1. **Call To Order:**
Mayor Cremata called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. **Roll Call:**
**Present:** Mayor: Andrew Cremata Assembly Members: David Brena, Steve Burnham Jr., Orion Hanson, Dan Henry, Dustin Stone  
**Absent:** Jay Burnham (excused by roll call vote, 5 yes, 0 no, 1 absent)

3. **Approval of Minutes:**
Minutes for the February 6, 2020 regular Assembly meeting were approved as presented by roll call vote, 5 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

4. **Approval of Agenda:**
The agenda of the February 20, 2020 regular Assembly meeting was approved as presented by roll call vote, 5 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

5. **Reports of Officials and Committees:**
   
   **A. Mayor’s Report:**
Mayor Cremata indicated that his written report is in the meeting packet. Mayor Cremata reported on the ferry situation and noted that Haines is bringing in an Allen Marine vessel over the weekend; if utilized by Skagway, the shared cost of the vessel would be $5,000 and depending on demand the cost might not be recouped. Mayor Cremata indicated that there are many variables and logistics being discussed; ideally the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) would cover the cost of this alternative transportation, but it has not yet reached out to the Municipality.

   **B1. Finance Committee:**
**Motion/Second: S. Burnham/Brena**

To approve the check run for February 20, 2020:

- General checks 119807 through 119863 and ACHs totaling $214,832.78;  
- Payroll checks 119804 through 119806 and Direct Deposits DD22412 through DD22470 totaling $122,091.27;  
- Grand total of $336,924.05.

**Motion passed by roll call vote, 5 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.**

Assemblyman S. Burnham reported that the Finance Committee reviewed a draft ordinance amending code regarding water and sewer connections and recommended that it be introduced to the Assembly. Assemblyman S. Burnham indicated that the Finance Committee recommends that the Borough Assessor contract be referred back to the scoring committee with direction to hire an
assessor only, with no reference to Title 16 appraisal language. Assemblyman S. Burnham indicated that the Finance Committee recommended approving the Bobcat purchase for $45,000 and the Public Works truck purchase for $44,236.

B2. **Public Safety Committee:**
Assemblyman Henry noted that the work done by the Krosswalk Kangaroos has culminated in Resolution No. 20-04R, which will be considered by the Assembly under item 7E.

B3. **Public Works Committee:**
Assemblyman Hanson noted that the Bobcat purchase is for use at the new composter facility. Assemblyman Hanson indicated that the Planning and Zoning Commission (P&Z) elected Philip Clark as chair and Matt Deach as vice-chair; Ordinance No. 20-05 was proposed by P&Z and will be considered by the Assembly under item 7C. Assemblyman Hanson reported that P&Z approved a plat for a municipal entitlement parcel near Black Lake; this will be recorded with the State of Alaska.

Assemblyman Hanson reported that the Port Commission met that day and discussed differences between a Port Director and a Port Planner and the structure under which they would work; the Municipality needs a Port Planner more than a director at this time.

B4. **Civic Affairs Committee:**
Assemblyman Brena indicated that the Civic Affairs Committee did not meet, but the Borough Assessor scoring committee met and he will provide a report under item 9B.

B5. **Health, Education and Welfare Committee:**
Assemblyman Stone reported that the Skagway Development Corporation (SDC) met, approved its budget, and discussed new revenue generation.

B6. **Parks and Recreation Committee:** None.

C. **Staff Report:**
Manager Ryan reported on the question from the February 6 Assembly meeting regarding the frequency of bond payments; there are two payments annually, one for principal and interest, and one for just interest.

6. **Communications to the Assembly:**

A. **Correspondence:**
The following correspondence is included in the meeting packet:
- The Municipality of Skagway’s response to H. Clay Keene’s letter re: Skagway Tidelands Lease;
- A letter from Dustin Craney of Sockeye Cycle re: Dyea Flats tour permits;

No additional correspondence was received.
B. Hear Citizens Present:
Robert Murphy spoke in support of Dyea Flats commercial operator permits and the requirement that under current municipal code, permits cannot be transferred if ownership changes. Mr. Murphy indicated that he would like more flexibility with the permit, and his company has always been a good steward of the Dyea Flats and has a good history doing business there. Mr. Murphy indicated he would like the permit to allow operation on the Dyea Flats at current volume. Mr. Murphy asked when something will be done with all of the cars with orange stickers around town.

Steven Briody indicated that he supports Ordinance No. 20-05 which amends the definition of “yurt,” and he supports Resolution No. 20-03R regarding the Alaska Marine Highway System (AMHS).

Tom Cochran, team member, Future Bowl State Champions 1983, indicated he supports Resolution No. 20-03R regarding AMHS. Mr. Cochran thanked the Assembly for hiring legal counsel to handle port issues; the response letter to Mr. Keene is well done and overdue.

Mike Korsmo, former Assembly member and current member of the Marine Highway Ad Hoc Committee, Port Commission, and Log Cabin Ski Society (LCSS), indicated that having the Tazlina on the ferry schedule for March 6 and March 8 is good for the Buckwheat Ski Classic. Mr. Korsmo indicated that there is concern in the community about the ferry system, and many do not trust that the ferries will run on schedule; if AMHS is unable to support its schedule, it should be strongly encouraged to pay for the cost of alternative marine transportation. Mr. Korsmo indicated that he supports Resolution No. 20-03R regarding AMHS.

Ken Russo indicated he is feeling good about the direction the Municipality is taking with the Port of Skagway, and he is encouraged that the Municipality is looking at taking over the port either directly or indirectly. Mr. Russo indicated that if the Municipality issues a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the port, it should ensure it maintains control of the property and the revenue stream. Mr. Russo indicated that the Municipality and Port Commission is looking at alternative scenarios for port development but should focus efforts and funding on 2023 and taking over the port, rather than a scattershot approach. Mr. Russo indicated that White Pass will not give up the docks easily, and will not maintain them in the meantime. Mr. Russo noted that discussing plans for a dock at the ferry terminal peninsula muddies the waters in the context of supporting the ferry system; he agrees the dock is needed but the focus should instead be on the two existing docks. Mr. Russo indicated that there is not much room to separate tourism and industrial uses in the port. Mr. Russo indicated that he supports Resolution No. 20-03R regarding AMHS.

7. Ordinances, Resolutions & Proclamations:
A. Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance No. 20-06: Amending the FY20 General Fund, Tourism Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Water/Sewer Fund, CPV Excise Tax Fund, and Sales Tax Fund to Allocate Funding for a Public Works Mechanic Position, Carry-Over Expenses from FY19, and Project Expenses, and to Account for Grant Funding

Motion/Second: Henry/Hanson
To have introduction and first reading of Ordinance No. 20-06.

Assemblyman Hanson indicated that there is a lot rolled into this budget amendment but it is all needed. Assemblyman Hanson noted that there was a well-attended meeting about the Dyea Flats and Nahku Bay cabins, and a cabin on the Flats would be a good way to encourage someone to serve as a Dyea Flats campground host. Assemblyman Hanson indicated that he believes the Nahku Bay a-frame cabin is repairable and is in the same condition as the Upper Lake cabin.

Motion passed by roll call vote, 5 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

B. Public Hearing, Second Reading, and Adoption of Ordinance No. 20-04: Amending SMC Section 3.12.070 Meetings to Clarify Meeting Requirements of the Library Board

Motion/Second: Henry/Brena

To adopt Ordinance No. 20-04.

Mayor Cremata opened the hearing to the public. No comments were made; Mayor Cremata closed the hearing to the public.

Motion passed by roll call vote, 5 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

C. Public Hearing, Second Reading, and Adoption of Ordinance No. 20-05: Amending SMC Section 19.02.065(B) Specific Definitions to Establish a Definition for “Yurt”

Motion/Second: Henry/Hanson

To adopt Ordinance No. 20-05.

Mayor Cremata opened the hearing to the public. No comments were made; Mayor Cremata closed the hearing to the public.

Motion/Second: Brena/Henry

To amend Ordinance No. 20-05 to add language that yurts are prohibited east of the Skagway River and south of 23rd Avenue.

Assemblyman Hanson indicated that he can see this both ways; there is an aesthetic impact but the yurts will not be prevalent. Assemblyman Hanson noted that P&Z discussed at length that if yurts are allowed as residences, they should be allowed in all zones.

Motion to amend passed by roll call vote with Assemblyman Stone dissenting, 4 yes, 1 no, 1 absent.
Main motion as amended passed by roll call vote, 5 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

D. **Public Hearing and Adoption of Resolution No. 20-03R**: Supporting the Alaska Marine Highway System and Day Boat Service in Lynn Canal

**Motion/Second: Henry/Hanson**

To adopt Resolution No. 20-03R.

Mayor Cremata opened the hearing to the public.

Jan Wrentmore spoke in support of the resolution and noted that it is a long-held position of the Municipality to support day boat service in the Lynn Canal; the Municipality has lobbied for day boat service since the 1990s. Ms. Wrentmore indicated that despite AMHS being in crisis, the Lynn Canal can still be served efficiently with the necessary infrastructure.

No additional comments were made; Mayor Cremata closed the hearing to the public.

**Motion passed by roll call vote, 5 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.**

E. **Public Hearing and Adoption of Resolution No. 20-04R**: Establishing and Approving the Locations of Crosswalks Within the Skagway Townsite

**Motion/Second: Henry/Hanson**

To adopt Resolution No. 20-04R.

Mayor Cremata opened the hearing to the public.

Jaime Bricker, White Pass and Yukon Route employee and School Board member, thanked the Assembly for the resolution and noted that she has followed this project from the beginning. Ms. Bricker indicated that the process shows students that they have a voice in their community, which is hugely important and appreciated.

No additional comments were made; Mayor Cremata closed the hearing to the public.

**Motion passed by roll call vote, 5 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.**

8. **Unfinished Business:** None.

9. **New Business:**

   A. **Dyea Community Advisory Board Letter re: Dyea Flats Operator Permits**

   The Assembly had no objection referring this item to the Parks and Recreation Committee for discussion and recommendation to the Assembly.
B. **Borough Assessor Contract**

Assemblyman Brena indicated that he was the Assembly member on the scoring committee for the borough assessor contract, though he was not involved in drafting the RFP. Assemblyman Brena indicated that the scoring committee discussed references in the RFP to appraisals as well as assessments, and most of the tax assessors in the State of Alaska that do contract work are not generally certified to do appraisals. Assemblyman Brena indicated that having the appraisal language in the contract precluded qualified assessors from being able to do the work, and he listed for the manager those who typically do assessment contracts in Alaska: Ron Brown, Mike Renfro, Wendy Lawrence, Charles Horan, and Jim Canary. Assemblyman Brena indicated that given the limitations of the RFP, the scoring committee did not have a recommendation, and the matter has also been discussed with the Finance Committee and manager. Assemblyman Brena noted that the Civic Affairs Committee has drafted language amending Title 16 regarding how appraisals are conducted.

**Motion/Second: Brena/S. Burnham**

To instruct management to clarify the borough assessor contract by removing any requirement to complete appraisals, and refer the matter back to the [scoring] committee for a recommendation by the next Assembly meeting.

Assemblyman S. Burnham noted that this was discussed by the Finance Committee, which thought it best to hire an assessor; the scoring committee would be directed to consider hiring an assessor only and subsequent code changes would follow. Assemblyman S. Burnham indicated that this has been vetted by the borough attorney and is deemed an acceptable course of action.

**Motion passed by roll call vote, 5 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.**

C. **Approval of Bobcat Skid-Steer Loader Purchase for Public Works Department**

**Motion/Second: S. Burnham/Brena**

To approve the Bobcat skid-steer loader purchase for the Public Works Department in the amount of $45,000.

Assemblyman Hanson noted that the loader would be used at the new composter facility.

**Motion passed by roll call vote, 5 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.**

D. **Approval of Truck Purchase for Public Works Department**

**Motion/Second: S. Burnham/Brena**

To approve the 2020 Silverado 2500 Reg Cab 4WD truck purchase for the Public Works Department in the amount of $44,236.
Assemblyman Hanson noted that the cost of this purchase is included in the FY20 major equipment budget.

Motion passed by roll call vote, 5 yes, 0 no, 1 absent.

10. Executive Session: None Scheduled.

11. Mayor and Assembly Discussion Items:
Assemblyman Hanson indicated that AMHS day boat service is a great solution for Skagway; the Municipality should look at what it can make work for the community that serves its needs. Assemblyman Hanson indicated that in perspective, other communities are running out of food and the situation is bleak; solutions are needed, not just critique.

Assemblyman S. Burnham noted that the Finance Committee discussed that the Municipality was granted extensions on its legislative grants. Assemblyman S. Burnham asked if the Port Commission had discussed the position of Port Development Director in addition to Port Planner. Assemblyman Hanson indicated that the Commission had discussed the position as it was approved in 2014.

Assemblyman S. Burnham indicated that he and Kim suffered a serious loss when their dog recently passed away. Assemblyman S. Burnham indicated that she was family and was a cool dog, and he thanked Paws and Claws for all of their help.

Assemblyman Brena noted that part of the reasoning in moving the ferry to the west side of the port is that the ferry peninsula land may be available to the Municipality prior to 2023; if this occurs a dock that can berth two cruise ships and the ferry could be constructed and utilized by the Municipality sooner than the existing docks. Assemblyman Brena indicated that White Pass will not release the land until the lease expires, and if the property is not completely remediated when it is returned to the Municipality it will take a year to complete the remediation and build a new dock. Assemblyman Brena indicated that use of the ferry peninsula is the only option to get a municipal dock online in a reasonable amount of time. Assemblyman Brena noted that the revenue projection for the dock was $10 million after paying back revenue bonds.

Assemblyman Stone indicated that ferries and day boats are good, and not having them is bad.

Mayor Cremata thanked the Marine Highway Ad Hoc Committee for its help drafting Resolution No. 20-03R. Mayor Cremata indicated that Governor Dunleavy’s recent press conference was positive.
12. **Adjournment:**
With no business before the Assembly, Mayor Cremata adjourned the regular Assembly meeting of February 20, 2020 at 7:51 p.m.

[Signature]
Andrew Cremata, Mayor

**ATTEST:**

[Signature]
Emily A. Deach
Municipal Clerk

(SEAL)

Approved: March 5, 2020