

Spenard Community Council Meeting November 4th 2015.

Called to order at 7:00 by Chairperson Phil Isley

Minutes were accepted from last meeting

Phil opened meeting with announcing a letter from Solstice Engineering & Consulting regarding Fish Creek Trail in Spenard area. Highlighted improvements that are to be made via the project, anyone who is interested can review the letter for more details.

Received a notification that the Spenard Road plan is at 95% completion

Chilkoot Charlie's is being sold and new owners seeking some variances on liquor licensing etc. regarding this transfer of ownership

Gina from Rep Mia Costello office- Reported Special Session of Legislature ended today, main action was that Rep Costello voted to buy out TransCanada regarding the development of a natural gas line.

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

Chris Tuck called in with report regarding Special Session that just ended and he elaborated on details of State of Alaska "buying out" TransCanada.

Gov Walker encouraged state buy at cost of \$69 million, future revenues upwards of \$400 million that over 20 years can total in the billions. TransCanada will have 15 people working with Alaska staff till April 2016 for transitional purposes. Shell Oil lease ended in Alaska recently due to unsuccessful exploration drilling.

Tim Steele asked question "are other partner companies who are pursuing working on gas pipeline development? Answer, "yes, for example Exxon is interested in getting gas out of lines in order to reach up to 7 times more gas when the gas is pumped. No other questions.

Assembly report from Ernie Hall- main topic being discussed at meetings are the budget issues for next year. Looking for ways to decrease budget by approximately \$5 million. For instance no dividends will be paid to Municipality from various sources, \$59 million of school bonds will not be reimbursed by State so financial burden will be the responsibility of Anchorage Municipality. Not sure if some bonds will try to be sold during 2016 budget year to help in this situation. Many challenges to the budget obviously. People are welcome to attend Assembly meetings to testify with input. Also there is a proposed 30% increase to fines and tickets, which have not been raised for several years, to help offset some costs to running the city. No new police officers anticipated for next year than the current number in the police force. A concern about 'policing' the use and severe abuse of the street drug 'Spice' which is being sold on the 'black market' mostly via the internet with sources from China. Looking at creating an ordinance to have a \$500 fine for selling 'spice' to hopefully deter use. Lots of overdose victims are flooding the local hospitals. Tim Steele gave an example of a friend who could not get into a hospital room after surgery due to so many victims who overload the systems. Last month was a record of 187 transfer of people who were found overdosed on using 'spice', which impacts the city resources obviously for accident victims or others with acute medical needs not due to drug use. There have been some instances when all the cities ambulance resources were in use at the same time. Another ordinance is texting while driving to be upgraded to a violation

with a \$500 fine. Marijuana licensing is going to be completed by end of November so all aspects of growing, processing and selling. Suggested growing and processing must be limited to industrial areas. Potential business owners will apply to State for license and then each Municipality is notified who is being considered for a license in the area. These will also be brought to Community Councils around the state and there could be up to 30 applications that will need to be reviewed by the Council to give input for the requests in the specific Community area. Without a protest from the Community Council the license will be allowed by the State most likely, these need to be addressed carefully at the local level. The State wide vote on the legalizing of recreational marijuana use was 57% so it something that needs to be well monitored as it is not "going away".

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 homeless population 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. 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".

Officers came to meeting for Recruitment effort for Anchorage Police. The Anchorage force is down about a hundred officers due to retirement attrition and leaving for better benefit jobs in other forces. Left information brochures for those who know of someone interested "joining police force" Also reminded about the "Nixel" report system to find out about what is happening in the community regarding various crimes that are reported from Anchorage Police logs. Encourage all members of community to get involved to make our city better and safer. Comment that "War on Drugs" has not been successful over the past 40+ years and wonder how the issue of "spice" will be curtailed. Officer response is that they are still committed to trying to stop the source of "spice". The ramifications of how the behaviors are manifesting in people using 'spice' was described in some detail, very horrific! Amy from Mayor Berkowitz's office gave a short speech of appreciation to the Anchorage first responders, police officers and firefighters, during the past 7 months which have been hectic due to the overdose victims of "spice". The audience gave a round of appreciative applause for all those first responders working on this issue!

Amy Coffman from the Mayor's Office- looking for new people to be involved in Board or Commissions, asked if anyone present has applied for a position on any of the Commissions. One person raised their hand, applause! Going to reinstate a 'youth' element in these Boards, encourage those who know young people who would be appropriate to apply. Then Nancy Burke director of homeless population reported there are seven 'plans' on this topic at community, State and Federal level, so Mayor will review all those plans to coordinate which of each can be used for a comprehensive strategy to address this major concern in our communities. Will make announcements next month about how this issue is complicated by dealers targeting "spice" to the most vulnerable people and what is being done to stem this flow toward the homeless population.

John Johansson with Airport report open house on airport issues and Master Plan at Lakefront

Hotel November 18th 5:30- 8:00. Concession update, a new vendor 'Sushi on the Run' is under construction and will be opening in February 2016. North/South runway, 1 & 33 will be closed during day till 8 pm so most traffic will use east runway, or over downtown, instead. This is adding lots of additional noise over residential areas and residents are already complaining accordingly. Peg Auth thanked him for getting information out to residents about this change in traffic pattern. Asked if he knew about a helicopter that has been flying over the area near her house recently. He will look into it and get back to her.

Carrie Connaker from Solstice Alaska Consulting report on Anchorage Areawide Trails Rehabilitation, Fish Creek project mentioned earlier. Two segments Taft to 45th & Turnagain Parkway and Barbara Park. Will include lighting and some upgrades to trail surface. Question asked about a culvert along the Creek, but this project does not include and culvert work. Reminded everyone is welcome to give input on projects as they proceed especially in planning phase.

Tom Middleton from Dowl , Engineering and Planning, with report of Master Plan of Lake Hood Seaplane Base, length of Master Plan is 20 year period, current plan initiated 2006 so nearly half way into period. there is an advisory committee and representative from community councils. There is high interest from heavy users i.e. floatplane owners/pilots, regarding Categories of work as follows:

1. Only minor maintenance
2. Major improvements for safety and maintenance
3. Improvement facilities paving surfaces and security
4. Expansion is most expensive, especially for more floatplane slips, there are 240 now and there is a 10 year long waiting list. There is a website with project survey available to fill out. Will stay after meeting to add people interested in being on mailing list.

Stephan Agni made presentation for Rezone Request from applicants Katherine and Rick Richters who own two parcels of property at 2906 Valleywood & 2900 Breezewood, parcel A and B. In 1986 under Mayor Tony Knowles administration a long range Spenard district plan developed strict guidelines to apply for 're-zone' requests. There has been 13 successful rezone requests since then. Request is mixed usage, retail, food service, residential and support for related services. A long explanation was given by Mr Agni. followed by lots of questions about what Mr Agni's status in this request. Much of commentary by audience members were critical about this request as the owners, who were present, were not able to give the exact nature of the business(es) they plan to build on the land in question, which is zoned as residential and not retail business or related commercial use.

Jason Bergerson made a motion to approve request with "special limitations", Jennifer Calbin seconded, 'discussion' Jay Stange. Jason withdrew motion.

Resulting vote on this very disputed issue was the members of the Spenard Community Council was not to support the request for rezoning.

Adjourned at 9:05