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UACC MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2020

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- 3 **1. Opening and Welcome and Introductions** - The meeting was called to order by President
4 Paul Stang at 7:02 pm. - There were 33 persons present at the start of the meeting with 21
5 members and 3 visitors signed in. The President asked each individual to state their name
6 and location or business.
- 7 **2. Approval of Prior Months Minutes:** The December 4, 2019 minutes with minor editorial
8 corrections were approved by unanimous consent.
- 9 **3. Approval of the Agenda:** Paul Stang introduced tonight's agenda. Barbara Garner, with Al
10 Milspaugh second, moved to approve the agenda as amended. The agenda passed by
11 unanimous consent.
- 12 **4. Informational Reports**
- 13 **A. Reports From Public Servants and Elected Officials**
- 14 **a. State Senator Elvi Grey Jackson:-** Elvi read her written report (attachment 1). Elvi
15 emphasized that one should get ahold of her office if they are interested and not getting
16 her newsletter. Al Milspaugh noted that the State Crime Lab manager position is vacant
17 and the Lab is getting behind on their DNA analyzed related to crimes.
- 18 **b. Senator Bill Wielechowski:-** Bill said that the 2020 Legislative session will begin in
19 13 days. He said that he will be hosting a constituent coffee, held in conjunction with
20 Representatives Gabriel LeDoux and Ivy Sponholz this Saturday. Bill mentioned that
21 Friday is the deadline for pre-filed bills. He intends to introduce two. One would make
22 larger Oil and Gas S Corporations subject to State Corporate tax. S corporations
23 currently pay no corporate tax. This bill would allow collection of Corporate Income
24 Tax from Hill Corp, approximately the 30 to 50 million in taxes that BP currently pays
25 the State. A bill would be only applied to larger oil and gas corporations, which have
26 annual revenues over 1 million. He is also introducing an oil tax bill which matches the
27 Alaska Fair Share oil tax reform initiative that is currently gathering signatures to be
28 included on the ballot. He estimates if passed the reform would collect an additional \$1
29 billion in annual tax revenue. He indicated and that the Senate Finance Committee will
30 need to address the Governor's budget, with the projected \$1.5 billion deficit that
31 would be covered by the Constitutional Budget Reserve (CBR), being the major
32 concern.
- 33 **c. State Representative Andy Josephson-:** Andy discussed the many issues that are
34 taking up his time. They vary from participation in ANILCA hearing on Alaska Tribal
35 Compacting, a meeting on private prisons, a meeting on the sale of BP to Hillcorp
36 Energy Corporation looking at major capital budget requests, attending the Climate
37 Change Forum, and attending UA Regents meeting to consider adding 2 professors as
38 Regents to the Board. He mentioned that he is working on a House Resolution that
39 would address Climate Change. He is also working on a bill that would deal with
40 adding "enhancements" to crime sentencing standards to crimes that are committed on
41 persons based on their sexual orientation and identity. Finally, he discussed that he has
42 meet with Treasury Officials that have told him that the CBR needs to be at least \$1.4
43 billion if the state is to be considered fiscally responsible. Al Milspaugh asked a
44 question as to whether the Federal Hate Crime laws would cover what Andy referred to

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45 in the new crime bill standards that relate to hate crimes against LGBTQ+ persons.
46 Andy responded that that Federal prosecution needs a Federal nexus so would not apply
47 in most situations. Paul Stang stated that he is looking forward to seeing the Climate
48 Change Resolution.

49 **d. State Representative Ivy Spohnholz:-** Ivy requested that possibly the UACC could
50 rotate the order of presentation. She reported on the FY 20 Supplemental Budget. She
51 detailed the \$260 million in additional health care funds to cover expenses the
52 Administration thought they could save on. In this regard she said the Health and
53 Social Services Committee is looking at SB 74 which deals with ways the State can
54 really save, such as how the State can manage eligibility and the payment rates to
55 reduce costs. Also, the committee is examining how we can find greater efficiencies,
56 such as to fund preventative care to reduce catastrophic health problems. She also
57 questioned API expenses, with \$6 million already going to Well Path, and the facility is
58 still not at capacity. Other supplemental budget items are the additional \$150 million
59 spent on wildfire suppression. She also said that there needs to be hearings on the
60 BP/HillCorp acquisition as to examine HillCorp's business model and delve into their
61 somewhat checkered record on environmental protection and employee safety. She
62 also discussed health care concerns. She said the Health Care Council is trying to bring
63 down Alaska Health Care costs, which are 38% higher than the next highest State. She
64 said the All Claims database will help in proving transparency in costs of medical
65 procedures and allow people to find lower cost providers. She also said that dental
66 hygienists will be allowed to practice on their own, so this should help bring the dental
67 preventative services costs down.

68 **e. Assembly Member Pete Peterson:-** Pete introduced several topics addressed at the last
69 Assembly meeting. He said the Assembly did not approve a casino in Eklutna. He said
70 they did pass a resolution for better government to government relations with the Native
71 Village of Eklutna. They also passed a resolution opposing sending prisoners to out of
72 State prisons. He said last time this model was used, prisoners came back to Alaska
73 affiliated with gangs that had never been here in Alaska and well versed in the serious
74 of criminal behavior. The said the January 14th Assembly meeting will deal testimony
75 on bonds that are on the April ballot. Bond totals are \$80M for schools, \$39M for
76 Roads, 3.9M for Parks, \$2M for Fire and \$4M for Public Safety. He also discussed the
77 Town Hall meetings being held on the three Tax proposals that the Assembly may be
78 considering. There is a meeting in Eagle River tonight (Forrest Dunbar is attending)
79 and another in Girdwood tomorrow. The first proposal is Fred Dyson's 3 % sales tax,
80 with half going to property relief and the other to homeless population solutions. There
81 are 2 forms of Alcohol tax with the "Forrest Dunbar" proposal of 5% tax going to
82 homeless and public safety, and another proposal that has a variable rate of 2% to 5%.
83 Pete said that one should go the Muni website to get more details on the Tax proposals.
84 Al Milspaugh said that he had hard copies of the proposal if one is needed. There was
85 discussion on what percentage was needed to pass any of the taxes. Marguerite Iverson
86 wanted to know if the tax proposals could detail that only 50% would be needed to pass
87 the tax. Pete Peterson indicated that 50% plus 1 would be needed for the alcohol tax
88 proposals. Mark Fink noted that general tax proposals need 60% under the current
89 Anchorage Muni Charter.

90 **f. Anchorage School Board President Starr Marsett:-** Starr commended this year's

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91 graduation rate of 84%, which is the highest in recent years. She described the \$82.8
92 million school bond proposal. This is \$20 million more than the current bond retirement.
93 She indicated that it is mostly earthquake repair for 15 affected schools, with the largest
94 portion going to Gruening Middle School. She also said that there is an Inlet View
95 Elementary School design and planning component, which is overcrowded and needs to
96 add an upper story due to being overcrowded and has a lack of available space. She
97 also said that the ASD will be funding repair at the Aquarian School since it is an ASD
98 building. She indicated there will not be a bond next year, until further bond is retired.
99 She indicated that there will be further cuts in ASD budget to deal with the \$20 million
100 deficit. She said the ASD may not be able to accept FEMA money for earthquake
101 repair, as FEMA requires earthquake insurance; the \$10 million in funds is contingent
102 on insurance, which would cost \$1.8 million a year, which the District can't afford.
103 Starr also said that there will be an ASD Board retreat to look at strategic planning goals for
104 the next 5 years. The results will be out by the end of June for public comment.

105 Dave Smallwood, candidate for School Board, gave a short presentation to the
106 UACC. He said that he is a lifelong Alaskan and a product of the ASD. He has
107 children in the ASD, and education is a priority for him. He said that life skills are an
108 important component of education and said there needs to be a focus on attendance. He
109 noted that there is a big difference in school attendance, even in the same
110 neighborhood, and needs to be addressed by creating better and equal schools though
111 out these neighborhoods. He is the Russian Jack FCC representative, is on the NAACP
112 Education committee, associate teacher with ASD, and a lay pastor all which point to
113 his qualifications. He said that kids wellbeing have been his focus for his adult life.

114 **B. Reports from UACC Committees/Ad Hoc Chair Persons**

115 **a. Parks-Barbara Garner:-** Barbara reported on Folker Park progress. She said the
116 new light location preps didn't pass inspection at the park have not yet been installed
117 and will not be installed until spring. She doesn't know why the lights did not pass
118 inspection. There are at least 15 dead mature spruce trees now in the Park, so hopefully
119 the cold weather will slow down the spread of the bark beetle in the park. Barbara
120 indicated there is increasing graffiti in the area and reported it to the graffiti hotline but
121 got no response. A response appeared after Barbara reported to the Mayor's office.
122 The two large graffiti areas on South wall along 40th Ave between Laurel and Folker
123 have been obscured with sprayed pattern.

124 **b. Safety-Al Milspaugh:-** Al provided the following safety briefing:

125 Safety tips were extracted from Urban Streets Anchorage, "Keep Children Safe".
126 Everyone can help ensure children get to and from school safely.

127 DRIVERS:

- 128 1. Do not use your smart phone or device while driving, including while stopped at a
129 light or stop sign.
- 130 2. Pay attention. Look for and stop for children.
- 131 3. Slow down, especially in school zones, intersections and places kids walk and
132 play.
- 133 4. Leave the controls, displays and navigation in your car lone.
- 134 5. Drink your coffee or do your grooming when you reach your destination.
- 135 6. Do NOT drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

136 PARENTS:

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- 137 1. Role model good driving habits.
- 138 2. Ask children who are walking to put away mobile devices that can distract them.
- 139 3. Put reflective stickers or materials on outer clothing and bags or children.

140 KIDS:

- 141 1. Walk on sidewalks and use crosswalks. If no sidewalk is available, walk facing
- 142 oncoming traffic.
- 143 2. Wear reflective clothing and blinking lights.
- 144 3. Always look left, right, then left again before crossing any street.

145 c. **UACC FCC Representative: Al Milspaugh.** No FCC meeting last month.

146 5. Old Business- None

147 6. New Business and Public Comment

148 A. **42nd Ave Project Resolution-Pipeline Leak, Replacement & Associated Roadbed-**

149 **James Armstrong, AWWU and Russ Oswald, PM&E**

150 Paul Stang introduced the resolution that addresses the continuing water main breakage
151 problem affecting residents on 42nd Avenue and “wasting’ of scarce funds in the continual
152 piecemeal repair of the waterline. The resolution described the effects of these breaks on
153 local residents. Barbara Garner also provided additional background information on the
154 latest December 15th water main break on 42nd Avenue. She indicated there were 3 breaks
155 on 42nd Avenue between Folker and Wright in 12 hours on this date. She said there was
156 some water damage in homes within this area. Compared to previous cleanup efforts,
157 AWWU, through their contractors did a good job in water removal and house cleanup.

158 Russ Oswald said that the project is a high priority for the Muni and AWWU, but
159 construction will not start until at least 2023. Russ said that the water line needs to be
160 replaced from Lake Otis to Piper while the road needs reconstruction from Lake Otis to
161 Florina (further east). There was comment on what needs to be done to move it up to 2020
162 instead of 2023. Paul Stang indicated that the number of breaks on 42nd Avenue should
163 make for a higher priority for the project. He said that there probably aren’t too many
164 areas that need both the road repair and water line reconstruction. James Armstrong
165 indicated that this is not that unusual for the aging Anchorage infrastructure and is not that
166 unusual a project. He also said that 2023 construction date is a somewhat expedited
167 schedule given normal funding cycles. The timing of the project will be for design funds
168 to be approved in Aprils Road and Drainage bond, final design by, construction in 2022-23,
169 and 2024-26 landscape and other 2nd phase projects being complete.

170 There was question about whether the water line needs to replaced right now and not wait
171 for the road design and subsequent construction, particularly to save on multiple repair
172 costs. The reply was that this would be a very expensive process, and would not save
173 money. James estimated that it would add an additional \$1,500,000 to the cost of
174 \$19,000,000 for the project. The standalone pipeline reconstruction repair could double
175 the cost of the pipeline replacement, with costs of upwards to \$2,000,000. Since the breaks
176 cost “only” \$10,000 to \$15,000 to repair, so it makes economic sense to just do the repairs
177 until the total project (road and waterline) can re reconstructed in sync.

178 Paul Stang made the point that this does not factor in community impacts and residents
179 can anticipate further water damage from certain future breaks. Paul also wanted to know
180 whether one break can cause further failures, and what can be done to assess the condition
181 of the pipe. In replying was about the condition of the pipe, James indicated that “pinging”

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182 the pipe indicates that the ductal pipe west of Piper has about 10% wall thickness
183 remaining. The cast iron pipe east is about 50%.
184 This makes replacement of the pipe west of Piper priority for the area. The pipe
185 replacement will be with PVC, which is not subject to failure from joint expansion due to
186 pressure fluctuations. Al Milspaugh wanted to know whether the earthquake and
187 subsequent needed repairs has had an impact on when the 42nd Avenue project can proceed.
188 James indicated that these repairs have been completed and do not now affect the timing of
189 construction. Andy Josephson wanted to know how residents that have received water
190 damage were and re-made whole by the Muni. James and Russ indicated that Muni's Risk
191 Management Department deals with this. They didn't know the specific process, but said
192 the impacted residents should go to the muni website, or could contact him at 907-343-
193 6196. He also provided his business cards with this information.
194 Russ and James indicated they are ready to try to speed up the process, so they have no
195 objection to the resolution being passed. Barbara Garner asked about how many breaks
196 residents will need to suffer through before the pipe is repaired in 2023. They said they
197 didn't know, but thought the muni might not want to spend additional millions to replace
198 just the water line in 2020 because of the cost. Paul Stang thought he would talk with
199 Assembly members to see if they can get the project done sooner. With that a motion was
200 made to table the resolution. *There was no objection to tabling the motion.*

201 **B. Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission Conditional Use Permit-Melissa Branch, Big City** 202 **Engineers**

203 The project is designed to improve the services to clients at the mission, but will not
204 increase its capacity. It would also improve the parking at the site and enhance the
205 landscaping. There would be a new wooden structure on the north side of the facility. The
206 kitchen would be to the north, food storage would be even further to the north, and the
207 current kitchen would be converted into a dining facility. Upstairs would be support
208 services and a classroom. The structure would be a low profile gable structure. The paint
209 would match the current facility. The parking would be improved by defining the spaces at
210 the rear of the facility. The front of the facility would be cleaned up with new landscaping
211 and better defined access to the front entrance. *There was no opposition by the UACC to*
212 *the proposal as presented.*

213 **C. UACC Comments: Muni Case 2020-0014 Ernie Turner Center Site Re-Zone**

214 Paul Stang detailed three Cook Inlet Tribal Councils (CITC) responses to the concerns
215 that were surfaced by the UACC to the Ernie Turner Plan. First, the Tudor entrances will
216 be eliminated, lessening the safety concerns brought up by UACC comments. Second, they
217 do not plan on providing 148 parking spaces as previously indicated. They will work with
218 the Muni to define the adequate number. They will also follow the stipulations on designs
219 that are indicated in the UMED Plan. It was decided the UACC Executive Board will draft
220 a new letter to CITC to revise UACC comments on the plan. Paul asked whether UACC
221 supported the Board completing this letter. *There was unanimous consent on the*
222 *proposal.*

223 **D. Election of UACC Officers/Call for Nominations of Board Members**

224 It was moved to nominate the current UACC President Paul Stang, Vice President Al
225 Milspaugh, Secretary /Treasurer Steve Zemke, and Members at Large Krista Scott and
226 Joanie Nardini for the same positions for the 2020 calendar year. There were no other

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227 nominations for these positions. The vote for this motion was *18 for, 0 opposed, with one*
228 *abstention.*

229 Paul Stang reminded the membership that nominations and election for the UACC
230 Standing Committees, (Safety, Parks and Recreation, Traffic, Safety) and the FCC
231 Representative will be held during next month's meeting.

232 **E. Open Forum and Public Comments**

233 Kristine Miller introduced herself and announced that she was running for an Assembly
234 member position.

235 Peter Johnson said that the Anchorage Folk Festival would be held at the Wendy
236 Williamson Auditorium from January 16 through January 26. He had posters available for
237 information.

238 Rick Phillips said that he had a petition available to sign for the support of SB 21- Fair
239 Share Act. He had a flyer available describing the provisions within the Act. He also said
240 that signatures were needed by January 17th to get the Fair Share Act initiative on the ballot
241 this year.

242 Barbara Garner said that with the return of cold weather, diesel fumes were again
243 permeating her neighborhood. She wondered where the Muni was with the promised air
244 quality study. Paul Stang said that he would contact Robin Ward with the Muni to find out
245 its status.

246 **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 9:00 pm. Our next UACC
247 meeting will be held on February 5, 2020.

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Paul R. Stang, UACC President

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Attachment 1

University Area Community Council – Senator Gray-Jackson’s Report January 8th, 2020

- This next session, some of the legislation that I am bringing forward follows:
 - A Senate companion bill to complement a bill offered by Representative Tarr that establishes a timeline in which sexual assault examination kits must be tested.
 - This is just one piece to the work that has been done over the last five years or so by Representative Tarr to address the high rates of sexual assault in Alaska.
 - A bill to essentially outlaw private prisons.
 - Private prisons have been shown to be more dangerous for both inmates and guards.
 - Recidivism rates in private prisons tend to be higher.
 - And there is a lot of evidence that private prisons produce worse outcomes at a higher cost to the State and taxpayers.
 - A bill that would expand the types of health professionals that would be able to prescribe disability parking placards.
 - This would make healthcare more accessible by giving folks more options for health professionals that can meet their needs.
 - Lastly, I will continue to serve on the Senate Health and Social Services finance subcommittee.
 - I will be working to make sure that the State’s largest department is able to meet the needs of the most vulnerable Alaskans at a responsible cost.
- Later this session, I intend to introduce a bill or perhaps a package of bills that will attempt to address climate change.
 - Including, but not limited to creating better infrastructure for electric vehicles.
 - The forest fires we experienced this past summer and what is currently going on in Australia just goes to show how pressing the problem is, and I intend to do all that I can to advance the efforts to address this big and growing issue.
- I am hoping that everyone has had a wonderful holiday and Happy New year to you and your family.

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- 299
- I am looking forward to returning to Juneau for the next session and to work on the behalf
- 300 my constituents and every Alaskan. Please keep in touch.

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303 I hope you are enjoying my monthly E-newsletter. If you're not receiving them, please send your

304 email address to my staff at Keith.Bauguess@akleg.gov.

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