



TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Lacey G. Simpson, Acting City Manager

DATE: December 2, 2021

RE: **Presentation by Steve Hayburn – Ketchikan Opioid Epidemic**

At its meeting of October 21, 2021, Councilmember Mark Flora requested an invitation to Mr. Hayburn be extended to attend a future City Council meeting to discuss his work as a pre-trial probations officer and the ongoing Ketchikan opioid epidemic. Mr. Hayburn has agreed to attend the City Council meeting of December 16, 2021.

Regular Ketchikan City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Kiffer at 7:05 p.m., October 21, 2021, with the following members present: Riley Gass, Janalee Gage, Mark Flora, Jai Mahtani, Judy Zenge and Abby Bradberry. One seat vacant.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all persons in the Ted Ferry Civic Center.

Mayor Kiffer stated the Recital of Native Lands Acknowledgement.

Staff present were Acting Manager Simpson, City Attorney Seaver, Finance Director Johansen, Public Works Director/Acting Port and Harbors Director Hilson, Acting Police Chief Mattson, Sales, Marketing and Customer Service Division Manager Simpson, Water Division Manager Kleinegger, Assistant Water Division Manager Brakke, Civic Center Manager Nelson, Deputy Clerk Lee and City Clerk Stanker.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayoral Proclamation – First Responders Day

Mayor Kiffer read a proclamation declaring October 28, 2021 as First Responders Day.

Mayor Kiffer informed of a laid on the table to withdraw the new business item regarding the budget transfer for the harbors, and no objections were heard.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Ed Zastrow informed he is here tonight as President and Chairmen of the non-profit Ketchikan Senior Citizen Services (KSCS), which owns and manages Pioneer Heights. He detailed how KSCS was created, how they have grown and the current services they provide. He explained how Pioneer Heights was financed, built, capacity and current situation. He requested the City look into funding from the federal government to build utilities out to Pioneer Heights. He answered questions from the Council.

Deborah Hayden with Grow Ketchikan introduced their new project manager. She encouraged the Council to pass the agenda item regarding the grant proposal to complete the promenade and adding a restroom at Thomas Basin. She explained why Grow Ketchikan would be a good entity to partner with the City to write this grant.

Steve Hayburn said he works for adult probation as a probation officer, and has a lot to share regarding the opioid epidemic in Ketchikan. He explained his work as a pre-trial probation officer. He said Ketchikan has a problem and he would like to come back to the Council and give a presentation on his role. He explained the process for someone to get into treatment can take up to a month and half and involves a lot of paperwork. He said we need to reduce barriers, increase social contact and get a detox facility. He recommended using the old WISH facility as a detox center. He said probation officers see how people that are addicted to drugs struggle, and how they try to assist as much as possible.

Robert Venables, Executive Director for Southeast Conference gave an update on the annual meeting that occurred in Haines. He stated at the business meeting they voted to bring the conference to Ketchikan in 2022. He informed during the annual meeting they roll out the “By The Numbers” report card, which coincided with their five year comprehensive economic development strategy which is a handy reference for policy makers. He explained how federal grants are prioritized, as well as some of the priorities for Southeast Conference, and how they would affect Ketchikan. He answered questions from the Council.

CITY ATTORNEY'S FILE

Acting City Manager Simpson supplied the Council a copy of the report of significant activities for the City Attorney for the month August 2021.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Councilmember Gage informed she would like to attend the 2021 Alaska Municipal League Conference, but the Council will have to approve a budget transfer, as there are not enough funds in their travel account. She said it is advantageous to have more people in attendance to alternate between the classes offered as some run concurrently. She informed there are two classes that have to do with regional water and sewer utilities plus one on infrastructure, and both should be attended.

Mayor Kiffer asked for a show of hands to bring back a budget transfer for Council consideration at their November 4, 2021 meeting, and at least for hands were shown.

Councilmember Flora asked if staff could extend an invitation for Mr. Hayburn to present at a future Council meeting.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Bradberry informed that Alaska Marine lines (AML) has again raised their rates. She said she has heard from many folks that this could cause a massive jump in our cost of goods that come to Ketchikan, and is very unfortunate.

Mayor Kiffer suggested this may be something we can talk to our federal lobbyist about to look for alternative solutions for our community.

Acting Port & Harbors Director Hilson said we have had a conversation with the State Attorney General's office regarding the rate increases as being unpredictable. He said they were interested in the information, but we don't know if it rises to a level where they will do anything. He said this was concerning on a number of fronts. He informed that they track fuel data, and we didn't see a clear correlation, but AML insist there is and would provide back-up data.

City Attorney Seaver said he had recent discussions with the State regarding Petro Marine and they were not fruitful. He said he saw in the paper that the City of Wrangell was initiating a study on the rates, so we are not in this alone.

Mayor Kiffer said there is some discussion in reviewing the Commerce Clause and that might be able to bail us out.

Councilmember Gass commented on Mr. Zastrow's presentation tonight, as he found it informative. He said while we seem to be talking about grants, maybe one of the federal grants could help us extend our water and sewer further out the road. He said maybe there are some organizations or private developers that would be interested in the 7.2 acres above the Pioneer Heights for a future senior housing development. He commented that one of the worst things regarding the drug issue is the dirty needles left lying around. He felt somehow we need to get a handle on that.