

## **SPENARD COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 4, 2015**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The minutes from the January meeting were approved.

### **LEGISLATIVE TELECONFERENCE**

Chris Tuck and Matt Claman discussed the state budget deficit situation and marijuana legalization. They mentioned that the general budget will be cut and the constitutional budget reserve will have to be tapped. Also, all tax credits will have to be looked at. One member asked where the funds were for the state purchase of a Fairbanks utility. Another member asked about the danger of the constitutional budget reserve funds being depleted in 3 years, given the rate of state spending. Matt Claman warned about cutting the budget too much and said there was no perfect solution. Chris Tuck noted the high state spending in the last 6-7 years, and said the the state has to set some prioritizes. Another member proposed big cuts to the deficit.

### **ASSEMBLY REPORT**

Ernie Hall and Tim Steele addressed the Council regarding the bonds that are on the ballot for the April election. Ernie Hall discussed the proposed alcohol tax, that did not pass the Assembly. Ernie also discussed the upcoming legalization of marijuana (for personal use) and the definition of a public place where marijuana could be used. Ernie said the upcoming marijuana issues are 1) how the state will issue marijuana commercial licenses, and whether those licenses would have value, 2) edibles, which can be very potent, and 3) Anchorage will be a tempting target for grow operations, given its relatively low energy costs. Ernie will be looking to community councils for feedback on these issues. One member recommended paying off existing bonds before taking on more debt.

### **AIRPORT REPORT**

John Johansen discussed the recent Lake Hood Master Plan public meeting, Dynamic's recent direct flight service to China, the transportation fair at the Alaska Airlines Center taking place on February 4, and an upcoming airports jobs fair. He said air cargo flights are down 30% from 2007.

### **TAP ROOT LIQUOR LICENSE TRANSFER**

Martin Severin, the president of TR2, Inc, addressed the Council regarding TR2's application for a transfer of the Tap Root beverage dispensary license. He plans to spruce up the business and will keep the Tap Root name. The footprint of the building will remain the same. The seating will be reconfigured but capacity will not be increased. He is also installing a new PA system.

Eileen Zaiser, a residential neighbor, complained about Tap Root's history of excessive noise and customers parking on the street. She requested the number of someone she could call in the future if noise is excessive. Mr. Severin gave her his own personal cell phone number. Margaret Auth noted that businesses need to be good neighbors with the residential community.

Jason Bergerson suggested a meeting of Council officers and Tap Root management to come up with acceptable conditions, and to bring those proposals back to the Council for approval. Mr. Severin noted that the transfer was on the agenda for February 17. A motion was made to table taking any action until such a meeting takes place, which was adopted by the Council.

#### PROPOSED CHANGES TO PEOPLE MOVER ROUTE 36

The People Mover bus service is proposing to dramatically alter service on Route 36, eliminating approximately 20 stops on Minnesota Drive, Tudor Road, Taft Street, 48th Avenue, and Northwood Drive. Christine Sondej, a planning manager with People Mover, addressed the Council and answered questions about the proposed changes. She claimed that only 24 people take the bus daily in this portion of the route. She also stated that the Public Transit Advisory Board would also address these cuts at their upcoming meeting on February 12.

Several members brought up the fact that the bus currently serves a skateboard park, the Spenard Rec Center, the Brotherhood/Sisterhood Park, the Asian Cultural Center, and Northwood Elementary School. One person stated that her disabled son has used the bus for years as his primary form of transportation. Another person stated that she does not have a car and would have to walk 9 blocks to catch a bus if the Route 36 changes go through. Still another person takes the Route 36 bus in this area multiple times a day. The chair mentioned that he has taken the Route 36 on Northwood regularly since 1994. Still another person who regularly takes the Route 36 stated that he always sees someone waiting at the stop in front of his house on 48th Avenue.

The Council passed a unanimous resolution to keep the Route 36 the way it is.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Council's bylaws require that an election of officers occur every year at the February meeting. As the current chair was term limited out, Phil Isley was elected chair. Also, since the current secretary did not run for reelection, Irene Persson was elected as secretary. Finally, Jason Bergerson was reelected vice-chair and Allen Thornhill was reelected treasurer, and Tom McGrath and Ross Johansson were elected auditors. Jason Bergerson was also elected the Spenard representative for NeighborWorks.

**Robert Auth, Chair**  
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