

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Wasilla Airport Commission was held on Thursday, January 27, 2005 at the Wasilla City Council Chambers, Wasilla, Alaska. Chairman Steve Short, called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Commissioners present and establishing a quorum were:

Commissioner Billingsly, Seat A  
Commissioner Maketa, Seat B  
Commissioner Bear, Seat C  
Commissioner Short, Seat E, Chairman  
Commissioner Block, Seat D, Vice Chairman

Staff in attendance were:

Mr. Bill Harvey, Deputy Director of Public Works  
Mr. Tony Leoni, Airport Maintenance Supervisor,  
Mr. Tom Westall, Airport Manager  
Mr. Rom Single, Economic Development Coordinator  
Ms. Sandra Connolly, Public Works Clerk

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Commissioner Bear led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Chairman Short asked for any additions to the agenda.

GENERAL CONSENT: The agenda was approved as presented.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION: Commissioner Block motioned to approve the minutes as presented.

GENERAL CONSENT: The motion passed without objection.

## 6. STAFF AND AGENCY REPORTS

### A. Tom Westall, Airport Manager

- reported that the airport is operational and meets all FAA requirements.

## 7. PUBLIC HEARING (Three minutes per person.)

### A. Airport User Meeting

Chairman Short asked for audience comments:

Tiffany Fichtner:

- Lives next to airport and does not feel that the airport has been a good neighbor. She would like the City to buy her house or take responsibility for the problems.
- Stated that the City contractor dug into the side of the bank 10 feet from her sewer leach field and is concerned that her leach field may be effected.
- Believes the City ignores issues when home owners have problems with noise after 10:00 p.m.

Dennis Weber

- When runway was paved, he was unable to fly from this airport. He would like a ski airstrip and a gravel airstrip constructed.
- Sited Birchwood Airport as an example where a gravel and a ski strip work well with a paved runway.
- Prefers to have snow in between the strip and the airplane parking to allow for easy access of planes.
- Requested electrical hook ups be installed at tie downs and have more tie downs constructed that face into the wind.

Tom Westall, Airport Manager,

- Has requested FAA to accept city code regulating a ski strip adjacent to the current runway. The code would prohibit simultaneous use of the ski strip and the hard surface runway.

Tim Tuoy

- Is a property owner living next to the airport.
- Objected to last summer's construction at airport, it was exceptionally loud and happened at all hours through the night.
- Commented on the latest problem of taxiway lights shining in his back yard from a height of 60 feet.
- Related that helicopters practicing approaches at the airport cause dishes and windows to rattle in his house.

- Reported that the area at the northeast end of runway is used as a snow dumping area and the tailgates bang and clang very late at night and early in the morning.

Dick Loman

- Leased a tie down in the new area and is very pleased except when it gets slushy. There is a drainage problem in that area.
- Inquired about future plans for new tie down spaces and lease lots.

Tom Westall, Airport Manager:

- Reviewed the plans for the next construction phase of the airport.
- Informed the audience that plans have been made to relocate the construction equipment to the opposite end of the airport to reduce the amount of noise to surrounding property owners.

Chairman Short

- Requested a synopsis of the Airport 20 year plan and how it was created.

Tom Westall, Airport Manager

- Explained that the airport will be a full municipal airport in the future, able to support the population in this community as it grows.
- Reminded the audience that Wasilla is the fastest growing community in Alaska
- Reported that the City has demonstrated to FAA that it can operate the airport within the FAA guidelines.

Bill Bruu

- Leases a tie down space
- Participated in the airport master plan
- Believes that installing septic and water at the airport is crucial.
- Is disappointed that the small building was moved from Airport to City Shop. Building could be used as a facility for pilots for flight planning purposes.
- Suspects that additional noise is caused by planes practicing on the airport that are not tie down users.
- Inquired about the new t-hangar lease lots, will there be a prescribed blue print for the hangars and will the City buy the t-hangars from the owner?
- Believes airport users should be exempt from sales tax.
- Suspects that an entrepreneur will not invest in an airport without utilities because they cannot make a profit. Only the City can afford to put in t-hangars without making a profit for 25 years. If the City is willing to install water to Garden Terrace, City should be able to install a central sewer and water system at the airport.

Larry Michaelson

- Flies on floats in the summer; there is a large amount of float plane traffic that fly over the airport; is the City anticipating having a float plane base?
- Appreciates the improvements made at the airport.
- Investigated building t-hangars and realized that he would not get a return on his investment for 20 years.

Ernie Belanger

- Lives on Wallace Lake.
- Is Impressed with the communication between pilots in the air.
- Inquired about expansion of the airport, such as larger planes, jet fuel and more noise.
- Asked about a control tower at the airport.

Tom Westall

- Summarized the airport expansion plans.
- Explained how noise decibels will effect the airport and how they are measured by EPA.

Chris Fichtner

- Lives in the first house before the airport
- Related the noise problem from last summer; the noise vibrated his house.
- Wants noise to abate

## **8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

## **10. COMMUNICATION**

## **11. AUDIENCE COMMENTS (Three minutes per person)**

## **12. COMMISSIONER AND STAFF COMMENTS**

Chairman Short:

- Requested a report on Airport Apron Phase 1C for next regular meeting.

Commissioner Maketa:

- Bill Bruu brings up valid points that the City should review.
- Commissioners need to address some of these issues.
- Personally would like t-hangars built.

**13. AJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.



STEVE SHORT, Chairman

ATTEST:



Sandra D. Connolly,  
Public Works Clerk

Adopted by the Wasilla Airport Commission on 1-27-05.