

Minutes of the August 14 2019 Council meeting.

The meeting was call to order at 7:02.

President Fisher asked for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion was made by Vice President Linda Conover. There was no discussion and the motion was passed.

A motion to approve the May minutes was requested. The motion was made and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer Michaelson presented the Treasurer's report.

Lori Benner-Hanson, Chair of the Trails Committee reported that Seymour Lake access got some fill for a poorly drained area. She was not sure who did the work.

Safety Chair Chad Scott discussed the Council's Neighborhood Watch project and reached out to see if people were interested in forming a watch group. The group needs to include at least five residents.

Sports field: Signs have been installed to recognize donors for the sport's fields. Local people are starting to use the new trail around the sports field. The alders were cleared off the bluff above the field.

Presentation: Ralf Lysdahl, Alaska Wildlife Trooper. Been all over the state working as a Trooper. Blue shirts (regular Troopers), brown shirts are wildlife troopers. They do speeding tickets, assaults, domestic violence response supporting other troopers. Do patrols on ATVs and snow machines. Respond to poaching. Vehicles in distress. Drugs lead to property crimes, being vigilant helps. Two wildlife troopers and a sergeant to cover the mat-Su. Don't be a soft target, cameras, lock doors. Asked people to say something if they see something. Go to popular spots to talk to as many people as possible and check licenses, tags, catch limits, harvesting. 6 to 7 blue shirts per day, could use double that number. Are blue shirts trained on wildlife trooper stuff? Generally no. If you call with a wildlife violation, ask for a brown shirt. Most common violation is not having your license on you. Now a correctable offence. Not checking off tag when moose is harvested. Same with kings. Small sheep. Come turn yourself in if it happens. Small fine and they will take the harvest, but doesn't have a large fine, jail, taking assets. If you see violations take photos, video, license plates, but don't put yourself in harms way.

Correspondence as listed in the Agenda: Write to the borough if you have a comment.

Bylaw revision: The proposed Bylaw revision proposed a change of the minimum age of a Community (non-voting) Member. The proposed changed failed.

Membership Chair: Motion to approve Holly Grant as Membership Chair passed.

Discussion of policing options for the Borough: Police powers would need to be voted on by the people of the Borough. The options being discussed by the Police Powers Board are: 1) Fully staffed police department under borough control. It would be expensive, with a mill rate increase of possibly 50%. A concern is that with a Borough Police Department, the Valley might lose Troopers. 2) 20 officer task force. No routine tasks, specialize on burglary and drugs. No cost specified. 3) Non-areawide police service areas (PSAs), setup like RSAs. There would be a specific rate to an area. Negative aspect might be that it could be restrictive to transfers for policy employees. A big negative is that the liability is local. 4) Non-policing option. Encourage the borough to pick up tasks to increase safety. Increase code compliance. Neighborhood watch. Security lighting. Community assisted programs.

Lee Ames stated that a sheriff should be considered. It should be a voted-on position. Kim Kalmbach asked about expanding Wasilla police? They are on the task force. So far nowhere has been willing to pay the proposed price for services.

Will written testimony be accepted by the Police Powers Board? Yes.

The Council should invite the Department of Law Prosecutors to come give a talk to the Council. There has to be a balance between police arrests and the capacity to prosecute.

Number of issues. Poor properties/districts/communities would be able to pay, but some communities would not, which doesn't mean they don't need policing.

How about focusing on making the existing system better? Fill unfilled Trooper positions. No traction for this with current administration.

Consider a specific sales tax for policing. No mechanism to do this in the Borough. No way to protect the funds currently. No earmarks.

Suggestion: Community Neighborhood Watch helps: Meet your neighbors and get their phone numbers.

Cindy worked with the Troopers to evict people. People can be evicted in the winter. Have to stay within the law or you go to jail.

Look at combining options.

Senator Wilson: Senator Shower's staff and Rep. Eastman's staff also at the meeting. Capital budget was passed last week, including funding for the new crime bills. Additional money was included for prosecutors and reopening Palmer jail. With regard to property: there is a database of VIN numbers, etc. It is important to write down the VINs and serial numbers of your valuable items. Is there a burglary task force? Yes. Likely a \$1,600 dividend at this point, still on the table. There may be a third special session to discuss it. Transportation Fair in September. Chad would like the bridge vandalism/graffiti removed.

Assembly Member Boeve: Please stay engaged in policing discussion. The Assembly will vote to put the issue on the ballot. All residents will have the chance to vote on it. If people are evicted, they will just move to a different area. Another code compliance officer has been hired. Can the bad properties be made into parks? Like Williwaw? Yes. Hot topic is 2% sales tax. Likely it will not move forward this year. The money is needed, but not a great time.

The Borough Assembly budget anticipated the state not paying their share of the school bond debt reimbursement. If we do not need to use all of that funding, there is proposed legislation to provide a property tax rebate to residents. The legislation passed but was pulled for reconsideration.

There is a group of companies interested in purchasing beetle kill trees for wood chipping/pellet production. There are a lot of details to work out before a contract would be signed.

A 2% Sales Tax is being considered by the Assembly. It would require voter approval and could be on the November ballot.

There is proposal to limit Assembly term limits to one three-year term (currently limited to two). The term limits proposal would have to be voted on by the people. Camden has been appointed to the Meadow Lakes RSA. Changes to the lake management system are currently tabled. Planning department is working on plans based on lake size. Land management funds allocated to Willow Library and Fish Creek Bridge. The fund has to be used for infrastructure.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Patricia Fisher, President

Linda Conover, Vice President