

February 4, 2021
Regular City Council Meeting

Ongoing Review and Discussion of Cruise Related Issues - Councilmember Bergeron

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Mayor Sivertsen asked if there were any objections to defer to the meeting of February 4, 2021.
No objections were heard.

Ongoing Review and Discussion of State of Alaska COVID-19 Health Mandates – Councilmember Bergeron

Mayor Sivertsen asked if there were any objections to defer to the meeting of February 4, 2021.
No objections were heard.

Continued Review and Discussion of City Council Direction for the Position of Port & Harbors Director – Councilmember Zenge

Mayor Sivertsen asked if there were any objections to defer to the meeting of February 4, 2021.
No objections were heard.

Discussion of Commissioning a Totem Pole in Honor of Elizabeth Peratrovich – Councilmember Gage

Councilmember Gage cited the many accomplishments of Elizabeth Peratrovich, which included the first anti-discrimination in public places laws, her activism for Alaskan natives, her contribution to push the passage of the first Anti-Discrimination Act. She stressed the importance of knowing your history, no matter how uncomfortable it may be. She stated Ms. Peratrovich was a beacon of change, hope and resilience, and asked the City of Ketchikan to reach out to the native community to commission a totem pole in her honor. She stated there are possible grants available that would be instrumental in this project.

Mayor Sivertsen said from his experience the City would not have the revenue to fund a project like this. He felt this should be a community project because she did not just represent the native population, she helped everybody. He indicated because of that this is a State and Federal issue so there needs to be participation in kind by all groups. He said there also needs to be discussion regarding the placement of the pole as well.

Councilmember Kiffer suggested reaching out to Sealaska Corporation and others. He agreed we need to get things moving and we can't do it alone. He felt this was overdue and we should take a vote to at least get the process moving.

Mayor Sivertsen asked for a show of hands to give direction to staff to get the conversation started with other groups and entities, and at least four hands were shown.

Councilmember Gass questioned if it was placed in the downtown area the possibility of funding from the Commercial Passenger Vessel Tax (CPV) monies.

Mayor Sivertsen said that might be a possibility in a robust working economy and possibly have input from the cruise industry. He informed for now, reaching out to various groups in the community is a good start.

"UNAPPROVED" May 21, 2020

Councilmember Coose said at the Ketchikan Visitors Bureau meeting it was brought up that cash is tight right now for everybody, and asked the Council to consider a way to delay utility bills for a couple months to help these businesses stay afloat.

Manager Amylon indicated he is very sensitive in regards to Councilmember Coose's comments, but without the cruise ships this year a lot of our residents come fall and winter are going to experience a real hardship. He said as we bring forward these different pots of money staff will be bringing up potential concerns that the Council may want to see addressed and how these funds can be directed, noting the Council will make the final decision on these issues.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Donation of Face Masks

General Manager Amylon attached a memorandum from Senior Project Engineer Jennifer Holstrom for Council review of details the likely donation of 500 facemasks to KPU. He said the Department of Homeland Security is partnering with FERC and has advised KPU that the face masks should be received within two weeks.

CITY CLERK'S FILE

City Clerk Stanker informed the Council that starting in June the City Council meetings will be held live at the Ted Ferry Civic Center in order to allow for public attendance. She said the Governor's mandates will be adhered to.

CITY ATTORNEY'S FILE - None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Councilmember Bergeron asked if there could be two placeholders on future agendas for discussion regarding the cruise industry, and one for the Council to be able to speak or weigh in on the Governor's mandates if needed.

Mayor Sivertsen felt it would be beneficial that we are kept current on what is happening with Federal and State Mandates, the CARES Act or anything else pertaining to reopening businesses.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Coose thanked everyone for what they are doing.

Councilmember Bergeron said he was proud of the State of Alaska for having zero COVID-19 cases today, and our response as a community and a State. He thanked for the work the Mayors, Staff and AML has been doing to keep this pandemic in check. He said he was grateful for the freedoms we have and that we are not confined to our homes. He said he is excited to soon be able to go out and get a hamburger and some movie popcorn again.

Councilmember Chapel thanked Port and Harbors Director Corporon for being a liaison and providing all that information regarding the cruise ships. She said she appreciates the responses she receives from department heads, as it helps with her decision making process. She acknowledged not always the comments made on social media are the most common in terms of their opinion. She encouraged those associated with the cruise ship industry to utilize this time to try and understand why there are people in the community who aren't as supportive of the cruise industry, and are not ready to open up Ketchikan. She felt this is a good time to build those bridges to come out of this stronger on all fronts. She thanked Mayor Sivertsen for his comments, and for attending teleconferences to be able to bring information back to the Council so the Council can make good decisions.