City and Borough of Wrangell, Alaska

Economic Development Committee

September 3, 2020 1:00- 3:00 pm Zoom Conference

*MINUTES*

1. Call to order: 1:03pm
2. Roll Call: Julie Decker (at 2:50pm), Brooke Leslie; Bob Dalrymple; Caitlin Cardinell; Joan Sargent
3. Amendments to the Agenda - none
4. Conflicts of Interest : Same conflicts as stated previously

JD owns commercial FV, uses harbor and boat haulout. Has an apartment rental

JS on non profit board.

BL family owns tourism company, spouse works in shipyard

Assembly makes final approval. EDC makes recommendation

1. Approval of Minutes: July 1, 2020 BD moves to approve; CC 2nd ; approved unanimously
2. Persons to be Heard: none
3. Correspondence:
4. Letter from Fisherman re. grant denial
5. Old Business  
    a) Discussion of grant eligibility modifications

EDC started out talking about existing programs but moved into new programs before returning to the existing programs.

JS moves that Social Service and Food Assistance grant reopen at the same funding amount amount until Nov. 1

BD 2nd

JS Amends motion - those that already apply may reapply

2nd agrees.

Approved unanimously

BL.. would like for targeted to reopen targeted up the cap to $6000 then existing businesses would get another $3000

BL… give % of lost revenue, or give an additional $3000

CC… if adding new programs, doing it by percentage will take considerable effort.

JS moves as of 9/15 do not extend grant period for Small business grants.

Fails for no second.

CC moves to extend Small business grant opportunity until Nov 1, allowing businesses who qualify to receive up to $2000, retroactive for those that have already applied

JS 2nd

Vote: JS, BD, CC yes; BL no

JS does not want to extend the targeted… folks felt that it was unfair

JS moves to let Targeted Visitor Assistance program end on Sept. 15

Motion Fails for no second

JS moves to extend Targeted program until Nov. 1 with the payout changing to $1000

Motion fails for no second

CC moves to extend the Targeted Business Grant deadline for same funding ($3000) until Nov.1.

JS second

Approved unanimously

JS moves to extend the Accounting assistance until Nov. 1

BL 2nd

Approved unanimously

BL…. regarding the letter attached. Is EDC in consensus that need to be a Wrangell resident.

JS.. per the letter, buys food, fuel, pays moorage and storage… if he was to bring the bill.. it would be to Wrangell’s advantage.

BL… he is in a unique situation. Wont qualify for his business from the state he is in probably. doesn’t qualify here because not a resident.

BD.. need an established definition of residence. Someone working on the hospital could also start applying. Could open for a wide variety of issues, where is the limit and line drawn.

CC does not want to open the net of eligibility.

Moorage subsidy for commercial fisherman can be considered in a new grant.

Boat lift: Staff brought up the question about modifying requirement for where boat goes in the yard? And Adjustment for when the return splash is?

JS haul out assistance be changed allowing any haul out to be reimbursed at 50% and that boat must be hauled by dec. 1 . That the return date does not matter as long as all prepaid.

BL if we open up to any haul it changes the intent.

JD expanding the original intent is still a positive and likely incentivizing folks to do their work.

JS moves that the Haul out program is amended to allow any prepaid haulout to be reimbursed at 50%, if initial haul is prior to Dec 1 and the return date no longer matters if it is prepaid.

CC the intent is to be retroactive for any lift since July 8

Approved unanimously

JS moves that a new small business in 2020 with business license as of March 11, would be retroactively considered for the Small business grant

CC 2nd

Approved Unanimously

JD: small business application… should consider expanding it to deckhands

1. New Business
2. Discussion of new grant program opportunities – for next meeting
3. Adjourn 3:20