

CITY OF PORT WASHINGTON
HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING
Monday March 12, 2012, 7:00 P.M.
City Hall, Lower Level Conference Room

Members Present

Sue Knauer, Ralph Hess, David Larson, Dan Herlache, Jerry Gruen, and Bill Driscoll

Others Present

Harbor Master Dennis Cherny
City Administrator Mark Grams

1. **Roll Call:** (Absent: Jerry Baganz)

2. **Approve Minutes Of Previous Meeting**

Dan Herlache made a motion to approve the minutes and Ralph Hess seconded. Motion carried.

3. **Monthly Financial Report**

City Administrator Mark Grams said there isn't much to report. Mainly slip rentals on the revenue side and salaries, utilities and repairs on the expenditure side. He was hoping to have some final numbers for 2011 from the city treasurer but she is out of town. He hopes to have those numbers by the next meeting. He still believes that the projections will be correct and that the marina will have a surplus for 2011.

4. **Update On Slip Rentals**

Harbormaster Cherny said that as of now the marina has approximately 20 slips open with five others undecided. He feels that as the season approaches there will be interest in slips and he is optimistic that several will be rented out.

Commission member Gruen mentioned that after looking at the annual report that Harbormaster Cherny attached that there was some erosion, but it wasn't horrible. Harbormaster Cherny said that 8 years ago the marina had sold 4,000 daily launch passes and this year we sold 2,766. The fishing has taken a toll in the last several years. But we did sell more season launch passes this year so people are taking advantage of that.

City Administrator Grams said that time will tell what this season will look like. With increased gas prices, who knows what the marina's transient traffic will be like. There is that fear that no one will be moving.

Commission member Herlache questioned if the marina then rents the open slips to transients.

Harbormaster Cherny said yes. There is a demand among those transients who do not want to tie along the wall for open slips.

As for charters this year, the marina lost two, one of which will return next season as he is working on his engines this year. Also another charter captain added to his fleet. So basically only down one charter for this year.

5. **Approve Hiring Seasonal Employees**

Harbormaster Cherny said that listed are all returning employees from the previous year that he would like approved for re-hire. **Dave Larson made a motion to approve the hiring of seasonal employees and Sue Knauer seconded. Motion carried.**

6. **Harbormaster's Report**

Harbormaster Cherny said that he is looking into adding some security cameras to the marina. He had a rough estimate of \$30,000 from ADT and \$24,000 from Engineered Security Solutions. These numbers include cameras at every dock in the Main Marina as well as cameras on the buildings monitoring the parking lots and North Slip. He is checking with the county who was going to install cameras last year. He is hoping that they can give him some numbers on just the equipment as the marina staff would then do the install. He said that he is also working with Charlie Imig of Park & Rec as well as the Water Department as they too are looking into the possibility of installing cameras.

He said that he is hoping that a couple of cameras will do the trick and be enough of a deterrent with the proper signage. Member Herlache said that monitoring the cameras may be an issue as some hotels that he is aware of no longer have cameras because they don't have someone that is able to continuously monitor them. Member Driscoll said that he may be able to get security cameras at cost for the marina as the business that he is in is related to the security business. He said that they just took care of a company and the cameras only cost \$2,700 if the marina does the install. He said that he will get together some information for the Harbormaster.

Harbormaster Cherny mentioned that the marina switched from AT&T to Time Warner Cable. Previously the marina was paying \$8,000 for telephone and now the monthly bill is only approximately \$350.00, saving the marina about \$4,000 a year.

Harbormaster Cherny mentioned that the Department of Commerce mandated, as of 2012, that an operator must become a certified Class A, Class B, or both, Underground Storage Tank Facility. He said that he took an online course and test and is now certified as a Class A & B operator. He then will have to train the Class C operators in the daily inspections that are now required.

He mentioned that he only had to run the ice-eaters about two hours due to the mild winter, saving thousands in electrical bills. City Administrator Grams added that the Power Plant has been running all winter as well. The warm water discharge from them has aided in keeping the marina free of ice this year.

Member Knauer questioned if the marina is now posted for conceal carry. Harbormaster Cherny said yes. City Administrator Grams added that only the buildings themselves prohibit concealed weapons. Not the grounds.

Harbormaster Cherny informed the commission that over the past weekend a 24 year old man was killed while kayaking just outside the harbor.

Commission member Gruen asked the Harbormaster if the marina sustained any damage over the winter and he said that he didn't believe so, but will be able to take a closer look this week with the warm weather coming.

7. Marina Tenants' Comments

No Comments.

8. Any Other Business That May Come Properly Before The Commission

Member Driscoll said that during the last meeting it was mentioned that a vice-chair should be voted on at the next meeting. City Administrator Grams said that they are going to wait on that until May when all officers need to be elected.

Member Driscoll also wanted to mention that during his travels last year he encountered some marinas with unbelievable service. They handed out packets about town and he was wondering if we did anything like that here. Harbormaster Cherny mentioned that we did. The Chamber handled that last year and maybe Main Street will be able to put something together this year.

Harbormaster Cherny said that he talked with the owners of the Voyager and Iroquois and they would like to continue to come to Port for the Maritime Festival. They said that there was some sort of mix up last year and that is why they didn't show. Harbormaster Cherny said that Sara Grover may want to get in contact with them again.

9. Adjournment

Dave Larson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. and Ralph Hess seconded. Motion carried.