

March 18, 2021
Regular City Council Meeting

Ongoing Review and Discussion of Cruise Related Issues - Councilmember Bergeron

"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 bring 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.