



TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Lacey G. Simpson, Acting City Manager

DATE: August 15, 2022

RE: **Homelessness Needs Assessment Public Forum**

At its meeting of August 19, 2021, the City Council authorized staff to submit a request for technical assistance to the Alaska Mental Health Trust (AMHT) for the purpose of conducting a community homelessness needs assessment. The City was granted the request, and since this time, AMHT's chosen contractor Rider Consulting has conducted site visits, stakeholder interviews and public forums in the spring of 2022. The community homelessness needs assessment draft is now complete.

The City of Ketchikan, with representatives of Rider Consulting, will host a public forum on Wednesday, August 24, 2022 to present the draft plan's findings and recommendations. The forum will be held at the Ted Ferry Civic Center from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and all members of the community are welcome to attend.

Public Works Director Mark Hilson will attend the City Council meeting of August 18, 2022 to address any questions and/or concerns that Councilmembers may have.

**Proposed Topics for PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center
Quarterly Presentation to the City Council as its Meeting of
September 16, 2021**

Moved by Gage, seconded by Bradberry the City Council direct the City Manager to advise PeaceHealth Ketchikan Medical Center of the City Council's acceptance and/or modification of the proposed topics of discussion for the quarterly update of September 16, 2021 and to submit requests for additional information as determined appropriate by the City Council.

Mayor Sivertsen said he would like to see a report on how the hospital is set up to handle the COVID cases, staffing and duties as assigned.

Councilmember Gage said she would like a report from the hospital regarding how a detox facility would be managed by PeaceHealth.

Councilmember Kiffer said he would also like to see more specifics from the hospital regarding a detox facility and how that would work.

Councilmember Gage said there could be grants available for a detox facility. She indicated now that the hospital lease is complete the Council can focus on the bigger picture in our community. She talked about the substance abuse task force and what they have done for the community for the past 20 years.

Mayor Sivertsen summarized PeaceHealth can give us an overview of what a detox center may look like, and include the operation and staffing piece.

Mayor Sivertsen informed the Council could send their suggestions to the Clerks or Managers office.

Motion passed with Bergeron, Gass, Kiffer, Gage, Zenge, Bradberry and Flora voting yea.

**Discussion on a Budget for the Repair of the Fire Boat M/V
Harry Newell – Councilmember Flora**

Councilmember Flora referenced the report that was laid on the table tonight that included information on the hull of the M/V *Harry Newell* that was done by Vigor six years ago. He said if all goes according to plan, next week there will be another hull inspection to determine the current condition of the hull, and if it is determined to be sound, then the committee, that is comprised of Chief Hoage, a couple folks from the Fire Department, local experts and himself will convene to discuss the next steps which will include a complete audit on the vessel itself and determine what the absolute essentials would include from the first responders.

**Request for Technical Assistance to the Alaska Mental Health
Trust to Provide a Homelessness Needs Assessment**

Moved by Zenge, seconded by Bradberry the City Council direct staff to prepare and submit a request for technical assistance to the Alaska Mental Health Trust for the purpose of conducting a community homelessness needs assessment and authorizing the City of Ketchikan to serve as requesting agency to the Alaska Mental Health Trust on behalf of the community of Ketchikan.

"UNAPPROVED" August 19, 2021

Councilmember Flora felt as the Council works through this process that homelessness and drug addiction are intrinsically linked. He said in past discussions regarding this subject there has never been a long-term plan put in place that is viable or sustainable. He said there is always a funding component to everything. He indicated post grant if we are going to take this issue on we should take them on together.

Councilmember Gage indicated the Ketchikan Wellness Coalition did a similar health needs assessment of the community that was released in November of 2020. She said she would forward it to the Clerk's office to disseminate to the Council.

Mayor Sivertsen said through this grant process we hope to develop a report that will give us incremental plans for the next five to ten years that include direction on how to make these plans sustainable.

Assistant Manager Simpson echoed comments made by Mayor Sivertsen. She said what staff would like to get out of the assessment is developing a roadmap on how to address those needs, and develop a strategic plan that is all encompassing to include a list of issues and solutions that the community will need to consider.

Councilmember Gass reiterated we need to stay focused on the goals as we go through this process. He said he hoped this would provide solutions to issues we are experiencing in our community.

Motion passed with Gass, Kiffer, Gage, Zenge, Bradberry, Flora and Bergeron voting yea.

Discussion of Amending the City Charter to Change the Residency Requirements for the City Manager – Councilmember Bergeron

Councilmember Bergeron felt this is one thing that needs to be changed in the Charter, but unfortunately, we have passed the point to include this for the 2021 election. He encouraged this Council to pursue this particular Charter change at some point in the future, but he would not be moving forward with it at this time.

Councilmember Kiffer said he agreed with comments made by Councilmember Bergeron and felt our founding fathers at the time had their reasons to require the manager to live in the City.

Assistant Manager Simpson stated to the best of her knowledge there were no other positions that were required to live within the City limits.

Councilmember Bradberry felt the particular position makes many decisions for the City and should be a part of the City.

Councilmember Zenge questioned the City Attorney if he could see any down sides to this being changed.

City Attorney Seaver answered questions from the Council.

Councilmember Flora said he was torn on this matter. He said this does limit us on the ability to hire the best person possible for the position. He echoed comments made by Councilmember Bradberry as the manager does make vital decisions for the community. He questioned if we changed the manager to be able to live anywhere, why not change this requirement for Mayor and Council.

Councilmember Kiffer said not that long ago in our history, we required the City peace officers to reside within City limits, and that was changed.