

MINUTES FROM A REGULAR MEETING  
OF SELDOVIA CITY COUNCIL  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
Monday  
February 25, 2019  
6:00pm

SWEATT  
COLBERG  
CAMPBELL  
MORRISON  
ROJAS  
LETHIN

- A. Call to Order & Roll Call: MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY MAYOR LENT AT 6:00 PM  
PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBERS: SWEATT, COLBERG, CAMPBELL-telephonic, MORRISON, ROJAS, and  
LETHIN-telephonic

STAFF: CITY MANAGER CAMERON  
FINANCE OFFICER TAYLOR  
POLICE CHIEF CUSHMAN  
CITY CLERK GEAGEL

- B. Pledge of Allegiance: Held  
C. Excused Absences: None  
D. Agenda Approval:

ROJAS/COLBERG MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FEBRUARY 25, 2019  
VOICE VOTE/UNANIMOUS/MOTION PASSED

- E. Consent Agenda: *(All items under the Consent Agenda are approved with a single motion, no discussion, and one vote. A Council Member may request to remove an item(s) for discussion and a separate vote.)*

1. Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the Regular Meeting, February 11, 2019
2. Payment Approval Report: Payment Approval Report 02/01/2019-02/28/2019
3. Ordinance Introduction:

ROJAS/SWEATT MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA  
VOICE VOTE/UNANIMOUS/MOTION PASSED

- F. Mayoral Proclamations: None  
G. Public Presentation Prior Notice: (each presenter has up to 10 min) None  
H. Public Presentation for Items not on Agenda: (public has 3 min each)  
LAUREL HILTS, resident and president of the Seldovia Arts Council- Discussed that the following evening at 6pm there would be a community gathering at the SOCC to discuss climate action and its effects. It would be an ongoing series, Brett would do a 15-minute talk on a topic followed by question and answers, eventually they will try to make some action goals and plans. SVT, the Arts Council, and the Sea Otter Community Center met to discuss the Seldovia fine arts camp, they took a one-year hiatus last summer and are looking to start again. They will be planning a community meeting in regards to what ideas the community might have for how the fine arts camp takes place in Seldovia, things they have done in the past or may want to do.  
I. Committee and Advisory Board Reports: (each member has 5 min)  
1. Cemetery Update-  
GREG WOLFER, cemetery commission member- Reported on the cemetery meeting held the previous week where they discussed a wish list for a \$14,000.00 Rasmuson grant. He reported that there was \$950.00 in the cemetery fund account, with \$350.00 collected in January. The wish list included a 16x20 shed, a lawn mower, a trailer, two more weed eaters, a utility trailer, push mower, and grass seed. They had about 160 finished crosses and 300 more to go. MAYOR LENT- Discussed that they needed 173 stands for name plates out of material.  
J. Public Hearings: None  
K. Unfinished Business: None  
L. New Business:  
1. Discussion- DOT Land Relinquishment Application- Seldovia Airport  
a. Presentation by Staff or Council

CM CAMERON- Presented the city council with a Land Relinquishment Application from the DOT, along with an email discussing the process for land relinquishment. She had been in discussion with the deputy commissioner and had been emailed a very in-depth path forward. She discussed that the beginning fees would be \$8000.00 plus the purchase price and could take three months up to one to two years before they actually have ownership, if indeed FAA would like to relinquish that piece of the property, it was not guaranteed. Once the city submitted the application and the as-built, they would need to advertise on behalf of the state that the land was being disposed. Then a survey and a replat would be need to be done and everything would be at the cost of the buyer. She discussed that they did currently have a utility permit that was completed in August allowing the city to maintain the utility. She had inquired with DOT if that included access to the utility and was informed that it did even though the definition was not included in their code. She discussed that funds for the purchase could come from the Permanent Fund. The utility permit the city had now had no limitations and was for the life of the utility. After speaking with the Deputy Commissioner Mr. Binder, the DOT was not convinced that FAA would grant a public easement for FAA land as a matter of Homeland Security, the land was FAA managed as it was an airport. She described the land being discussed for purchase as the property on the road behind George's shop up to the reservoir, from the small corner of the ridge to the Y. She apologized if she had misunderstood the want for a public easement in the conversation and discussed that the acquisition of the land was a global solution for all the property owners on the hill to have unfettered access to their lands, without regulations from FAA and DOT. She stated it was a non aeronautical space. She inquired if council would like her to go back to Mr. Binder to inquire about public easement access.

b. Council Discussion

COLBERG- Inquired where the funds would come from and spoke in support of moving forward with the land relinquishment application.

MORRISON- Inquired if the city was given long-term access with the utility permit and if the city's main concern was to open the access for someone else to be able to use.

LETHIN- Spoke in support of a public easement instead of an acquisition of the property. He disclosed that he had talked with Fred with the state airport leasing, who had stated that it would be a lot easier and cheaper to get a public easement. He discussed that it was not FAA land, it was state land.

ROJAS- Inquired about the cost of the application and associated costs and asked for a description of the property being discussed. She spoke in support of moving forward with the land relinquishment application and asked the city manager to talk to Fred one more time and then come back to the next meeting so that the city council could vote and move forward.

SWEATT- Spoke in support of moving forward with the land relinquishment application and inquired if the acquisition would allow the city to take care of the Rocky Ridge trail. She spoke in support of having the city manager make one more phone call.

CAMPBELL- Inquired about access for people crossing the Rocky Ridge Trail and discussed that it was unknown what would happen with FAA in the future. He discussed that usually easements followed with life of property, but that it would depend on the definition of what type of public easement was granted, if it was truly public or just access for those property owners in the area.

c. Public Presentation or Hearing (public has 3 min each)

MAYOR LENT called for public comment and none was offered.

d. Action/Disposition

THE CITY COUNCIL DIRECTED THE CITY MANAGER TO MAKE ONE MORE PHONE CALL ABOUT OBTAINING A PUBLIC EASEMENT AND THAN COME BACK TO THE CITY COUNCIL

2. Discussion- Governor Dunleavy FY2020 Amended Budget State of Alaska

a. Presentation by Staff or Council

CM CAMERON- Presented an informational memorandum about the potential impacts to the City of Seldovia from Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget. She discussed that AML (Alaska Municipal League) had been communicating extensively with communities and were wanting communities that wanted to respond to the

budget to speak with a unified voice to be directed to the state. She asked for council consideration of the potential impacts to the community and if they would like to voice concerns on the proposed budget. She discussed that the Kenai Peninsula Borough had a resolution on table to be addressed on March 5<sup>th</sup> that would address tax credits. She inquired if the city council would like to send a letter, a resolution, or both, and she asked for the order of priority of the requests. She discussed that she had reached out to Mayor Branson and the City of Kodiak and they were graciously taking Seldovia under their wing with their lobbyists down in Juneau right now and they were making sure that Seldovia had a small voice at the table.

b. Council Discussion

ROJAS- Spoke in support of joining forces with AML and drafting the effects on the community. She spoke in support of including the need for consideration for a broad base tax and bringing in a revenue as part of the solution to the state. She discussed that the Alaska Marine Highway, education, public safety assistance, and community revenue sharing were huge hits. The Alaska Fishery Tax was still a little hit to Seldovia, the petroleum tax was a huge hit for the borough. She discussed that the above mentioned were direct hits that they could tangibly see. She discussed that there was a whole lobbying group working against the oil credit restructure.

LETHIN- Discussed the need for the state to live within their means and going through the budget process in order to downsize. He suggested looking at the city's boundary issue and expanding the taxable base.

COLBERG- Spoke in agreement with Rojas and spoke in opposition of expanding the city's boundaries.

MAYOR LENT- Discussed that annexation would mean more revenue.

SWEATT- Spoke in support of joining forces with AML and drafting the effects on the community and in support of looking at revenues as part of the solution. She spoke in support of sending Cassidi to Juneau to lobby for the City of Seldovia.

CAMPBELL- Discussed that the government by design did not operate at optimum efficiency and that Seldovia ran a very lean government. Unfortunately, there would be a much more dramatic impact on smaller communities with less residents. He discussed that they were going to have to think outside of box, and that it was still a point to expand the boundaries, but was expensive and probably not the time. He suggested considering a seasonal summer tax for visitors and stated that Seldovia would be devastated without any marine highway service and that legislation was running five weeks behind and there would be a special session this year. He spoke in support of sending Cassidi to Juneau directly to attend the more important committee meetings. He spoke in support of writing joint resolution and discussed the AML impact statement being developed with communities. He stated that he would like to see what the city manager quantified in a resolution, including senior meals and their large aging population.

c. Public Presentation or Hearing (public has 3 min each)

WALT SONEN, resident- Commended Cassidi for getting the list of potential impacts together and discussed that even with ferry schedule cuts AMHS will still have to pay the crew, who would be collecting wages whether they were sitting in port or not. He spoke in support of an income tax revenue.

LAUREL HILTS, resident- Spoke in support of the city council writing a resolution and specifically including the need for a state income tax and to change the statutes in relation to the PFD so that it was not a mandated pay out to Alaskans. She discussed not wanting to give money back to an agency that was not fiscally sound, but would support having a limit on the PFD, until then they need to follow the statutes and not reduce the cost of the payout.

ROGER FORSBERG, resident- Discussed that the budget was proposed by the governor and inquired how close to reality it would be.

ALIX CHARTIER, resident- Inquired if there were any cities or communities that were hoping to address reconfiguring the whole oil credit structure.

d. Action/Disposition

**THE CITY COUNCIL DIRECTED THE CITY MANAGER TO DRAFT A RESOLUTION OR A LETTER AND AN IMPACT STATEMENT QUANTIFYING THE POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO A SMALL COMMUNITY**

M. Administration Reports:

1. Treasurer's Report: See Laydown

F/O TAYLOR- Presented the treasurer's report for December 2018 and January 2019 as written.

2. City Manager's Report: See Laydown

CM CAMERON- Presented the city manager's report as written and included; that two water infrastructure projects were on hold due to staff illness and weather. She was working on FY2020 budget prep, work sessions, fee schedule, as well as a state budget analysis. Altman and Rogers were drafting an FY17 audit report which should be available for the next council meeting. She met with Chief Cushman and as well as EMS and the fire department about the Emergency Operations Plan, she was working through the feedback she was given and it was coming along. HEA and ACS had agreed to come over and hold a public meeting with a back in forth as well as public information on what they are doing to mitigate issues that they had been having on March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Sea Otter Community Center. She will be meeting with HEA and ACS in the afternoon prior to the meeting. If there were any specific questions HEA and ACS would like to know and those questions could be emailed or the city office could be called and the questions would be passed on to both businesses in order for them to prepare for the meeting. She discussed that they were hoping to have the auction from the clinic clean up in April. Community cleanup was scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup>, the City would be partnering with SOCC for the event. Jan Yaeger and herself were working with Karen Bornheimer for the SWPPP public outreach piece to get the kids up to the water treatment plant. She discussed that last year it worked very well to arrange with DOT for the street sweeper equipment and the city guys did the sweeping. It was a little more cost effective to have the guys labor and the price of a ferry ticket for the equipment for the street sweeping. There would be an auction list and the auction would be a very public process.

LAUREL HILTS, resident- Inquired if the streets would be able to be swept before tourist season.

ALIX CHARTIER, resident- Inquired if there would be a list for auction.

3. Chief of Police Report: See Laydown, as written.

ROJAS- Inquired about the meaning of a 10-50.

CHIEF CUSHMAN- Discussed that a 10-50 was a car accident. The animal call was for a dead eagle that was sick initially. He discussed digitizing 11,000 old log sheets of the daily calls received equaling four boxes, he had not gotten to the reports yet, just the log sheets.

MORRISON- Inquired if the animal call was an early bear.

SWEATT- Stated that it was great to see everything getting cleaned up and thanked Paul.

M. Informational Items Not Requiring Action:

1. The next FY20 Budget Workshop is scheduled for March 11, 2019 at 4:00pm

O. Executive Session: None

P. Council and Mayor Comments Concerning Items Not on the Agenda:

SWEATT- Thanked everybody for being there and the girls for all the hard work they do. She thanked Roger for taking an interest in the P&Z.

COLBERG- Thanked everyone for coming and the ladies in the office for their hard work. He discussed that the governor's budget was just scare tactics, such as repealing the current legislation providing property taxes, to get his way, but that they really could cut frivolous things out of the way. One of those things for him was the school districts, he stated he did not believe they were a school district any longer, they are a management corporation, 90% of the money they received went to management, cut 80% management and hire more teachers and then they would have a school district. Spending the Permanent Dividend Fund on state government would not do them any good, it would take them two years to spend all of the fund and then they would be broke again. He discussed that in the 80s the media went into the finance division and there were checks returned all over on the floor, \$380,000,000, addressed to cartoon characters and dead presidents. The legislatures said they would fix the problem, the next year the media went back and saw the same thing. The legislatures fixed the problem after that by passing a law that the media was no longer allowed in the finance department. In writing the state was audited from 1972 to 1985, and 50% of all the money the state received, not counting the money that went in to the permanent fund, disappeared without a trace, but there was a trace of checks being cashed all over the world, the smallest ones for 13 million. He discussed that he would like to see that if Cassidi goes to Juneau that she reminds them of that fact, there was lots of money it just needs to be accounted for and recovered. 50% of 13 years' worth of money is in the trillions, if they recovered all that money every person in this state would be a multi-millionaire. He stated it was just scare tactics, it would get changed and if they were really hurting for money, then it was time that the state started recovering money. He stated that the price of oil was supposed to go up in the third week of June, watch the news they are talking about why the oil is going to go up, it does it every single year. He stated that yes, the definitely needed to get together and talk to the government in Juneau.

CAMPBELL- Thanked the public and the staff for all the information put together. He stated that he appreciated a good chunk of John's remarks, some of them were spot on, including the part about the pfd. If you let them spend it, they were going to spend it all and it would be gone forever. The remark also echoed what Laurel had to say in the audience. He spoke in appreciation for everyone coming tonight.

MORRISON-Thanked everybody for being there, congrats on the planning and zoning, good job on the cemetery Greg, Paul good job, ladies keep up the good work, thanks.

ROJAS- Gave thank you's all around, and asked the public to please come back to the next meeting and budget meeting, it was always good to have input. She congratulated Roger for joining P&Z, and stated that they were still missing two people on that board, so if anyone wants to step forward or pass the word around. Thank you all, we had a short meeting tonight.

LETHIN- Thanked the staff for all their hard work and everybody that was there from the public.

MAYOR LENT- Stated ditto to everything, and spoke in appreciation of everyone being there.

Q. Next Meeting: Regular Meeting will be held on Monday, March 11, 2019 at 6:00 pm

R. Adjournment:

ROJAS/COLBERG MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:15 PM  
NO OBJECTION/MOTION PASSED

I certify the above represents accurate minutes of City of Seldovia Council meeting of February 25, 2019.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Heidi Geagel, City Clerk

Approved by Council 03/11/2019

