.

X. Time and Place of Next Meeting- Wednesday February 19, 2025 @ 6pm Regular Council Meeting

XI. Adjourn- AFolz makes a motion to adjourn at 811pm, AMorgan seconded, all approved

Reopen meeting at 813pm by DBonanno to discuss the Albertson Subdivision Tracks A & B

CMorgan makes a motion to readjourn at 815pm, AMorgan seconded, all approved.

Attested:

Mayor David Bonanno *Signed: Date*

City Clerk Morgan Simeon *Signed: Date*