

**MINUTES**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**June 20, 2023**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Mercurief called the meeting to order at 9:01AM.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Council members present were Naomi Edenshaw, Daniel Porath, Joseph Kozloff, and Raymond Melovidov. A quorum was established. Member to be sworn in Heidi Mercurief was also present.

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

CM Porath MOVED to approve the agenda. Seconded by CM Edenshaw. Mayor Mercurief recommended moving Old Business to after Approval of Agenda. Motion to approve the agenda with the amendment carried by voice vote of 5 Ayes.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Swearing in of New Council Member Heidi Mercurief**

Heidi Mercurief was sworn in as new council member.

**V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There were no minutes to approve on the Agenda.

**VI. PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL**

There was no one to address the council.

**VII. REPORTS**

**A. Mayor**

No report

**B. City Manager**

Zavadil introduced the new EMT Zacarius Nason. He has been doing EMS for about 7 years and is appreciative to be on island. Fisheries disaster updates: May 18<sup>th</sup> Secretary of Commerce announced \$223 million in funding for disaster relief. Bering Sea crab fisheries was about 191 million to be split among the fisheries disasters crab and salmon. Next process is to develop a spend plan. Fish and Game held a meeting within the last week to talk about the process. Regional representatives met to discuss what they were seeking in community allocations. Agreed upon 10% and not going below 8%. Bering Sea crabbers sponsoring a meeting for upcoming Friday for which Saint Paul will work on developing their thoughts. For Bairdi crab Saint Paul was at 4%, asked for 5% and got 4.5%. Asking for 10% due to Saint Paul high dependence; it may be difficult. Time frame for distribution on Tanner Crab disaster funding is sometime by the end of 2023 and early 2024 for Snow Crab and Bristol Bay Red King Crab. Funds are still restricted based on interpretation of NOAA legal counsel. Change to the law which allowed for community funding to go to revenue replacement instead of project. NOAA legal counsel said the law doesn't apply retroactively to when disaster was declared. Administration's recommendation is for funding to go to revenue replacement and future upcoming projects that would transition the economy to not being dependent on fisheries. Hoping to have meeting with congressional offices to have their intent of if the law applied to previous disasters that were declared. Possibly 2 million for Saint Paul based on percentage in the Bairdi spend plan, which was based on landings and tax dollars generated. CM Melovidov commented that with the Bairdi spend plan it was

clear that funding would go to municipalities or boroughs that assessed fish tax, so it's that basis for determining how much communities would get. It would have to be figured out if split between local entities. CM Melovidov had question allowing municipalities to get the funding as revenue replacement, what is the timeline of discussions. Zavadil and Mateo talked about reaching out to congressional offices to set up meetings, with intent to have a letter recommending the law should apply and that the intent was to have more flexibility on how funding is spent for communities. Other point is that NOAA and OMB do not know whose ruling it was. Community category is the only portion that has a restriction. Other groups such as processors, and boat crew get direct payments. There is no timeframe yet.

Grants: EDA small boat harbor utility project, on June 16 signed contract with KUNA Engineering. It went through KUNA's legal review and EDA. Hope is construction potentially start summer of 2024. USDA loan submitted and is being reviewed by the USDA. Possible approval at the beginning of September. Hope is to get started on the fuel system soon, 50% of materials are here. EPA grant for new solid waste facility required EPA to post a finding of no significant impact. The thirty days is up in early July for comment. Summer 2024 to start construction of new landfill. State of Alaska Community Development Block Grant for bulk fuel facility upgrades, award was finalized; \$850,000 from CDBG paying for the construction portion, and \$500,000 from Alaska Energy Authority which is paying for the engineering portion. It is on hold until the engineering is finalized; continuing to work with Polar Consult, it's about 95% completed. Construction possible to happen summer 2024. Received funding from ANTHC for a new burn box as part of landfill inspection in 2019. Funding through Village Safe Water to send contractor out for installation. CM Porath asked if it is better than what is currently in place. Yes, the current burn box has a hole. The incinerator idea failed, would need a permit and it is only designed to burn cleanly.

Public Safety: EMS up and running again. Working on updating member and writing new standing orders for EMT III. Zach is getting certification in place to teach ETT classes. CSO David Mercurieff is still patrolling through the community. He can respond to law enforcement calls that involves violations of state laws. VPSO agreement signed with APIA. Interview with a VPSO was scheduled with Kevin Davis. The second VPSO candidate would have to go through the academy and would not be here until possibly September. They will be using a City patrol vehicle until they budget for a VPSO vehicle.

Public Works: Maintenance operations crew focusing on the playground. Plans to hydroseed the rest of the sandy areas. They will transition over to working on replacing the siding and doors of the water wells once the electrician comes back. Electrician is due on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Garbage truck's new pump is in; think it had a problem with being air bound. Damon will help Johnney. The 160 grader had a hydraulic hose that busted. A part was ordered. Vacuum sewer truck PTO shaft broke in the middle of pumping. It is on order as well as the transmission. Several pickup trucks in getting maintenance and awaiting parts.

Bulk fuel: As of June 1, there are 24,000 gallons of gasoline and 145,000 gallons of diesel. Fuel resupply is expected to load up on Thursday and be here next week for delivery. There will be three deliveries over summer, expecting 110,000 gallons of diesel and 65,000 gallons of gasoline by the end of the June, a July delivery of diesel and an August delivery of gasoline and diesel. Locked in on the price now. Doing the state bulk fuel loan, need to look at interest to do calculation and determine the price, possible decrease. There is a formula to blend the pricing.

Electric Utility: May 28<sup>th</sup> an unscheduled power outage at 4 in the morning. Mayor Mercurieff helped troubleshoot. The identified problem will be replaced when the electrician returns. Talked with

engineers about upgrades and how to prepare the system to reduce meter-based issues. Unit 6 is being monitored, needs an in-frame overhaul. Estimated cost to do the overhaul is from 120 to 180 thousand.

Sewer/Water Utility: June samples collected and made out to the lab. Required Consumer Confidence report sent out to be printed. A redesign was done to make it user-friendly. We do have good water. Also included was PFOS testing results, including a link to a full report. Levels are safe. List station issues Ellerman having issues, pump 2 burnt out. The air release valve stopped operating and it was cycling through the system without the alarm going off. Pumps are not designed to run constantly, pump 2 has been bypassed by closing off a valve so it goes into the lift station and drops into the main. We have the engineer looking at a new pump. Hopefully construction begins summer 2024. Surface mounted pumps eliminate confined space entry. It does add a little more cost but has easy maintenance long-term. Goal is construction summer 2024 on lift stations as well as the harbor maintenance.

Refuse: Nothing to report. Still working with CBSFA on appliance pickup. CM Melovidov stated that CBSFA will be in touch.

### **C. City Clerk**

Wegeleben provided a written report and was available for questions. There were no questions.

### **D. Finance Director**

Mandregan provided a written report and was available for questions. There were no questions. City Manager Zavadil thanked finance staff for their work during the audit.

### **E. Project/Grants Specialist**

Sterbenz reviewed her provided Grants & Contracts Update PowerPoint. There have not been any grants awarded since the last meeting. Loan documents for USDA electric utility upgrade project have been finished and submitted and awaiting approval. RuralCAP Thriving Communities Grant submitted for community greenhouse and coordinator, another grant is identified for construction of greenhouse. Grant applications currently being worked on include, Rasmuson Foundation Tier II for Greenhouse Construction, EDA Disaster Supplemental Funding for New Harbormaster office, Alaska Dept. of Homeland Security & Emergency Management Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (ADHS&EM HMGP) for Community Pond & Salt Lagoon Flood Mitigation Project Construction Phase, ADHS&EM HMGP for New Harbormaster office, ADHS&EM HMGP for Hazard & Locality-Specific City Building Codes and Standards, ADHS&EM HMGP for Two new AHAB Sirens including TV broadcast capability, and USDOT Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) for Road Resiliency Projects. Also reviewed current grants and projects being managed to include, COVID-19 Reimbursements and Revenue Replacements (3 grants) June 2022 – Dec. 2024, Surfing and Filmmaking for Alaska's Youth (3 grants) July 2022 – Dec. 2023, Emergency Management (3 grants) July 2022 – Sept. 2024, Municipal Electric Utility Upgrades (1 grant, 1 loan) Aug. 2022 – Dec. 2023, Small Boat Harbor Utilities Upgrade Sept. 2022 – May 2027, Typhoon Merbok damage reimbursements Sept. 2022 – Sept. 2023, Capacity Building, Technical Assistance and Planning April 2023 – July 2025, Aalax Landfill Development May 2023 – Sept. 2025, EMT salary & benefits (2 grants) May 2023 – May 2024, Bulk Fuel Facility Dispensing Tankage Upgrade (2 grants) June 2023 – Dec. 2024, and Regional Safety Action Plan July 2023 – Dec. 202

Break taken at 9:57AM

Back on record at 10:10AM

## VIII. NEW BUSINESS

### **A. Ordinance 23-03 Revising the City Code of Ordinance Chapter 8.05 Department of Public Safety**

CM Edenshaw MOVED to approve First Reading of Ordinance 23-03. Seconded by CM Mercurief.

The first reading was held of Ordinance 23-03 revisions. With moved to VPSO program, Zavadil revised Ordinance to add section 8.05 to reflect. Legal council provided recommendation on language for contracted services such EMS and VPSO.

MOTION to approve First Reading of Ordinance 23-03 carried by Roll Call vote of 6 Ayes.

### **B. Ordinance 23-04 Revising the City Code of Ordinances Chapter 13.05 Electric Utility**

CM Edenshaw MOVED to approve First Reading of Ordinance 23-04. Seconded by Mayor Mercurief.

The first reading was held of Ordinance 23-04 revisions. Zavadil stated with the transition off AMPYs, the ordinance needs to reflect changes to how billing/collections/disconnections would be handled. Reviewed billing process reflected in ordinance. Mayor Mercurief asked about the ability for customers to pay using the internet. Zavadil informed him with a monthly price of \$2500, a Utility that could not cover it, the price would be cost prohibitive as it would have to be passed onto the customers. It is not feasible at this point. With the new system, everything can be done on a computer. The previous rate included time to send a crew, now recommending a flat rate fee for connect/disconnect. Exceptions to disconnect include weather and medical necessity. CM Melovidov believes they are fair exceptions. With the AMPY meter power cut out if not recharged. Putting it in the ordinance everyone will know what the rules are. If not updated, ordinance will revert back to the administrative order, but it doesn't include an outline of services and limitations. The goal is not to disconnect anybody but to help them if they are struggling.

MOTION to approve First Reading of Ordinance 23-04 carried by Roll Call vote of 6 Ayes.

### **C. Resolution 23-15 Supporting RAVN Alaska as the Air Carrier for Selection Under the Essential Air Service Program for Saint Paul Island**

CM Porath MOVED to approve Resolution 23-15. Seconded by CM Edenshaw.

Current award to RAVN. June 1<sup>st</sup> ACE and RAVN submitted a proposal. Zavadil did reach out to Aleutian Airways, but they declined to submit a proposal at this time. Plan is to do a joint entity letter of support. Recommend that the City Council make a resolution of support. Zavadil did add to resolution for them to evaluate the fares. The Essential Air Service subsidy is not there to subsidize fares but to make sure air service is available. Rates are likely to be the same. The only way to reduce the fares is to have more people traveling. CM Melovidov asked if the program could pay for it to spare the travelers. Zavadil commented that the program is not to be used to subsidize rates. Mayor Mercurief pointed out that there was an awards program. If a segment Anchorage to Saint Paul and Saint Paul to Anchorage are not completed, they don't get compensated through EAS. CM Melovidov is concerned that the price of travel is costing people out of living on island. The Essential Air Service spans two years.

MOTION to approve Resolution 23-15 carried by Roll Call vote of 6 Ayes.

### **D. Resolution 23-16 Supporting Connecting Trident Seafoods Processing Plant to the City of Saint Paul Municipal Electric Utility**

CM Porath MOVED to approve Resolution 23-16. Seconded by Mayor Mercurief.

The plan is to add Trident to the City grid. Basic plan is to come off the sectionalizing cabinet across the road from the Southeast end sliding door. In 1999 it was originally discussed, and conduit was run through the ground. Cabling going on a City Easement that used to supply West Landing Dock. Transformer would be located around the area where the pickup truck is and meter base and circuit

transformer cabinet standalone within that easement. Secondary wire would go into switch gear, with approval from Trident, TDX would run it along the ground. The 750 KVA transformer is on the way. Designed to allow back feed into town in the event of system failure. Funds needed complete, asking up to \$200,000 that would come out of CDs as putting it in the USDA loan would have delayed process. Finalizing electrical services agreement with Trident. Next month will get the budget amendment together. There would be a threshold that we'd not be able to go over and it will be included in the agreement. We haven't been purchasing wind power as the analog units we have don't work well with the fluctuations. CM Melovidov asked if cost sharing was discussed. It has been talked about but there is no commitment yet.

MOTION to approve Resolution 23-16 carried by Roll Call vote of 6 Ayes.

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no Executive Session held.

**X. NEXT MEETING DATES/TIMES/AGENDA ITEMS**

A. July 18, 2023, at 9AM

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

CM Porath MOVED to Adjourn. Seconded by CM Melovidov. MOTION carried by voice vote with 6 Ayes. The meeting adjourned at 11:09.

SUBMITTED BY:

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Aubrey Wegeleben, City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date