

Mayor's Report

December 10, 2024

* The Local Boundary Commission's decision on November 12th took us all by surprise. Within moments of the meeting ending, City Hall quickly became a busy place, gathering information, asking questions, consulting other communities and speaking with our attorney. In the next two days, Liesl obtained a recording of the four-hour meeting and began transcribing it using AI. Vice-Mayor Shelley Owens and Council member Mike Taylor took up the responsibility of listening to the meeting again and writing up a summary of our concerns, which then was sent to the attorney for review. A draft Request for Consideration is being prepared by the attorney and will be finalized following the LBC's written decision, pending adoption of the resolution at this month's meeting.

Although I was familiar with the petition and much of the public comment, I spent a fair bit of time re-reading the petition, all the public comment that was submitted, and the City of Hoonah's Reply Brief.

We recently acquired an official transcription of the LBC meeting, a printed copy of which is available at City Hall.

* I sent a letter to the U.S. Department of Transportation regarding the Essential Air Service contract proposed by Alaska Airlines for 2025-26. Their proposal was for a 12-week service; in my letter I advocated for a 14-week service to better match our actual summer season. I received a response from Tim Thompson at Alaska Airlines stating that service for 2025 was scheduled to start on June 1, although the contract stated service beginning June 7. I have requested confirmation of this.

* I spent some time reviewing our vision and mission statements. I am interested in condensing these further into a clear, concise mission statement that guides our discussions and decision-making process.

* At the work session we discussed a recent incident of waste dumping. I would like to remind the public that dumping of waste, whether trash, food waste or human waste, can create serious and sometimes hazardous conditions, especially for those involved in the cleanup process. I ask the public to be considerate of others while disposing of any type of waste, and to help others that may need assistance in disposing of waste properly. I will be looking into ideas for addressing this issue.

* I will be in Anchorage the week of December 9-13 to attend the Alaska Municipal League annual conference, along with Councilmembers Lucas Beck and Susan Warner. I look forward to this opportunity for learning and training, and for networking with other city governments.

* I continue to meet with people at the Fireweed on Friday afternoons. Tea with the Mayor will be canceled December 13 as I will be out of town.

Happy Holidays to all!

Mayor McLaughlin