

Regular City Council meeting was called to order by Vice-Mayor Flora at 7:00 p.m., October 6, 2022, with the following members present: Riley Gass, Janalee Gage, Jai Mahtani, Abby Bradberry, Judy Zenge, Mark Flora and Lalette Kistler. Mayor Kiffer was absent.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all persons in Council Chambers.

Vice-Mayor Flora stated the Recital of Native Lands Acknowledgement.

Staff present were City Manager Walsh, Assistant City Manager Simpson, Finance Director Johansen, City Attorney Seaver, Public Works Director Hilson, Assistant Public Works Director Jurczak, Police Chief Walls, Human Resources Manager Miller, Safety Coordinator Alderson, Assistant Fire Chief Brainard, Fire Marshal O'Sullivan, Port & Harbors Director Verfaillie, Acting Electric Division Manager Bynum, Acting Telecommunication Divisions Manager Lindgren, Water Division Manager Kleinegger, Deputy Clerk Lee and City Clerk Stanker.

PUBLIC HEARING

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 22-1947 –
AMENDING SUBSECTION (B)(25) OF SECTION 18.04.010
OF THE KETCHIKAN MUNICIPAL CODE ENTITLED
“ADOPTION” CONCERNING RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLER
SYSTEMS**

Vice-Mayor Flora called the public hearing on Ordinance No. 22-1947 to order at 7:01 p.m. and requested public testimony.

As there was no testimony, Vice-Mayor Flora declared the public hearing closed at 7:01 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE NO. 22-1953 –
AMENDING SUBSECTION (67) OF KETCHIKAN
MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 18.04.010 OF THE FIRE
CODE; ADDING A NEW SUBSECTION (3) TO SECTION
19.14.010 OF PLUMBING CODE; RENUMBERING
EXISTING SUBSECTION (3) OF KETCHIKAN MUNICIPAL
CODE 19.14.010**

Vice-Mayor Flora called the public hearing on Ordinance No. 22-1953 to order at 7:02 p.m. and requested public testimony.

As there was no testimony, Mayor Kiffer declared the public hearing closed at 7:02 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

Vice-Mayor Flora read a proclamation proclaiming October 9 – 15, 2022 as Fire Prevention Week throughout the State of Alaska, and presented to Fire Marshal O'Sullivan.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Mary Stephenson distributed to the Council her winter/spring directory highlighting local businesses in the community that will be opened year-round.

John Milner read a letter from the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 1547 in opposition to Resolution No. 22-2856 amending the City of Ketchikan Compensation Plan, and asked that staff reach out to the union to discuss their concerns.

Mr. Milner answered questions from the Council.

Mike West, of the American Legion, said he is here tonight regarding the update from First City Homeless Services and to answer any questions. He stated he has seen some improvements in the homeless shelter and the residents.

Mr. West answered questions from the Council.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vice-Mayor Flora suggested moving several items to the Consent Agenda, including; Ordinance No. 22-1953 amending the fire and plumbing code; Appointments to boards and commissions; the FY 2024 community of Ketchikan capital project and policy issue priority list; a budget transfer and award of Contract No. 22-21 for polemount transformers to Wesco/Anixter; Resolution No. 22-2861 expressing commitment to comply with net neutrality in respect to the USDA's application program and community connect grant program; Resolution No. 22-2862 submitting a grant application to obtain funds from the United States Government, acting through the administrator of Rural Utilities Service and the United States Department of Agriculture's Federal ReConnect Loan and Grant Program. No objections were heard.

**Approval of Minutes – Regular City Council Meeting of
September 15, 2022**

Moved by Bradberry, seconded by Mahtani for approval of the minutes from the regular City Council meeting of September 15, 2022.

Motion passed with Gass, Kistler, Mahtani, Flora, Bradberry, Zenge and Gage voting yea.

**Change Order No. 1 (FINAL) to Contract No. 21-07 – Ketchikan
General Hospital Original Building Re-Roof – Coogan
Construction Co.**

Moved by Bradberry, seconded by Mahtani the City Council approve Change Order No. 1 (Final) to Contract No. 21-07, Ketchikan General Hospital Original Building Re-Roof between the City and Coogan Construction, Co. in the amount of \$48,500 bringing the total contract cost to \$2,449,500; authorize funding in the amount of \$48,500 from the contract contingency; and direct the City Manager to execute the contract change order on behalf of the City Council.

Motion passed with Gass, Kistler, Mahtani, Flora, Bradberry, Zenge and Gage voting yea.

Ordinance No. 22-1947 – Amending Subsection (b)(25) of Section 18.04.010 of the Ketchikan Municipal Code Entitled “Adoption” Concerning Residential Sprinkler Systems – Second Reading

Copies of Ordinance No. 22-1947 were available for those present.

Moved by Bradberry, seconded by Mahtani the City Council approve in second reading Ordinance No. 22-1947 amending Subsection (b)(25) of Section 18.04.010 of the Ketchikan Municipal Code entitled “Adoption” concerning residential sprinkler systems; and establishing an effective date.

Motion passed with Gass, Kistler, Mahtani, Flora, Bradberry, Zenge and Gage voting yea.

Budget Transfer – Public Works-Streets Division’s 2022 Infrastructure Maintenance Materials Account

Moved by Bradberry, seconded by Mahtani the City Council authorize the City Manager to transfer \$50,000 from the Public Works-Streets Division’s 2022 Temporary Wages Account No. 502.01 to the Public Works-Streets Division’s 2022 Infrastructure Maintenance Materials Account No. 515.05 to fund maintenance materials expenditures for the Streets Division.

Motion passed with Gass, Kistler, Mahtani, Flora, Bradberry, Zenge and Gage voting yea.

Ordinance No. 22-1953 – Amending Subsection (67) of Ketchikan Municipal Code Section 18.04.010 of the Fire Code; Adding a New Subsection (3) to Ketchikan Municipal Code Section 19.14.010 of Plumbing Code; Renumbering Existing Subsection (3) of Ketchikan Municipal Code 19.14.010 – Second Reading

Copies of Ordinance No. 22-1953 were available for those present.

Moved by Bradberry, seconded by Mahtani the City Council approve in second reading Ordinance No. 22-1953 amending Subsection (67) of the Ketchikan Municipal Code Section 18.04.010 of the Fire Code; adding a new Subsection (3) to Ketchikan Municipal Code Section 19.14.010 of Plumbing Code; renumbering existing Subsection (3) of Ketchikan Municipal Code 19.14.010; and establishing an effective date.

Motion passed with Gass, Kistler, Mahtani, Flora, Bradberry, Zenge and Gage voting yea.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions - Mayor Kiffer

Mayor Kiffer submitted the names of Russell Cockrum, Jay Rhodes and Daniel Askins as appointments to the Port and Harbors Advisory Board, and asked if there were any objections; and none were heard.

FY 2024 Community of Ketchikan Capital Project and Policy Issue Priority Lists – Lobbying Executive Committee

Moved by Bradberry, seconded by Mahtani the City Council approve the Ketchikan Gateway Borough/City of Ketchikan/City of Saxman Lobbying Executive Committee’s recommended FY 2024 Community of Ketchikan Capital Project and Policy Issue Priority Lists for transmittal to the Governor as detailed in the September 27, 2022 Lobbying Executive Committee meeting minutes.

Motion passed with Gass, Kistler, Mahtani, Flora, Bradberry, Zenge and Gage voting yea.

Exempting the Procurement of Ericsson LRA 4G/LTE Software Subscription Service for eNodeB Equipment from the Competitive Bidding/Written Quotation Requirements of the Ketchikan Municipal Code – Ericsson Inc. and Request for Budget Transfer

Moved by Bradberry, seconded by Mahtani pursuant to subparagraph 6 of Section 3.12.050(a) of the Ketchikan Municipal Code, the City Council exempt the procurement of Ericsson LRA 4G/LTE Software Subscription Service in the amount of \$27,500 from the competitive bidding/written quotations requirements of the Ketchikan Municipal Code; authorize a \$42,100 budget transfer from the Rents and Leases Infrastructure Account No. 645.04 to the Software & Equipment Maintenance Services Account No. 635.04; approve funding from the Telecommunications Division's 2022 Software & Equipment Maintenance Services Account No. 635.04; and direct the General Manager to execute the contract documents on behalf of the City Council.

M Motion passed with Gass, Kistler, Mahtani, Flora, Bradberry, Zenge and Gage voting yea.

Change Order No. 1 to Contract No. 21-01 – Raw Water Transmission Main Replacement - BAM, LLC

Moved by Bradberry, seconded by Mahtani the City Council approve Change Order No. 1 to Contract No. 21-01 – Raw Water Transmission Main Replacement between the City of Ketchikan d/b/a Ketchikan Public Utilities and BAM, LLC in the amount of \$87,680, bringing the total contract amount to \$6,086,175; authorize funding from the Water Division's 2021 Schoenbar Water Mains (Charter School – Middle School) Capital Account and project contingency; and direct the General Manager to execute the contract documents on behalf of the City Council.

Motion passed with Gass, Kistler, Mahtani, Flora, Bradberry, Zenge and Gage voting yea.

Budget Transfer and Award of Contract No. 22-21 – Polemount Transformers – Wesco/Anixter

Moved by Bradberry, seconded by Mahtani the City Council award Contract No. 22-21, Polemount Transformers, to Wesco/Anixter in the amount of \$118,374; authorize a budget transfer in the amount of \$110,000 from the Electric Division's 2022 Technical Services Account No. 635.12 to the Electric Division's 2022 Transformer Purchase Capital Account; authorize funding in the amount of \$118,374 from the Electric Division's 2022 Transformer Purchase Capital Account; and direct the General Manager to execute the contract documents on behalf of the City Council.

Motion passed with Gass, Kistler, Mahtani, Flora, Bradberry, Zenge and Gage voting yea.

Resolution No. 22-2861 – Expressing Commitment to Comply with Net Neutrality in Respect to the USDA's Online Application Program and Community Connect Grant Program

Moved by Bradberry, seconded by Mahtani the City Council approve Resolution No. 22-2861 Expressing Commitment to Comply with Net Neutrality in Respect to the USDA's Online Application Program and Community Connect Grant Program; and establishing an effective date.

Motion passed with Gass, Kistler, Mahtani, Flora, Bradberry, Zenge and Gage voting yea.

Resolution No. 22-2862 – Submitting a Grant Application to Obtain Funds from the United States Government, Acting through the Administrator of Rural Utilities Service and the United States Department of Agriculture’s Federal ReConnect Loan and Grant Program, Pursuant to a Request for Funding, in an Amount Anticipated Not to Exceed \$6M, to be Used for Such Purposes as Approved by Rural Utilities Service

Moved by Bradberry, seconded by Mahtani the City Council approve Resolution No. 22-2862 Submitting a Grant Application to Obtain Funds from the United States Government, Acting through the Administrator of Rural Utilities Service and the United States Department of Agriculture’s Federal ReConnect Loan and Grant Program, pursuant to a request for funding, in an amount anticipated not to exceed \$6M, to be used for such purposes as approved by Rural Utilities Service; and establishing an effective date.

Motion passed with Gass, Kistler, Mahtani, Flora, Bradberry, Zenge and Gage voting yea.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Resolution No. 22-2856 – Amending the City of Ketchikan Compensation Plan

Motion on the floor from the Council meeting of September 1, 2022:

Moved by Flora, seconded by Mahtani the City Council approve Resolution No. 22-2856 amending the City of Ketchikan Compensation Plan: and establishing an effective date.

Vice-Mayor Flora stated this resolution was deferred with the intent of having City Manager Walsh weigh in on this topic. He asked staff for their response to Mr. Milner’s comments made during persons to be heard.

City Manager Walsh thanked the Council for the opportunity to be their City manager. She informed this resolution is giving the manager more opportunity to offer competitive wages for employees who are leaving or when staff is recruiting new employees. She stated she agreed with Mr. Milner, there is a situation regarding wages as well as employee retention as a whole. She said this resolution gives her, as the manager more leeway to make wages more competitive as we go through the attraction and retention process. She indicated the advantage represented employees have is negotiation, and the opportunity to bargain. She said the non-represented employees do not, and staff has to follow the personnel policy. She said by approving this resolution it would enable her to give more timely offers for employee retention and new employment. She said along with this she has an expectation of equity, internal and market reviews along with that sort of documentation from department heads and coordination with the Human Resources Department before a decision is made.

Moved by Bradberry, seconded by Gass to split the question to consider new hires and current employees separately.

Assistant Manager Simpson stated the manager can currently only offer employment to new employees or a transfer or promotion for an existing employee at a grade and step position up to step K for non-represented employees, and step I for I.B.E.W represented and KPU employees. She informed there are many positions within the KPU/I.B.E.W. bargaining unit that are not step and grade positions, they are called craft positions and all receive the same wage, regardless of the length of service or experience.

"UNAPPROVED" October 6, 2022

Manager Walsh explained typically an internal equity review will consider; time in position, prior time served in other agencies, time working in that capacity, and time and position working for the City compared to all other employees. She stated it is a simple comparative formula assigning a factor to prior experience and time in position.

Councilmember Bradberry stated she understands the point of the resolution. She said in regards to new hires it does need to be updated past Step K and I, but was not in favor of approving Step U. She said in regards to existing employees she agreed with increasing the manager's authority to Step U, as they are already on the books, we see their performance and staff should be able to offer higher steps above K and I in order to retain them.

Councilmember Zenge stated we hired this staff to make this decision for us, and if we could potentially lose an employee that is really good, the Council should trust our staff to make that decision in order to hire or keep them.

Councilmember Gass said he agrees with comments made by Councilmember Bradberry, and felt it is a necessary check and balance. He stated the City needs to be very careful in regards to new a hire and stated his reasons why, as this all comes down to our citizens having to pay for it. He felt the oversight that is necessary is in regards to the City's budget, and the Council needs to be prudent on how we spend money moving forward.

Councilmember Zenge said the problem is we are losing our trained long-time employees to other companies and businesses. She stated we are losing employees because we can't afford to pay them, and if staff has to wait two weeks, we have probably already lost them. She said she understood from previous conversations that we want to get the best people and be able to keep them. She reiterated the Council has to start trusting the people we hire and pay them for what they are worth.

Councilmember Kistler agreed we need to trust our employees. She indicated if the new hire has checked all the boxes, why shouldn't staff be able to offer a step pay to be able to hire them, and not have to wait and possibly lose them?

Councilmember Flora referenced a document that Councilmember Zenge had sent out to everyone regarding the relationship between management and the Council. He felt this discussion is an excellent example of trying to find clarification of where the boundaries are between the Council and staff. He said the Council has no participation in the hiring or recruitment process, nor on the hiring panel, and the Council then weighs in on whether we spend the money or not. He felt our judgement is therefore subjective because the Council is making a dollar decision and over lay that upon a personnel decision, and didn't feel that was effective oversight. He said other than hiring the manager, the Council is not involved in the hiring process for staff, and simply is not what the Council does. He stated we are now in a labor market that we as a Council have never experienced before in an 8% inflation world. He indicated we need to be careful on what we ask for, and where we think our oversight needs to be.

Councilmember Mahtani agreed with all the comments made regarding this resolution but felt we are missing the point, and said new hires should not be hired at Step U, and through evaluations increase their wage, otherwise, we are doing a disservice to our current employees.

Councilmember Bradberry said we are here tonight to discuss the policy that has been in place for many years, and felt it is in the Council's area for discussion. She indicated she was in favor for the existing employees, but had concerns regarding the new hires.

"UNAPPROVED" October 6, 2022

Manager Walsh and Assistant Manager Simpson answered questions from the Council.

Motion failed to split the question with Gass, Mahtani and Bradberry voting yea; Flora, Zenge, Gage and Kistler voting nay.

Moved by Bradberry, seconded by Mahtani to amend the new hire step to Step P for General Government employees, and Step Q for KPU employees.

A lengthy discussion ensued by Councilmembers.

Manager Walsh and Assistant Manager Simpson answered questions from the Council.

Motion to amend failed with Mahtani, Bradberry and Gass voting yea; Gage, Kistler, Flora and Zenge voting nay.

Moved by Bradberry, seconded by Kistler to amend to include language in the resolution stating, "Where internal equity is not compromised" for both new hires and existing employees when considering step increases.

Motion to amend passed with Gass, Mahtani, Gage, Bradberry, Kistler, Flora and Zenge voting yea.

Main Motion as amended passed with Zenge, Gage, Bradberry, Kistler and Flora voting yea; Gass and Mahtani voting nay.

NEW BUSINESS

Offer of Employment Compensation – Information Technology Director

Moved by Bradberry, the City Council authorize the City Manager to offer employment compensation at Grade 776, Step N for an annual salary of \$115,044 to Brock Hecla of Ketchikan, Alaska for the position of Information Technology Director.

As there was no second, Vice-Mayor Flora said there was no motion to be considered.

Offer of Employment Compensation – Executive Assistant

Moved by Bradberry, the City Council authorize the City Manager to offer employment compensation at Grade 851, Step Q for an hourly rate of \$31.19 to Myrna Johannsen of Ketchikan, Alaska for the position of Executive Assistant.

As there was no second, Vice-Mayor Flora said there was no motion to be considered.

Update from First City Homeless Services on Operations and Occupation of 632 Park Avenue (Park Avenue Safe Shelter PASS)

Deborah Asper, CEO of First City Homeless Services updated on the Council on the progress they have made so far including:

- For the month of September the shelter served 2,076 meals, day shelter served 88 individuals and the overnight shelter served 76 individuals.
- Still working on developing programs and policies.
- Working with Alaska Community foundation on possible grant funding for work programs and personal development with the individuals.
- Working on developing relationship with neighbors to better address concerns.
- Hired a security guard.

Anthony Nunley, security guard for PASS, spoke about his role and expectations for participants at the shelter.

Deborah Asper answered questions from the Council.

Vice-Mayor Flora asked for a show of hands to release the remaining grant funding to First City Homeless Services based on their completion of required benchmarks set by the Council, and at least four hands were shown.

Discussion of the Recommendations of the Homeless Planning in Ketchikan: A Report to the City of Ketchikan – Councilmember Kistler

Councilmember Kistler discussed the recommendations provided by the Homelessness Needs Assessment that was presented by Rider Consulting, and the following was discussed:

- Coordination between the organizations and programs offered in the community.
- Developing a mobile response van with EMT staff, possibly in conjunction with the future sobering center.
- Applying for intergovernmental grant funding from the Alaska Mental Health Trust to provide a facilitator to develop an intergovernmental agreement.
- Mental health advocate to patrol the streets, and be available for people in a mental health crisis.
- Family Reunification Program that would assist people to be reunited with family members, and help them return to their home community.

Manager Walsh and Assistant City Manager Simpson answered questions from the Council.

Vice-Mayor Flora asked for a show of hands to direct staff to move forward with applying for grant funding through the Alaska Mental Health Trust, and at least four hands were shown.

Resolution No. 22-2863 – Amending the City of Ketchikan Compensation Plan to Provide for the Reclassification of the Deputy City Clerk

Moved by Bradberry, seconded by Gage the City Council the approve Resolution No. 22-2863 amending the City of Ketchikan Compensation Plan to provide for the reclassification of the position of Deputy City Clerk to Grade 861; and establishing an effective date.

City Clerk Stanker answered questions from the Council.

Motion passed with Zenge, Bradberry, Flora, Mahtani, Kistler, Gass and Gage voting yea

Offer of Employment Compensation – Telecommunications Division Manager

Moved by Bradberry, the City Council authorize the General Manager to offer employment compensation at Grade TL992 Step R for an annual salary of \$181,263 to Dan Lindgren of Ketchikan, Alaska for the position of Telecommunications Division Manager.

As there was no second, Vice-Mayor Flora said there was no motion to be considered.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Moved by Gage, seconded by Mahtani the City Council move for the approval of vouchers to Parnassus Books in the amount of \$499.34 and SEAK Professional Services, LLC in the amount of \$65.00.

Motion passed with Bradberry, Flora, Mahtani, Kistler, Gass and Gage voting yea; Zenge abstain.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT –

Assistant Manager Simpson stated we are delighted to have Ms. Walsh on board and it has been a busy first week. She explained the Schoenbar raw water main transmission project is going well and is nearly wrapped up, but there will be another road closure beginning October 11 to pave that section of road that has been ripped up. She said the road closure will be noticed as well. She informed the Council of the KPU Sales, Marketing and Customer Service store hour changes due to staffing shortages. They hope this change is temporary and after the New Year will be able to resume normal hours again.

Schedule of General Government and KPU Appropriated Reserves Through the City Council Meeting of September 15, 2022

Acting City Manager Simpson attached for Council review a schedule of the current balance of Appropriated Reserves of the various funds of General Government and KPU through the City Council meeting of September 15, 2022.

2022 Sales Tax Reports No. 7 and No. 8

Acting City Manager Simpson provided for Council review a memoranda from Finance Director Johansen regarding the 2022 sales tax collections that include an eleven (11) year sales tax comparison.

Public Works Director's Project Status Report – September 2022

Acting City Manager Simpson attached the September 2022 Public Works Director's project status report.

Update on the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) Grant for the Stedman and Deermount Intersection

Acting City Manager Simpson provided the Council with an informational memorandum for the Public Works Director with an update on the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities Highway Safety Improvement Program grant for pedestrian safety improvements at the Stedman and Deermount Intersection.

Wastewater Division Note of Appreciation

Acting City Manager Simpson presented the Council with a memorandum from Public Works Director Hilson expressing his appreciation to the staff of the Public Works-Wastewater Division for their recent efforts to repair Pump Station 7 that prevent sewage from being discharged into Tongass Narrows.

Update on the Activities of the City-PeaceHealth Healthcare Advisory Committee

Assistant City Manager Simpson gave the Council an overview of the Healthcare Advisory Committee (HAC) for the past year, including steps taken and actions moving forward. She said the agreement has now reached its one-year mark, and the October meeting will be addressing the healthcare report card the committee has been working on for the past year. She stated the accomplishments for the healthcare report card were:

- Adhering to new and established required clinical services.
- Charity care and community benefits expenses.
- Billing and collection performance.
- Provider recruitment and retention.

She informed per the agreement for the Community Healthcare Board, which is a function of PeaceHealth, is required to hold one public meeting annually, and this has been scheduled for October 25, 2022, at the Ted Ferry Civic Center at 5:00 p.m. She thanked Councilmember Zenge as the Council appointee to the committee for her hard work, she said she was instrumental in this process, which has benefitted the community greatly.

Councilmember Flora asked for an update on the acute care unit that PeaceHealth was required to implement within two years of the new hospital lease agreement.

Assistant Manager Simpson stated that will be an agenda item on the next HAC meeting of October 27, 2022.

K.P.U. MANAGER'S REPORT

KPU Sales, Marketing and Customer Service Store Hour Change

Acting General Manager Simpson explained to the Council the upcoming KPU Sales, Marketing and Customer Service store hour changes due to staffing shortages.

CITY CLERK'S FILE

Clerk Stanker reminded everyone that the Canvass Board will meet on Friday, October 7, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. to finalize the October 4, 2022 municipal election, as well as a Special City Council meeting on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. to certify the elections. She informed the State of Alaska will be holding early voting at the rec-center starting on October 24, 2022 through November 7, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for the upcoming November General Election.

CITY ATTORNEY'S FILE

The City Attorney attached reports of significant activities for the month of August 2022.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Councilmember Gage said she would like to revisit donating the old hospital lot on Bawden Street to PATH.

Councilmember Bradberry said she would like the discussion regarding implementing business licenses to better track fire inspections to go to the Cooperative Relations Committee to create a joint venture to ensure it is a streamlined and easy process for all businesses.

Vice-Mayor Flora asked for a show of four hands to send the discussion regarding business licenses to the Cooperative Relations Committee, and at least four hands were shown.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Mahtani welcomed onboard the new manager and thanked staff for all of their work. He thanked Councilmember Zenge for her insight and knowledge, and said she will be a great loss to this Council. He thanked her for her service to this community.

Councilmember Bradberry read a section of the rules and regulations set forth by the Council regarding the role of Councilmembers in public. She asked everyone to remember when making a comment in public, or on social media, that you are viewed as an elected official and to be mindful of your actions in and outside of this room.

Councilmember Kistler said she is excited to have Ms. Walsh with us. She thanked Councilmember Zenge, and said we will miss her wise, experienced answers. She thanked the Wastewater folks for staying late and doing what they needed to do to repair Pump Station 7. She read a statement from Patti Mackey, President and CEO of Ketchikan Visitors Bureau, and her intent to retire effective March 31, 2023. She stated this will be a huge loss for the community as Ms. Mackie has helped grow Ketchikan into what it is today. She informed of apparent harassment to local individuals in the community, not born in the United States, and their business by people in town, and how he and his employees do not feel safe. She stated Ketchikan is a melting pot and this should not be happening in this community.

"UNAPPROVED" October 6, 2022

Councilmember Gass said he will sincerely miss Councilmember Zenge and her filter-less responses off the record. He thanked her for her years of service, and said she has always been a level-headed, sensible voice on the Council, and will definitely be missed. He welcomed the new manager. He said he is glad the election is over and is thrilled we do not have to worry about a 38% cut to the library's funding. He felt it is important that we figure out how to come back together as a community, and listen to the people in the borough that voted the other way, and find some common ground and compromise.

Councilmember Gage thanked Councilmember Zenge and said it has been a pleasure working with her. She informed that she will always fight for everyone in this community on a daily basis and will always speak her mind. She stated just because she goes to events and photographs them does not mean that she put that event together.

Councilmember Zenge welcomed the new manager. She said she never thought she would see eye-to-eye with Councilmember Gass, but he has some great ideas and is very respectful, and appreciates their candid conversations and it has been a pleasure working with him. She said she appreciates everyone on this Council. She stated there have been some great folks who have stepped up and become Councilmembers. She said people should run for City Council because it is a way you can help your community, and you learn so much about your community.

Vice-Mayor Flora welcomed Ms. Walsh and said we are very happy to have you here, and we understand the job in front of you, and the Council is here to help in any way we can. Please tell us what we need to hear, not what we want to hear because that is one of the best services to this community that you can do. He said you are lucky that you have a very capable assistant manager and a good staff. He informed we have staffing challenges and financial challenges and we will handle them together one by one. He said to Councilmember Zenge that she talked him into running for Council, for which he will never forgive her. He stated Councilmember Zenge has been an outstanding mentor and her departure is a loss for the community. He said her service to this community goes far beyond what happens at this dais.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS – None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Request for Executive Session – Discussion of Strategies Relative to Negotiation of a New Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Ketchikan and the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 2761 to Replace the Existing Contract that Expired December 31, 2021

Moved by Gage, seconded by Mahtani the City Council declare that consistent with the Acting City Manager's memorandum dated September 28, 2022 it is in the best interest of the City to discuss strategies relative to negotiation of a new collective bargaining agreement between the City of Ketchikan and the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 2761 to replace the existing contract that expired December 31, 2021 in executive session; in accordance with that finding, the City Council go into executive session in accordance with Ketchikan Municipal Code 2.04.025(a)(1) to discuss said negotiations and the auxiliary items described in the Acting City Manager's memorandum which matters include the need to discuss subjects the knowledge of which would have an adverse impact upon the finances of the City and upon the City's ability to negotiate favorable labor agreements.

"UNAPPROVED"

October 6, 2022

Motion passed with Bradberry, Flora, Mahtani, Kistler, Gass, Zenge and Gage voting yea.

The Council took a short break at 9:40 p.m. and recessed into executive session at 9:45 p.m. and reconvened into regular session at 9:55 p.m.

Vice-Mayor Flora said the Council has completed its executive session to discuss strategies relative to negotiation of a new collective bargaining agreement between the City of Ketchikan and the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 2761 to replace the existing contract that expired December 31, 2021 and direction was given to staff.

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, the Council adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Mark Flora, Vice-Mayor

ATTEST:

Kim Stanker, MMC
City Clerk

FYI ITEMS INCLUDED

Ketchikan Visitors Bureau's Quarterly Reports of the President and Chief Executive Officer – January Through March 2022