



MUNICIPALITY OF SKAGWAY, ALASKA
SPECIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

September 27, 2022
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1. **Call to Order:**

Mayor Cremata called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **Roll Call:**

Present: Mayor: Andrew Cremata **Assembly Members:** Sam Bass, Jay Burnham, Reba Hylton, Deb Potter, Dustin Stone, Orion Hanson

Absent:

3. **Proof of Notice:**

The Borough Clerk indicated that the 'Proof of Notice' was printed on the back of the agenda as well as at the back of the room and posted on boards around town.

4. **Hear Citizens Present:**

Beverly Soja indicated that:

- There is well documented pollution underneath the dilapidated wooden Ore dock, and she would like to know if Skagway will be in compliance with Ordinance 21-07, which sets higher standards than Alaska standards.
- She would like to know if the \$65 million bond is going to be used for clean-up of the pollution, and whether WPYR will be held accountable for reimbursing those costs.
- She does not see how the removal of the dock, pollution clean up to MOS standards, and building of a new Ore dock can be done in less than one year.

Nancy Corrington indicated that:

- She appreciates the Assembly having this meeting.
- As a business owner in Skagway, she has joined the Committee for Port Protection because she is afraid of not having enough cruise ships.
- Due to supply limits, ordering needs to be done in August and it is unknown if we are going to have 900,000 visitors next year or if White Pass will even be able to use the Railroad dock.
- She does not believe the rockslide was taken into consideration when the Alternative Mooring Plan was proposed.
- The plan does not allow flexibility for the industrial part of the Port and the presentations have been vague.
- People she has spoken with feel they have not been included and feel coerced into voting yes out of fear that there will not be ships.

Paul Taylor indicated that:

- He has had a long career on the waterfront, and has a great interest in the future development of our Port.
- He has 5 questions regarding the Technical Simulation Study Proposal:
 - Is the time outlook for the navigation limited?
 - What vessel navigates?
 - What vessel would be moored at the Broadway dock?
 - Is the existing model being utilized or the KPFF 30% Plan G8?

- If the simulation is not working out, will the Municipality consider what would happen if you shifted the floating dock southward and see what that will do to the navigation issues?

5. **Consideration of the Technical Simulation Study Proposal**

Main Motion/Second: Potter/Bass to consider the Technical Simulation Study Proposal for \$106,425

Port Director Jennings indicated that:

- The simulation will be attended by 4 pilots from the Southeast Alaska Pilot's Association (SEAPA) and at least one Captain from each of the cruise lines.
- They will be considering the 30% design from KPFF, the current dock layout, as well as the 2023 Alternative Mooring plan in the simulation.
- It was a herculean effort to get this simulation to happen on such a short timeline.
- The Norwegian Bliss, the Royal Princess, and the RCCL Quantum were requested by the cruise lines to be modeled, as they are the greatest concern for the Pilots.
- The simulation was instigated by Norwegian Cruise Lines, who said they would not even consider the Alternative Mooring Plan unless we did this simulation.

Assemblymember Potter indicated that:

- The focus of tonight is the \$106,425 to pull off this simulation, which is incredibly important.
- If we cannot pull off the Alternative Mooring Plan, then we could potentially lose a minimum of 200,000 visitors in 2023.

Assemblymember Hylton indicated that:

- It would be a lot more than 200,000 visitors that we would lose, as many ships scheduled for 2023 would not be able to fit on the Ore dock as is.
- These larger, newer ships are highly sought after and carry a demographic that spend more money in stores and restaurants and buy more tours.
- We need to move forward with this and do all we can to make sure these ships can dock in 2023.

Main Motion passed by roll call vote, 6 yes, 0 no, 0 absent.

6. **Mayor and Assembly Discussion Items:**

Assemblymember Potter indicated that:

- It has been a very challenging time, but Skagway is resilient.
- Change is challenging, but we need to work together, continue to move forward, and think outside of the box.

Assemblymember Hylton indicated that:

- We are looking at all options on the table, and to do that we will need a revenue bond to pass so that we can move forward to secure the future of our Municipality.

Assemblymember Hanson indicated that:

- We have an estimate of \$300 per yard for the soil underneath the ship loader to be taken to a disposal site in Oregon.
- With the uncertainty of the rockslide all options are on the table, and we need to consider everything.
- On the October 6, 2022 meeting agenda there is a 60% Design of a Marine Services Platform that is supported by the Yukon Government, so we do support Ore going through Skagway.
- The Assembly is trying their best to take care of our community and we have a lot riding on this simulation.
- He is very eager for Skagway to pass this bond--if there is no funding the Municipality cannot building anything.

Mayor Cremata indicated that:

- Everybody is afraid of not having enough cruise ships, but nobody has the answers.
- The bond vote is not a vote based on fear, it is a vote out of necessity to ensure our survival.

7. **Adjournment:**

Mayor Cremata adjourned the Assembly special meeting of September 27, 2022 at 6:27 p.m.

Andrew Cremata, Mayor

ATTEST:

Steve Burnham Jr., Borough Clerk
(SEAL)