



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, April 06, 2023 at 7:00 PM

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Dillingham City Council was held on Thursday, February 9, 2023, at the Dillingham City Council Chambers and via video conferencing, in Dillingham, Alaska. Mayor Ruby called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Ruby was present.

Council members present and establishing a quorum (a quorum being four):

Michael Bennett Kim Johnson Curt Armstrong

Perry Abrams Kaleb Westfall

Council members excused:

Aksel Buholm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Minutes of March 2, 2023, Regular Council Meeting

MOTION: Kim Johnson moved, and Michael Bennet seconded the motion to approve the March 2, 2023 council meeting minutes.

VOTING Yea: Council Member Johnson, Council Member Abrams, Council Member Westfall, Council Member Bennett, Council Member Armstrong

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

There was no consent agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda made by Michael Bennet, seconded by Kim Johnson.

VOTING Yea: Council Member Johnson, Council Member Abrams, Council Member Westfall, Council Member Bennett, Council Member Armstrong

STAFF REPORTS

2. City Manager and Staff Reports

- Starlink was obtained for the Landfill.
- Conducted interview for the Harbor Master position.
- A new microphone system has been ordered to replace the current system in council chambers.
- Need to update the match requirement on Resolution 2023-14 to \$557,334.

- Necessary comprehensive plan to address needs of Dillingham.
 - Using Russel Consulting to ensure our public safety policies are in line, provide accurate necessary staffing count, and analysis for the best ways to serve the public.
 - Can be used in selection of new Chief of Police
 - Map of City owned properties is a work in progress, refer to planning department for further in depth details.
 - Noted M.E.A.L board is not selling or discussing sale for 'Grandma's House.'
3. Standing Committee Reports
- Finance and Budget Committee
 - Reviewing the Seafood Processors Excise Tax

PUBLIC HEARINGS

4. Ordinance 2023-01; An Ordinance Of The Dillingham City Council Amending Section 2.09.080 Order Of Business To Include The Pledge Of Allegiance
5. Ordinance 2023-02; An Ordinance Of The Dillingham City Council Amending Section 2.68.110 Order Of Business To Include Citizen Comments

No comments were presented.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS (Prior Notice or Agenda Items)

Citizen Comments: John Clouse, Megan Green, Sterling Bailey, Megan McCambly, Jon Bell, Heather Savo, Nick Tweet, Lindsey Henry, Kesa Ray, Katerina Valer, Amy Brower, Jen Hart, William Savo, Baker Hulett, Erika Tweet

- Requested Council to amend Resolution 2023-11 to 1.7 million
- Covid has affected the students' learning.
- Activities inspire kids to do better in school to continue participation.
- Dillingham community thrives around activities.
- Activities and Sports are where students lose labels and backgrounds.
- Some activities are teaching trade skills to be used after high school to obtain employment.
- This year 75 students are involved in music activities, (35% of DCSD population)
- Sports and extracurricular activities are vital to the mental, emotional, and physical health of the students.
- Teachers are critical and retaining teachers should be a top priority. Dillingham is already at a disadvantage with recruiting, with salaries and, lack of housing.
- DCSD will be losing their grant writer in June, grants are able to fund core curriculums not salaries.
- College applications are stronger with extra curriculums and sports.
- Estimated 7.5 credits lost if funding isn't provided.
- If cuts are made at the school, there is the possibility of families leaving Dillingham for their children.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

6. Adopt Ordinance 2023-01; An Ordinance Of The Dillingham City Council Amending Section 2.09.080 Order Of Business To Include The Pledge Of Allegiance

MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2023-01 made by Kim Johnson seconded by Michael Bennet.

VOTING Yea: Council Member Johnson, Council Member Abrams, Council Member Westfall, Council Member Bennett, Council Member Armstrong.

7. Adopt Ordinance 2023-02; An Ordinance Of The Dillingham City Council Amending Section 2.68.110 Order Of Business To Include Citizen Comments
- MOTION: To adopt Ordinance 2023-01 made by Kim Johnson, seconded by Michael Bennet.
- VOTING Yea: Council Member Johnson, Council Member Abrams, Council Member Westfall, Council Member Bennett, Council Member Armstrong.
8. Adopt Resolution 2023-07; A Resolution of the Dillingham City Council Approving Changes to 10.08 Drug Free Workplace Policy in the Personnel Regulation
- MOTION: To adopt Resolution 2023-07 made by Kim Johnson, seconded by Michael Bennet.
- Provided full breakdown of the new policy with all supplemental materials.
 - The policy was updated to mirror state policy.
 - New policy includes supervisor checklist.
- VOTING Yea: Council Member Johnson, Council Member Abrams, Council Member Westfall, Council Member Bennett, Council Member Armstrong.
9. Adopt Resolution 2023-09; A Resolution of the Dillingham City Council Waiving Section 3.95 of the City's Personnel Regulations to Authorize Hiring Dennis Wilson as a Corrections Officer While His Sister is the Corrections Sergeant
- MOTION: To adopt Resolution 2023-09 made by Kim Johnson, seconded by Michael Bennet.
- Wavier is required by City Regulations due to nepotism.
- VOTING Yea: Council Member Johnson, Council Member Abrams, Council Member Westfall, Council Member Bennett, Council Member Armstrong.
10. Adopt Resolution 2023-10; A Resolution of the Dillingham City Council Authorizing the City Manager to Waive the Purchasing Requirements to Award a Contract to Agnew Beck Consulting for the 2023 Dillingham Comprehensive Plan
- MOTION: To adopt Resolution 2023-10 made by Kim Johnson, seconded by Michael Bennet.
- Commented Agnew Beck has established history with Dillingham and created the last comprehensive plan.
 - Clarified the Planning Commission will work with Agnew Beck to determine content for comprehensive plan.
- VOTING Yea: Council Member Johnson, Council Member Abrams, Council Member Westfall, Council Member Bennett, Council Member Armstrong.
11. Adopt Resolution 2023-11; A Resolution of the Dillingham City Council Establishing the Level of Funding for the Dillingham City School District for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30,2024
- MOTION: to adopt Resolution 2023-11 made by Kim Johnson, seconded by Michael Bennet.
- MOTION: to amend Resolution 2023-11 to increase the amount in the resolution to \$1.7 million made by Michael Bennet and seconded by Kaleb Westfall.

Support of Increasing to 1.7 million:

- Noted unclear if waiting a few months would change the overall picture of the budget.
- Stated that 1.7 million is not out of the City's means.
- Expressed was sympathetic to the issue.

- A compromise of 1.55 million to meet in the middle, but stated would go for 1.7.
- Stated the City has given more than statutorily required for many years.
- Clarified that even if 1.7 million was approved, that does not guarantee activities and sports won't be cut. The City does not have authority over the DCSD budget.

Opposing Increasing to 1.7 million:

- Clarified that if 1.7 million was not given it is not due to lack of care for the children.
- Noted over the last two years the City budget took a hit to ensure that the school was held stable.
- Noted the City has postponed items that need to be addressed i.e..
 - Pay scales.
 - Housing Issue
 - Facility Maintenance and Upkeep
 - Road Maintenance
- Discussed how City Capital Projects supports the residents, and the residents have the children who attend the school.
- Stated that the responsibility of keeping sports and extracurricular activities present in school did not fall on the Council alone.

To Amend:

VOTING Yea: Council Member Bennett, Council Member Armstrong.

VOTING No: Council Member Johnson, Council Member Westfall, Council Member Abrams.

MOTION: to postpone Resolution 2023-11 to a special meeting on Thursday April 13th made by Curt Armstrong, seconded by Kaleb Westfall.

- Brainstormed secondary meeting to discuss funding amount if no action is taken tonight.
- Mentioned waiting for the legislature to act, and to have time to review how the City's grants lie and projects determinations.
- Remarked that the City and the School are one and the same, not separate entities but are one unit.

To Postpone:

VOTING Yea: Council Member Westfall, Council Member Armstrong.

VOTING No: Council Member Johnson, Council Member Bennett, Council Member Abrams.

Main Motion:

VOTING Yea: Council Member Abrams, Council Member Johnson.

VOTING No: Council Member Bennett, Council Member Westfall, Council Member Armstrong.

12. Adopt Resolution 2023-12; A Resolution of The Dillingham City Council Supporting the Dillingham School District to Pursue Energy Efficiency Upgrades to the School Facilities and the Reduction in Energy Cost Through the Installation of a Solar Project.

- Requested synopsis on project, clarification on what gain would occur.
- Clarified siemens report was included in packet.
- Elucidated that resolution is aimed at support of application of grant for project, not installation.

MOTION: To adopt Resolution 2023-12 made by Kim Johnson, seconded by Michael Bennet.
VOTING Yea: Council Member Johnson, Council Member Abrams, Council Member Westfall, Council Member Bennett, Council Member Armstrong.

13. Adopt Resolution 2023-13; A Resolution of the Dillingham City Council Authorizing the City Manager to Waive the Purchasing Requirements to Award a Contract to Russell Consulting, LLC for a Professional Management Best Practices Review of The City's Police Department's Operations.

MOTION: To adopt Resolution 2023-13 made by Kim Johnson, seconded by Perry Abrams.

- Clarified the consultant would work through the City attorney.
- Questioned process on how budget revision is completed if the review calls for expansion after finalization of FY 24 budget.
 - Noted a budget amendment would be in order.

VOTING Yea: Council Member Johnson, Council Member Abrams, Council Member Westfall, Council Member Bennett, Council Member Armstrong.

14. Adopt Resolution 2023-14; A Resolution of the Dillingham City Council Accepting Senator Murkowski's Congressionally Directed Spending Appropriation Of \$5,016,000 For Snag Point Erosion Mitigation

MOTION: To adopt Resolution 2023-14 made by Kim Johnson seconded by Perry Abrams.

- Clarified appropriation is directed towards advanced planning.
- After planning phase grant opportunities will be pursued for identified projects..

VOTING Yea: Council Member Johnson, Council Member Abrams, Council Member Westfall, Council Member Bennett, Council Member Armstrong.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

15. Juneau Legislative Trip

- Stated no updates from the lobbyist Chris Hladick
- Representative Edgmon will address the council if his schedule allows.
- Pitched the idea of traveling to Juneau to cultivate relationships and connections.

16. Committee Appointments

MOTION: to support the appointments to the Senior Advisory Commission, Board of Equalization, and the Facility Committee made by Kim Johnson, and seconded by Kaleb Westfall.

- Senior Advisory Commission: Kim Johnson
- Facility Committee: Kaleb Westfall
- Board of Equalization: Kaleb Westfall, Curt Armstrong, and Michael Bennett with Aksel Buholm as the alternate

VOTING Yea: Council Member Johnson, Council Member Abrams, Council Member Westfall, Council Member Bennett, Council Member Armstrong.

NEW BUSINESS

17. Adopt Action Memorandum 2023-06; Authorize the City Manager to collaborate with Nushagak Cooperative for a Community Cleanup, May 25 - 27, 2022

MOTION: to Adopt Action Memorandum 2023-06; Authorize the City Manager to collaborate with Nushagak Cooperative for a Community Cleanup, May 25 - 27, 2022 made by Kim Johnson, and seconded by Perry Abrams.

VOTING Yea: Council Member Johnson, Council Member Abrams, Council Member Westfall, Council Member Bennett, Council Member Armstrong.

CITIZEN'S DISCUSSION (Open to the Public)

Citizen Comments: Sterling Bailey, John Clouse, Megan McCambly, Diana Schollmeier

- Noted that the theme of needing money was present throughout the meeting.
- Described personal dysfunctional experience with applying to the City.
- Acknowledged City for the difficult position council is in and past contributions.
- Encouraged the Council to testify at the Base Student Allocation hearings to bring support.
- Expressed thanks to the Council for their time and for trying to figure out the best way to serve the citizens.
- Communicated desire for City Council and the School Board to work together to do what's best for the children.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

A City Council Special Meeting will be scheduled for April 17, 2023 at 7:30 pm to discuss Resolution 2023-11.

Council Member Kaleb Westfall:

- Expressed desire to be an advocate for Dillingham to better the community, town, and future comprehensive plan.
- Acknowledge need to know the process to change the conveyance of land that is given to the City by the Curyung Tribe to find options for building more housing.

Mayor Alice Ruby:

- Discussed a quote that in the pursuit of attracting new residents, the current residents are neglected.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

- Commented that the work and research conducted by the Acting City Manager regarding the Animal Control complaint.
 - All questions from the Council were answered and directions were given to staff.
 - The matter is closed.
- Reached out to both seafood processors to discuss seafood excise tax.
 - One responded positively to discussing the matter.
- A moment of silence was observed to recognize all those lost since the last meeting.
 - In particular some big contributors in the community
 - Verner Wilson III
 - Gary Buchholz
 - Tom Hawkins
- Thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Ruby adjourned the meeting at 9:24 p.m.

Mayor Alice Ruby

[SEAL]

ATTEST:

Greta Hayden-Pless, Acting City Clerk

Approval Date: _____