

## WASILLA AIRPORT COMMISSION

### REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, JULY 20, 2017

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Wasilla Airport Commission was called to order at 6:09 PM on Thursday, July 20, 2017 in the Wasilla City Council Chambers, Wasilla, Alaska by Adam Paulick, Chair.

#### **II. ROLL CALL**

Commissioners present and establishing a quorum were:

Noel Lowe, Seat A  
Adam Paulick, Seat E  
Cameron Sharick, Seat F  
Michael Lucas, Seat G

Commissioners absent and excused were:

Charles Morris, Seat B  
John Popecki, Seat C  
Raymond Block, Seat D

Staff in attendance were:

Archie Giddings, Public Works Director  
Jolene Cooper, Recording Secretary

#### **III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Paulick led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

GENERAL CONSENT: The agenda was approved as presented.

#### **V. STAFF AND AGENCY REPORTS**

A. Archie Giddings, Public Works Director, Airport Report

1. Requests commissioner's attendance at meetings so they will always be available for public comment.

2. Last year tie-down rates were increased for the first time since the airports inception. This year the pre-payment discount has been abolished. This is primarily due to lost revenue. The Wasilla Airport is a subsidized entity.

3. Currently we have a lease-lot waiting list consisting of five to six people, but only two small lots available. Tie-down wait-list is considerable.

4. Airport is focusing on expansion. Soloy Helicopters gearing up to break ground this year for expansion, and local builder will be looking to break ground by next year. DC4 fuel carrier also looking to relocate to Wasilla to be housed and maintained; therefore, there may be gravel hauling in order to enable the building of a rudimentary pad.

5. Maintenance - Gravel strip is in good shape. Grass runway will be mowed next to the gravel strip. Currently crack-sealing asphalt and doing routing summer maintenance. The City is looking to purchase a large pull-behind mower as an attachment to the tiger tractor.

6. The airport recently underwent an informal inspection by the FAA. Of the six folks, two were from DC. Their area of expertise was Airport Design and Air Space Layout. They commented on the immediate need of brushing. They also observed that hangars had non-aviation things in them such as boats. Hangars should be for incidental equipment only; they should not be used as storage. A hangar should house at least one airplane. The airport is funded primarily by FAA contributions; therefore, it shall be used for aviation purposes. The inspectors stated they liked the airport and were happy for the tour.

7. Projects – The airport is still two years away from receiving FAA funding for expansion. The top priority is to expand the apron, remove the hill and complete the runway extension. Surveys are usually conducted to poll the populace. They use these surveys to discover how one would utilize the airport and how to best spend available funding.

8. Though there is an outcry for new infrastructure the City operates on a pay-as-you-go basis while focusing on paying down debt. The City is exploring viable options in which to accelerate development at the airport.

9. City Council will meet on Monday, July 24, 2017 to vote on increasing the sales tax from 2% to 3% to forward fund a new police station. They are looking to sunset only half the amount, leaving 1/2% to aid in funding the city in the future. This increase would put more CIP money into various programs.

B. Mr. Noel Lowe - Airport Commissioner – Seat A

1. Wasilla has a nice airport, grading is done well, and overall it is maintained nicely.

2. Mr. Lowe inquired about helicopter regulations. He stated that there seemed to be many close calls with helicopters as they appear to be operating outside the normal traffic pattern. At times the helicopters hover and travel down the pavement the same time other aircraft are taking off on runway. Archie stated they should be adhering to same regulations as all other aircraft and that he would discuss the matter with Chris.

3. Mr. Lowe requested a lighted wind sock. Due to the cost of running the power to this windsock, he suggested possible solar power.

**VI. PUBLIC HEARING** (three minutes per person)

No one stepped forward.

**VII. CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Minutes of January 19, 2017

GENERAL CONSENT: Minutes were approved as presented.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS** (five minutes per person)

No one stepped forward.

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

A. Due to the need for a float plane pond in the Borough, the City conducted a well study in pursuit of usable water in order to offset evaporation on their site. A test well was drilled. It was founded that the water was not drinkable, but there was enough of a source to use for a float plane pond if the need arose in the future. All pressing expansion projects would be completed prior to undertaking a float plane pond project.

**X. COMMUNICATIONS**

There are no current communications.

**XI. AUDIENCE COMMENTS** (three minutes per person)

No one stepped forward.

**XII. COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMENTS**

Mr. Lowe stated he enjoys the airport and the City does a great job maintaining it. The Wasilla Airport has the cleanest portable toilets around.

Ms. Sharick thanked Archie for doing a good job with his presentation and giving an encouraging report.

Mr. Lucas stated the airport looks nice, the gates are working, and it is designed well, and has the best fuel system in the valley.

Mr. Paulick inquired about lease-lots that have been converted to tie-downs and the Mooney that was "perpetually stuck". In response, Mr. Giddings stated that lease holders have a two-year period in which a structure must be built. Construction should be expected soon, but planes generally arrive before the hangars are built. The Mooney has been impounded and the City is currently working on removal options.

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The Airport Advisory Commission meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Adam Paulick, Chairman

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jolene Cooper, Commission Secretary

Adopted by the Wasilla Airport Commission on \_\_\_\_\_..

