

Turnagain Arm Community Council

Meeting Minutes for

September 17, 2020

I. 7:03 p.m. Call to Order:

II. 7:05 p.m. New Business – Guest Speakers

A. 7:05 p.m. Anchorage Police Department

1. Lt. Patzkey and Officer Reed

Lt. Patzkey patrols on the swing shift which last until 1:00 a.m. There are three shifts: Day, Swing, and Night. They will make an effort to attend community council meetings in the future. Recap of TAPSA agreement: Questions about TAPSA 2017 agreement terms regarding misdemeanor call Outs.

B. 7:12 p.m. Anchorage Assembly Report

1. John Weddleton

Weddleton talked about the civil unrest regarding the “closed” meetings of the Assembly. He mentioned that Assembly meeting would be using a phone-in testimony system. There were five days of public hearings regarding the homeless building acquisitions. He said a lot of the testimony was based on a lack of information. He called it a “vacuum of information”.

Part of the \$15 Million of ML&P funding has been designated for purchase of the Golden Lion Hotel, located at the intersection of the New Seward Hwy and 36th Ave., as a “recovery” facility. Currently, Sullivan Arena will be used for the homeless population until new homeless facilities are ready. Three other buildings are being considered, The

Alaska Club building (630 East Tudor Road), America Best Value Inn (4360 Spenard Road) and The Beans Café building (1101 E 3rd Ave) These facilities are in the due diligence period of purchase by the muni. After Covid it is anticipated these facilities will continue to operate in the new capacity, as the prior model was not sufficient.

Funding for the homeless situation would be coming from “new” alcohol taxes, philanthropy, and Medicaid. The residents of these facilities may pay up to 30% of the cost. About 8000 people use homeless system every year. Only 1000 are permanent Anchorage residents. The homeless situation has been deemed as “COVID related”, and will be the recipient of CARES Act funding.

The Building codes are changed every three years and every six years. The new building code would require homes more than 600 ft away from a reliable water source to be provided with a sprinkler systems. The assembly is considering amendments to this code adoption.

The plastic bag ban has been temporarily suspended due to COVID.

- An update of the alcohol tax budget was received from the assembly member (amended 11-17-20) was received, see Attachment A to these minutes.

2. **Suzanne LaFrance**

LaFrance recapped much of what Weddleton had mentioned. She added that of the \$156M of the CARES act, \$23 Million was given to retail assistance, and \$ 2 Million was being used for “rapid” rehousing. More information for the CARES act funding can be found on the muni website at: <https://assembly-cares-act-muniorg.hub.arcgis.com/>

Northway Mall was considered, but costs make that option unfeasible.

Current CARES Act funds must be spent by end of the year.

To submit comments to the anchorage assembly, email to:
testimony@muni.org

C. 7:55 p.m. Seward Hwy Construction Update

1. James Lombardo – State of Alaska DOT

He says that night shifts will be shutdown. Weekend work will be beginning. The temporary alignment over Indian Creek will remain over winter. Issues with bridge construction have caused delays. Turn pockets will be done before winter. New mailboxes will be installed. Addition of fill to existing public “unmaintained” roads will require a hold harmless agreement signed by all users of the road. Supply of fill may be available, contact the project managers at the construction office at the Essential 1 gas station.

2. Chad – Mass X Construction

He talked about new mailbox specifications. The guardrail over the temporary alignment on Indian Creek will be adjusted. The use of side streets will continue as needed. They will try to minimize use and will be responsible for damages. They will remediate damage caused. Any work that they do on side streets for the benefit of the community will require a hold harmless agreement signed by every resident of the road on which the improvements would be made.

D. 8:20 p.m. Anchorage School District

1. Dave Donnelly is the new ASD representative for our area. Chromebooks have been distributed to students that need computers for online classes. Enrollment is down to 42,000 from 46,000 for ASD home school

programs. Some people have opted to use non-ASD online programs.
Timing of return to in-person schooling discussed.

E. 8:23 p.m. Candidates Upcoming Election

1. Carl Johnson – Candidate State Senate (N)

Carl's wife representing him. Carl is former military. He served during Desert Shield operations. He joined the US Navy right out of high school. He used the GI Bill to go to college. He became an attorney and has a small tourism related business. Phone: (907) 748-7040.

III. 8:25 p.m. Old Business

A. 8:25 p.m. Minutes from Last Meeting - Approved

B. 8:26 p.m. Capital Improvements Update – Dianna Tremble

We were too late to be included in suggestion period. We received the information required late.

C. 8:27 p.m. Liquor & Cannabis License Renewals

The following establishments will have their licenses up for renewal:
Brown Bear Saloon & Motel (alcohol), Diamond Jim's (alcohol),
Turnagain Arm Pit (alcohol), and Alaska Rustic (marijuana).

D. 8:28 p.m. TAPSA

There have been questions about charges. The Bird House Garage incident required ongoing police presence during the road construction near that business. We will not be charged for that service.

At the end of July 2020, our current charges are \$15,213. By keeping diligent watch on the billing we have saved \$8000. We will have to make a change to the community council by-laws to change the date for council meetings. Other community councils have meetings monthly. We only

meet four times a year.

V. 8:34 p.m. Next Scheduled Turnagain Arm Community Council Meeting:

Next TACC meeting: 7 p.m., Thursday, December 10, 2020.

VI. 8:35 p.m. Meeting Adjourned