



# GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

c/o Community Councils Center • 1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100  
Anchorage, AK 99503

Jody Sola, President

Stephanie Kesler, Vice President

Peter Partnow, Secretary

Zoe Lowery, Treasurer

Bob French, FCC Representative

Pete Murphy, Belinda MacIntire, Ron Clark, At-Large Board Members

## **GHCC Meeting Minutes November 16, 2023 Submitted by Peter Partnow**

Meeting conducted via Zoom called to order at 6:32 p.m. by President Jody Sola.

1. **Introduction of Attendees:** Attendees identified via Zoom appearance and noted on the virtual sign-in sheet provided with these minutes.

2. **Approval of agenda:** Jody Sola announces changes in the agenda. Accepted by unanimous consent.

3. **Approval of October 19, 2023, meeting minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes of October 19, 2023: Stephanie Kesler

Second: Bob French

**Motion unanimously approved**

3. **Treasurer's Report:** **Zoe Lowery** reports no significant changes, but notes fees charged by the bank. Some discussion as to whether that monthly fee can be avoided.

4. **Legislative update:** **A. Senator Loki Tobin** discussed various issues she is following/pursuing including educational funding, childcare and homelessness. Introduced her aide Louie Flora who has expertise relating to energy issues.

Contact information: [sen.loki.tobin@akleg.gov](mailto:sen.loki.tobin@akleg.gov) or 907-269-0224

**B. Representative Cliff Groh**, multitasking from his car, noted energy issues will loom large in the up coming legislative session. He has continued his tour of schools in his district and has heard sad stories regarding staffing.

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Identified his new staff person Sophie Wiser. Discussed issues relating to violence towards women.

5. **Anchorage School Board:** Carl Jacobs, on behalf of Dave Donley again noted budget deficits being faced by the school board/school district. Noted the Board is currently focusing on life readiness and is planning to increase the graduation rate from 81% to 90%. Noted video of meetings on this topic can be found on YouTube.

6. **Alaska Railroad:** Meghan Clemens, reported that the railroad wanted to re-open discussion of status of the former Tesoro property and that a date for such discussion, outside of the regular GHCC meeting, may be set. With regards to the plans for dealing with the re-alignment of Port of Alaska access road, noted the Railroad has not adopted any plan to run Port traffic through Government Hill during the construction period. Steve Ribuffo added that the Alaska Trucking Association has also indicated opposition to routing Port traffic through Government Hill and that there a variety of possible solutions to address this issue. No decisions have been made.

7. **Port of Alaska:** Steve Ribuffo noted the last delivery of cement to the cement terminal occurred fortuitously just prior to the recent snow dumps. He reported on the recent tour of the Port facilities by members of the Port Commission (including Government Hill resident Stephanie Kesler) and in response to Stephanie's report on how valuable and interesting the tour was, indicated that when the weather becomes more accommodating, they will try to set up a similar tour for GHCC members.

8. **Proposed Chugach Electric Rate Hike:** Discussion of the proposed electric rate hike and opposition to the rate hike by AARP. Louie Flora summarized some of the issues relating to the proposed rate hike. Noted that a flat fee hike will be particularly impactful on seniors and others on fixed income. Increase is due largely to increased cost of natural gas. The proposed rate hike will be before the Commission in March with final approval of some rate change to be made later in 2024. Some discussion of Senate Bill 101 and issues addressed by that proposal by Louie and Senator Tobin.

louie.flora@akleg.gov  
907 717-9602

And here is a copy of the legislation for review:

<https://www.akleg.gov/basis/Bill/Detail/33?Root=Sb%20101>

9. **AMATS and Parks:** Bob French noted the final AMATS meeting of this year was cancelled. Regarding Parks, he wants to re-energize the Parks Committee so various projects can proceed in 2024. Bob mentioned the "tree shaking" get together that

occurred at the Commons to remove the heavy snow from many of the trees and indicated that damage to trees had occurred because of the heavy snow load.

**10. Old Business and Community Concerns:** **Susanne DiPietro** raised concerns regarding status of Tract J and the possibility that the Department of Transportation may have taken or be planning to take steps to make it access to the Port of Alaska. added additional concerns in this regard noting the School District and AT&T would be impacted.

**Stephanie Kesler** advised she is working on candidates for council offices to be considered at the January 2024 meeting.

**Jody Sola** advised there will be no Community Council meeting in December.

**Meeting adjourns by unanimous consent: 7:44.**