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# Health Needs and Human Services Commission Minutes

Tuesday, March 8, 2016 12:00PM

Sealing Cove Business Center

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**Commission Members:** Doug Osborne, Dr. Myron Fribush, Lauren Hughey,  
Lloyd Platson, Jeff Arndt, Clara Gray, Brian Richardson  
Tristan Guevin (Assembly Liaison)

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Osborne called the meeting to order at approximately 12:01PM.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present: Doug Osborne, Lauren Hughey, Lloyd Platson, Jeff Arndt, Brian Richardson

**III. AGENDA CHANGES**

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**M - Hughey/S - Osborne moved to include in the February 9, 2016 minutes Edie Leghorn's report and Jay Coughenour's introduction. Motion carried unanimously.**

**M - Hughey/S - Osborne moved approve the minutes with the changes of February 9, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.**

**V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD/CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**VI. REPORTS**

Chair - Welcomed new Commissioner Brian Richardson.

Commissioners - All present Commissioners introduced themselves for Richardson. Richardson stated he has lived in Sitka for 3 years and works at Youth Advocates.

City Staff - None.

Assembly Liaison - Guevin told that the 2016 goals were on the Assembly's agenda for this evening.

Other(s) - None.

**VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. Sugar Sweetened Beverage Excise Tax Ordinance**

Chair Osborne told of history of this item. Hughey gave a presentation titled Sugar Sweetened Beverage (SSB) Excise Tax proposal. She highlighted the following: Impacts specifically regarding obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and tooth decay; statewide movement; consumption trends; healthcare costs; successful examples; and proposed taxed items.

Richardson had concerns with adverse impact of the low income. Chair Osborne asked for general comments. Hughey, Arndt, Osborne, and Platson was in support. Richardson commented that he would also like to see a public campaign and eliminating tax on produce. Guevin told of the grand bargain as discussed at the Citizens' Taskforce meeting of increasing the mill rate, eliminating sales tax on groceries, and an electric subsidy. He suggested the Commission make a recommendation to the Assembly. Osborne thought to draft a resolution to the Assembly to retain sales tax on SSB then at a later date draft an ordinance. Discussion occurred around SNAP, the WIC program, approved foods, and the

excise tax being placed on the distributor.

1:02pm Richardson left the meeting

Hughey would prefer the consumer see the cost. Next steps were identified: draft a resolution in support for the elimination of sales tax on food, an excise tax on SSB or keep sales tax on SSB and present recommendations to the Citizens' Taskforce and Assembly.

**M – Osborne/S – Platson moved for Hughey to draft a resolution of the Health Needs and Human Services Commission supporting taking sales tax off food with nutrition and leaving some form of tax on sugar sweetened beverages. Motion carried unanimously.**

Discussion occurred around timing.

**M – Osborne/S – Platson moved to schedule a special meeting on March 21, 2016 at noon in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room at City Hall if available with the one agenda item of the resolution. Motion carried unanimously.**

**B. Safe Driving Ordinance**

Chair Osborne and Guevin told of changes and that it may go to the Assembly on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Chair Osborne gave statistics.

**C. 2016 Goals**

None.

**D. Three Foot Bike Rule Ordinance**

Arndt told that Jeff Budd was attending Rotary and could not make the meeting.

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Discussion of changing the regular meeting days**

Chair Osborne brought up the idea of changing the meeting days to a different day of the week.

**M – Osborne/S – Arndt moved to change the regular meeting day to every second Wednesday at noon. Motion carried unanimously.**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

**A. Agenda items for next meeting.**

None discussed.

**B. Set next meeting date.**

The next regular meeting was set for Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at noon.

**M – Osborne/S – Hughey moved to adjourn at approximately 1:30PM. Motion carried unanimously.**

Attest:  
Melissa Henshaw, Deputy Clerk