

# NECC

Northeast Community Council

General Meeting Minutes May 17, 2018

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Call to Order: ??? PM

**Approval of May 2018 Meeting Agenda:** Kristi Wood made a motion to change the agenda to allow Assembly Reports to be presented before Legislative Reports. The motion was seconded and accepted by the Council. The amended Agenda was approved by the Council.

## Introduction of the Board:

**Board Members Present:** Stuart Grenier, Rick Irwin, Selina Metoyer, Kevin Smestad, David Ulmer, Kristi Wood, and John Ziv.

**Board Members Absent:** Carla McConnell

**Treasurer's Report:** No Treasurer's Report this month.

**Executive Report:** The Executive Board met to develop the May agenda. The appointment of a potential replacement for John Laux was discussed.

## Representative Reports:

**Assembly Person Pete Peterson** announced that Assembly Person Forrest Dunbar had been chosen by his colleagues to chair the Assembly. Pete reported that Anchorage had its first vote by mail election and that it was a success. He also asks the Council to comment on-line regarding their thoughts and suggestions about the new Anchorage People Mover routes.

Pete stated that the Assembly voted not to penalize Bean's Café for the excessive police calls made in response to the homeless in the area. The Assembly felt that the non-profit should not be penalized in their mission to help the homeless

**Assembly Person Forrest Dunbar** said that in his new role as Chair he asked Assembly Persons Dick Traini and Chris Constant to chair the Utility Enterprise Committee. The two main topics of the committee were the sale of MLP and the Port of Alaska. The MLP sale is moving forward with a vetting and transition phase. The Port is no longer on track for expansion, but is now in a remediation phase to keep it functional. Its structure was much worse than previously thought and the previous work was ineffective. There will be an increase in the tariff for users of the Port.

Forrest also reported that Assembly Persons Fred Dyson and Tim Steele are the chairs of the Public Safety Committee. Mr. Dyson is proposing legislation regarding reporting requirements for crimes against children to bring the Municipality in-line with the State.

**Senator Bill Wielechowski** reported that although SB91 has had issues, it also had an upside with a pre-trial system that led to a decrease in people that re-offend. But other Issues were that the

court system could not consider prior conventions that had occurred outside of Alaska when dealing with criminals. Discretion was also given back to the judges when deciding if offenders would re-offend.

Bill was able to get the Community Patrols \$100,000 for start-up and running of the patrols. He was also able to get \$2,000,000 for the Anchorage Police Department and another \$2M for Alaska State Troopers and \$75,000 for Neighborhood Patrols.

**Senator Kathy Geissel** wanted to give a different perspective on the homeless situation. She stated that there are many behavioral health needs within the homeless community. She has introduced legislation to increase the number of health care workers that can provide help for mental issues.

Kathy has also worked on legislation to restrict the use of opioids and encouraged the Council members to dispose of their opioid drugs responsibly. Kathy and Representative Ivy Spohnholz worked on legislation to use a portion of the Marijuana tax revenues to fight against and treat addiction.

**Representative Ivy Spohnholz** stated that Health Care Price Transparency legislation was passed so that health workers must publish the cost of services provided before treatment.

To help with the homeless issue, the State has invested \$3.1 million to address the inadequate salary issue at the Anchorage Psychiatric Institute and \$10 million for private health care with matching funds from the Federal Government and \$12 million for substance abuse treatment.

The Legislature funded five new prosecutors and additional support staff for the Criminal Law Division and four new public defenders and four new Guardian positions for foster kids in the legal system.

The Legislature will work on trying to keep the courts open on Friday afternoons to help with the influx on cases, \$20 million was put aside for the Port of Anchorage, and \$4 million will be set-aside for community assistance/public safety.

**Representative Gabrielle LeDoux** stated that the Legislature adjourned with a budget which was an accomplishment in itself. She was happy that the Permanent Fund Dividend was set at about \$500 higher than the Governor's suggestion but was disappointed that it was less than the statutory amount. The Legislature forward funded the Education budget and increased it by \$20 million which means teacher will not get pink slips at the end of the year.

Gabrielle was happy that HB312 was passed that put an end to the "catch and release" for criminals and restored discretion back to the judges to use their judgement when dealing with offenders.

SB26 puts a spending cap on how much the Legislature can use of the earnings reserve, but Gabrielle's concern is that it's not a stop-sign for spending, but just a suggestion. The Legislature

can ignore it as they have ignored the statute regarding the amount of dividend should be distributed to the residents of Alaska.

**Representative Lance Pruitt** highlighted that public safety was addressed during this session. He stated that the Legislature has the ability and authority to spend the earnings reserve. He feels that SB26 provides guidelines for responsible use of the PFD earnings.

The Governor has requested receipt authority from the Alaska Gas Development Corporation. Lance worked to have no receipt authority for AGDC to ensure they could not commit the State and ensured that there was no go-around for receiving funds.

### **Community Activities Reports:**

Mr. Jon Scudder, JBER Report: Mr. Scudder, JBER Community Planner, said he is attending the Council meeting to listen and to let the Council know if anything is going on at the Base that might affect the Council area. He would like the Council know about the *iSportsman*, a recreational access program. This program will let the community know about training that may be occurring in the JBER boundary behind Muldoon Road.

The air show and open house will be June 30<sup>th</sup> and July 1<sup>st</sup>. Also coming up is Memorial Day events; May 28<sup>th</sup> at the Park Strip, 9:30 am to 10:30 am and the regular Memorial Service at the National Cemetery on Base.

Chugiak Electric gave an update on the substation. It should be completed by the end of July.

Mr. Jim Curran from the Muldoon Library announced that Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> will be the Reading Rendezvous from noon to 4:00 pm.

Stu announced that the Gold Nugget Triathlon is this weekend so please be aware of runners and bikers. Kristi stated that it's Bike to Work day on Friday so please be aware of those bikers also.

Jessica from Alaska Community Action on Toxins warned residents about the harm of fire retardants in our homes. She wants to raise awareness so that we Alaskans can do something about removing these toxins.

### **Business:**

1. The NECC Board elected Ms. Selina Metoyer as President, Mr. Kevin Smestad as Vice President, Ms. Carla McConnell as Acting Secretary, Mr. Stu Grenier as Treasurer, and Mr. Dave Ulmer as Parliamentarian.
2. Mr. Jerry Weaver working for a local business Baltazar Tires is requested the Council's approval for a rezone request to allow them to be full service auto shop. It is currently zoned B3SL, meaning there are special limitations on what they can do with the property. The rezone will allow Baltazar to do both major and minor car repair without special limitations. The concern of the Council is

that without the special limitations Baltazar may sell the property and the next owner will have a lesser concern for Community and turn the property into a used car lot or junk yard. After much debate, the following resolution was brought to the floor:

**A Resolution: NECC May 17, 2018, Request for Rezone by Baltazar Tire Shop.**

The Northeast Community Council resolves to support the rezone request under the following two conditions; 1. The property is brought up to current B3 standards before the rezone is complete; and 2. There be special limitations placed on the property to prohibit the amount of vehicles parked outside and overnight parking.

**A vote of the Resolution: 11 in favor, 5 opposed, 4 abstained. The Resolution passes.**

3. The Spirit of Muldoon Picnic is June 16<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm at the new Muldoon Chanshtnu Park. The Ribbon Cutting for the new park is at 1:00 pm and we will be taking a group picture at that time so please come join us.
4. Kevin Smestad has finalized the CIP list for the Municipality and State. Selina Metoyer requested that traffic calming at 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Iowa be added, and Stu Grenier requested that #5 on the list, the perimeter trail, show that it goes to Ship Creek and uses the underpass.

Stu Grenier made a motion to support the current 2018 CIP list. The motion was seconded and approved by the Council.

5. Stu Grenier is concerned about the decorative wall along Muldoon. It keeps getting knocked down by errant drivers.

Mr. Ron Searcy from the Department of Transportation spoke to the new wall along Boundary protecting pedestrians from the Glenn Highway. He stated that the new fence is not meeting expectations so they will be replacing it with a steel fence.

Kevin Smestad made a motion to extend the meeting 15 minutes to 10:15 pm to conclude business. There were no objections.

6. Tom Davis with the Municipal Planning Department informed the Council about several projects that are open for public comment. He explained that Kristi Wood and the NECC affected policy to avoid gentrification in our community. Anchorage will see the need of 20,000 more housing units by 2024. He would like to see the Council weigh in on this increase in housing and how it should be developed.

Mr. Davis also talked about “Reinvestment” areas. These are areas that the Assembly designates for focusing on new development to include new housing, roads and other projects. The reinvestment includes public/private joint ventures.

7. The last day to protest or comment on the renewal of Oriental Gardens Liquor License #5352 is May 20<sup>th</sup>. Selina Metoyer asked if anyone in the Council had comments and heard none.

**Approval of Previous Minutes:** Kristi Wood made a motion to approve the minutes for August-November of 2017. There were no edits or objections. The minutes were approved.

**Committee Reports:** There is a Marijuana distributor looking for retail space in the NECC area. Kevin Smestad will provide more details as he gets them.

The meeting adjourned at 10:13 pm.