

January 21, 2021
Regular City Council Meeting

**Discussion of City Council Representation/Participation in Upcoming Negotiations
for Successor Collective Bargaining Agreements - Councilmember Gass**

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Gass said he would like to put on record that he has changed his mind and now feels it would be advantageous to have a couple Councilmembers sit in on union negotiations.

Councilmember Gage spoke in regards to the crosswalk incident and the continued issue at the crosswalk down at A & P, and thanked Acting Port & Harbors Director for putting up the lights down there. She said the fact that we have lost another community member down there breaks her heart. She again voiced her concerns with the Department of Transportation (DOT), and they should be held to task for this incident. She encouraged everyone to write a letter to the DOT and express their concerns regarding this crosswalk area. She felt there should be ADA lights and requirements and/or mechanism for sound and vision at this intersection, She said the City should not have to fight for these things with the DOT.

Councilmember Kiffer echoed comments made by Councilmember Gage regarding the DOT. He stated we should not have to have a fatality in order to get the DOT to come down and install the proper crosswalk lighting and ADA mechanism. He thanked all the people who are putting in their time on the Resource/Bubble Committee. He said they have put forth a great amount of effort and all they get is grief from a large portion of the community. He commended the Borough for fighting FEMA regarding the flood maps. He said he would like to correct a statement he made at the last Council meeting about an incident involving a private citizen and the Police Department in which he said certain facts in the case were not in dispute and they are clearly in dispute. He keeps hearing from folks that we should not have put all our eggs in one basket with the cruise industry and if you go back far enough in history, we put all our eggs in one basket with the timber industry, the canning fish industry, the mining industry, and we have survived all of those industries where most other towns have gone belly up, and yes, Ketchikan will survive this one too.

Councilmember Bergeron said speaking of all our eggs in one basket, we need get off the dime with the folks who are in control of our destiny and have them give us the criteria we need to get our economy going. He said we can't afford to sit around and wait for someone to do something. He thanked Councilmember Flora and everyone else for their hard work on the Resource Committee.

Councilmember Bradberry echoed everyone's comments made tonight. She said you got to love those state and federal agencies we have to work with.

Councilmember Flora said between the crosswalks and the ones we have to beg for with the DOT, and the joke of a proposed plan for Tongass Avenue because everyone should have a bike lane that is a half mile long that empties back into the traffic lanes. He said at this point when it comes to our communities highway and crosswalks the DOT is nothing more inept. He stated we make comments and suggestions and they blow us off. He said he has made this comment before, but at some point you ask for forgiveness instead of permissions, and just put the lights up at the crosswalks. He voiced his concerns regarding national events that have taken place of the past year, and felt we need to find a way to work together on everything or we are in deep trouble. He said he remembered a time when you could disagree with someone and still work together with a fruitful outcome.