



SCENIC FOOTHILLS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

October 2004

Regular Meeting Date

Now that school is in full swing and we do not have holidays to contend with, the Scenic Foothills Community Council is back to its normal meeting dates of the first Thursday of each month.

Meet the Candidates

The major candidates for our State Senate and State House of Representatives have been invited to the October meeting of the Council.

Bettye Davis and Ken Flynn, running for the Senate, and Harry Crawford and Jeff Gonnason, for the State House, have agreed to attend our meeting to answer your questions.

This is a great opportunity to share your concerns and influence your potential legislative representatives.

Future Meetings

We are trying to schedule for our November meeting the Director of Parks and Recreation to talk about the administrative reorganization and how it is intended to be more responsive to our area's individual needs. This would be a good opportunity to describe the problems with Baxter Bog.

Other future meetings may discuss the plans for the Police Department, crime in the neighborhood, and possibly include establishment of Neighborhood Watch programs. The Fire Department has also asked to describe how the new fire station #14 at Tudor/Campbell Airstrip Road is operating.

If you have issues that you want to discuss, please contact any member of the Executive Board to try to schedule a speaker to cover your topic. We'll do our best to accommodate you.

2005 Municipal Budget-\$\$\$

A lot of comment is often made about the Municipality of Anchorage's budget and the property taxes and other fees and taxes assessed to fund the budget. Most often, though, few of us know the content of the budget or fully understand how the budget is developed.

Recently the Municipal Budget Advisory Commission held hearings to allow the public to air their concerns. These hearings were poorly attended. If our citizens really want to affect the Municipal expenditures or our tax assessments, it is important that we educate ourselves as much as possible.

The Director of the Municipal's Office of Management and Budget will attend our October Council meeting to discuss with the operating and capital budgets, which are officially unveiled on October 1.

Several possible changes merit our consideration. The Assembly has been asked to consider a significant raise in the taxes added to the sale of tobacco products. The Mayor has proposed an exemption of the first \$20,000 of assessment on owner-occupied personal residences. Revaluation of certain properties considered undervalued in the past is also another example of possible means to provide some property tax relief.

The capital budget, which provides for major infrastructure investments, park and equipment additions and other capital purchases, also affects the level of our property taxes. The OMB Director will discuss what may be included in the next Municipal election and what we may expect in the future.

How is the proposed new Convention Center to be financed? What are the plans for a museum expansion? These are all items of which we need to become educated.

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Publicity Chair- open

Next Meeting October 7, 2004
7:00 PM Scenic Park Elementary
AGENDA

Minutes
APD Report
Assembly Report

Meet the candidates
State Senate
State Representative

Legislative Report
School Report
Board Officers Reports

Presentations
2005 Municipal budget

Old Business
New Business
Other Reports