

February 4, 2021
Regular City Council Meeting

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



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TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Karl R. Amylon, City Manager

DATE: January 27, 2021

RE: **Discussion of City Council Representation/Participation in Upcoming Negotiations for Successor Collective Bargaining Agreements**

By separate agenda report, Councilmember Gass has requested a discussion of City Council representation/participation in upcoming negotiations for successor collective bargaining agreements. By separate report [see agenda statement 15b(2)], my office has requested an executive session with the City Council regarding negotiations with IBEW, Local 1547 for a new KPU collective bargaining agreement to replace that which expired on December 31, 2020. My office is requesting the City Council defer consideration of Councilmember Gass' agenda item until after the executive session. Both topics may involve discussions of subjects that may materially affect negotiations with IBEW, Local 1547 and the utility's ability to negotiate a new collective bargaining agreement that is acceptable to both parties.

2021 Police Department Vehicle Acquisition – Kendall Ford

Moved by Flora, seconded by Kiffer pursuant to Section 3.12.050(a)(9) of the Ketchikan Municipal Code, the City Council authorize the purchase of one vehicle for the Police Department under State Contract No. CA2217-20 from Kendall Ford of Anchorage, Alaska at a cost not to exceed \$36,845; approve funding from the Police Department's 2021 Vehicle Replacement Capital Account; and direct the city manager to execute the contract documents on behalf of the City Council.

Councilmember Gass said he appreciates the information provided by Police Chief White, but we need to be looking at ways to save money, and he understands there were no new acquisitions last year. He said in his opinion we have plenty of working vehicles, and would not support this motion because of fiscal responsibility.

Police Chief White indicated this was discussed during the budget deliberations and yes, this is an item we may be able to do without, but this would be the second year and may be an issue for 2022. He said this money was carried over and eventually we will have to replace four at time instead of one. He explained the vehicles officers take home last a lot longer than a vehicle once it becomes a station vehicle. He indicated there are not enough vehicles for each officer to take home.

Mayor Sivertsen stated his concerns in playing catchup later on down the road, and we should take this opportunity to work on this gradually.

Councilmember Bradberry said realistically there may not be the revenue we are counting on for 2021, and we need to hold down spending. She felt she would rather see this money used to make sure to keep staff employed.

Councilmember Flora said he understands the points made by Councilmember Bradberry, but once you start to defer, you are looking at playing catchup and soon we are perpetuating four vehicles cycles.

Motion passed with Bergeron, Kiffer, Gage, Zenger and Flora voting yea; Gass and Bradberry voting nay.

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

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

"UNAPPROVED" January 7, 2021

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.