

Spenard Community Council Meeting Minutes

December 2nd 2015.

Called to order at 7:00 by Chairperson Phil Isley

Minutes were available to be read by members, they will be accepted later in the meeting.

Harriet Drummond gave report regarding a tour to the Anchorage Port Facility and Anchorage Wastewater Utility that was offered to Legislative members. The tour of AWWU revealed problems related to lack of funds for infrastructure upgrades, support of sewer treatment for the Mat-Su Borough and Hillside areas when those areas don't pay into the system, and prescription drugs and hormones that can't be taken out of treated sewage. The next legislative session convenes in January 2016. RCA

Gina from Rep Mia Costello office- Reported Special Session of Legislature ended today

Kristin from Rep Harriet Drummond office also reported she voted for buy out of TransCanada so Alaska will have higher percentage of ownership & control

Chris Tuck, rep

Assembly report from Ernie Hall- main topic being discussed at meetings are the budget issues for next year. A budget was passed at the last Assembly meeting. \$2 million lower budget, Looking for ways to decrease budget by approximately \$5 million. For instance no dividends will be paid to Municipality from various sources. Total of \$82 million budget. Legislation passed a budget cap. Marijuana Control Board did a good job on final

details regarding consumption being in a separate area that where it will be purchased. Residency requirement was determined to be the same as eligibility for Permanent Fund Dividend. Land Use Ordinance is well defined on the locations of marijuana growth, processing and sales. Public testimony can be given at a Planning & Zoning Committee in December. Taxation aspect being discussed. By March applications will be coming into the State and there will be 60 day period to respond. Mayor is planning to have Spenard Road construction upgrade on the April ballot to request \$14 million to complete the plan. Phil asked question about the concerns of the "primary" level wastewater facility needing to be addressed in the near future. Another question about the Spenard Road construction regarding sidewalks impacting current businesses. Peggy asked about marijuana taxation process.

Police Sargent Nolan with Officer Sally Jones introduced themselves and responded to questions regarding 'spice' users. No ordinance that will give officers 'teeth' to make the use of 'spice' a summons to court on a violation of the law. Question from audience "who are the main users of 'spice' ?
Ninety nine percent of users are members of the homeless population who are using this substance mainly in the east 3rd Ave area near Beans Café and Brother Francis Shelter. 80% are male in their late 20's to 30's. They were offered the drug for free at first by dealers and it is so highly addictive that shortly after trying it the user is so addicted they become a steady customer to the dealer. Victims are completely incapacitated when overdose and several deaths have occurred since the summer. The law needed is for anyone in possession of the wide variety of combined chemicals that are used to create "spice".

No one from Mayor's office at this time.

John Johansson with Airport report on Noise reduction , power FAA ANC150.com Developments LHDmasterPLan.com. No Marijuana concessions at airport at this poin. Lake Hood floatplane base upgrade south of Post office will be complete by next spring. Phil asked John to look into 'manager of floatplane area.

Eric Croft report- searching for a new superintendent, construction \$52 million bond for maintenance only not new construction, plans for replacing old schools that have exceeded their functional life. With budget issues there are schools that may be closed Central, Eagle River and Gruening. Eric will propose a new amendment on these issues. Marilyn Stewart spoke to a concern about these issues and where did the \$17 million for a school bond to be put on ballot in April.

Another comment about some past school closures, there was a lawsuit that the school district lost due to the closure process not being done 'legally'. More comments available from the site Schoolboardasd. org

Lee Henry, commercial real estate broker report on traffic analysis regarding Northwood Drive and Spenard, getting heavy use because traffic cannot turn east on to International Airport Road. Minnesota Drive and Spenard Road intersection is an issue.

John Campabello, owner of Middleway Cafè, now expanding toward south parking area with Hearth Artisan Pizza that will be a dinner restaurant, 7 days a week. Outdoor seating potential. Motion to support liquor license, passed.

Marijuana review board members needed to address business permit requests for the Spenard Community Council area. The proposals will be coming in starting March 2016. Peggy Auth,

Tom McGrath and Irène Persson-Gamble volunteered to work on this.

Railroad land grab issue. Handout available regarding differences of opinion.

Rezoning request was mailed to SCC by the property owner of area west of the Carrs store between Northern Lights and Benson to be changed from RO to B3 status. Neither the owner nor a representative at meeting tonight to present case and answer any questions from the SCC membership. Peggy spoke to concern about maintaining residential areas within our community. She made a Motion to oppose this speculative rezone request, #2016 001, seconded and after discussion question was called and vote was unanimous to oppose the request. This result will be forwarded to the Muni's Zoning and Planning Board before their next meeting January 11th 2016.

Tom made a motion to over ride by-laws to allow Alan Thornhill to continue as Treasurer until March after elections. Minutes from November meeting were approved. Chair Phil Isley adjourned meeting at 9:05