

CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON
HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING
Monday September 13, 2010, 7:00 P.M.
City Hall, Lower Level Conference Room

Members Present

Jerry Gruen, Sue Knauer, Ralph Hess, Frank Metz, Jerry Baganz, Dave Larson, and Dan Herlache

Others Present

Harbor Master Dennis Cherny
City Administrator Mark Grams

1. **Roll Call: (Absent: All Members Present)**
2. **Approve Minutes Of Previous Meeting**
Frank Metz made a motion to approve minutes as written and Sue Knauer seconded. Motion carried.
3. **Monthly Financial Report**
City Administrator Mark Grams said that the numbers look impressive right now. Basically just expenditures and debt service remain for the year. He felt that it was a productive year, especially where launches were concerned. Although fuel sales are down that means the expenditures are down as well, so it's a wash. The beginning of September was good for business, but once this month is over, that will pretty much be it on the revenue side. Harbormaster Cherny added that launches, transients, and ice sales are up this year.
4. **Final Update On Marina Floating Pier Project**
City Administrator Grams said that most projects are complete. Still retaining some monies until everything is 100% complete and working properly. Harbormaster Cherny mentioned that everything is working as of right now, fuel pier included.
5. **2011 Marina Budget**
City Administrator Grams said that next year, budget costs will hold. There will be a big increase in the debt service come 2012 to about \$223,000. He said that we need to bring up the reserve fund for problems in future years. He would like to keep rates as steady as possible. He would like to see where our surplus stands for this year. Otherwise we could end up in a deficit in future years if we don't raise rates.
Harbormaster Cherny said that next year he would like to give the tenants the option to buy an additional parking pass for \$100. There are many inquiries for this. Try it for one year and see how it goes. The commission members agreed to try for a year. He said that he will add it to the budget.
6. **Discuss 2011 Marina Rates**
Harbormaster Cherny feels that no one is going to raise rates for 2011. We are fortunate to be as full as we are. Other marinas are down 30-40%. City Administrator Grams said that he would like to have a slow increase in rates over the next couple of years. If we don't, we may have to increase rates 5% to meet 2012 obligations.
Commission member Jerry Gruen mentioned that we have the reserve to cover the shortfall for one year. He feels that the marina needs to get through the economic crisis before raising rates. Solidify us while the economy comes around he said. Commission member Larson agreed. He would like to hold rates as well and keep our clientele.

Commission member Baganz added that there is the misconception that the marina is an enclave of wealth when in reality it isn't. People just can't afford the increases right now. City Administrator Grams said that we will wait as long as possible to make a decision. Finalize the budget in October.

7. **Harbormaster's Report**

Harbormaster Cherny said that for the last 1-2 years he has been working with the Clean Marina program putting together a checklist for those marinas wanting to qualify. He is proud to say that Port Washington Marina was one of the first seasonal marinas to meet the criteria and be awarded *Clean Marina* status. The marina will be certified this month at a ceremony being held in Sturgeon Bay. Three other marinas are also being recognized.

He also mentioned that the Foxy Lady out of Green Bay and the Harbor Lady out of Sturgeon Bay are requesting to winter their 100' cruise ships in the North Slip. They will pay for the electric they use and will offer cruises out of Port Washington while they are here in spring and fall. They will get a written proposal put together for Mark and the city attorney to review.

8. **Marina Tenants' Comments**

Tenant Joe Sobieski wanted the commission to know that he hasn't heard one negative comment about the new marina, and the transients seem to love it as well. He also wanted to thank Dennis for supporting the Venetian Night and Boat Parade that took place during the city's anniversary celebration. 41 boats decorated and 13 of those boats participated in the parade. Prizes donated by local businesses were given to boats that participated.

He said that they are hoping to make the Venetian Parade an annual event. They would like to see the marina host the event with members of the yacht club doing most of the leg work.

Tenants that participated said that the Sunday of Labor Day worked out well for them. They then have a day to decorate and a day to tear down. They want the event to stand on its own, rather than coincide with one of the city's other events.

They are hoping that the city would work with them as well. Possibly donating the fireworks display as that went over well after the parade. Tenant Gene Pawlowski added that they hope to make this a one day festival just like the 175th anniversary of the city. They would like to have some events during the day such as a band or the "Guitar Navy" where everyone brings and plays an instrument then the parade and fireworks would follow that evening.

Joe said that they have a year to plan it and are hoping for the city and marina's support.

9. **Any Other Business That May Come Properly Before The Commission**

No Comments.

10. **Adjournment**

Jerry Baganz made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. and Ralph Hess seconded. Motion carried.

Minutes Not Yet Approved By the Harbor Commission