

Notes from Randy Sulte – Dec 14 2023

Here are some select items:

Apologies for not being able to make it tonight. It is my company's Christmas party which I am hosting at my house.

As a reminder I'm at Kaladi's every Saturday on industrial way from 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM I will not be there December 23rd or 30th. I have been doing this for the last two years. This is an opportunity for you to come by and have a dialogue.

Another reminder is to sign up for the assembly newsletter via the assembly website.

Also, snow. The muni website ([Mayor Snow Removal \(muni.org\)](http://muni.org)) has a lot of information on who to call to remove a berm, a special number for seniors (MOA Street Maintenance (907) 343-8277 also MOA Right of Way (907) 343-8420), an interactive map showing plow status of roads ([Snow Plowing | Anchorage Street Maintenance \(arcgis.com\)](http://arcgis.com)) and sidewalks ([Winter Pedestrian App \(arcgis.com\)](http://arcgis.com)). It also has a great map showing what roads are State, Muni, LRSA or private owned ([Street Owners and Maintenance Providers \(arcgis.com\)](http://arcgis.com)). We have a lot of state roads and well over 50% of the complaints I receive are regarding state roads or LRSA's.

What's ahead by Exception:

- Anchorage school district and anchorage assembly joint meeting was cancelled today due to lack of Planned attendance.
 - Snow Days vs Remote Learning: I have had numerous complaints about not taking a snow day and adding days to the end of the school calendar. Remote learning should be a last resort as families with multiple students do not have the bandwidth for multiple learners, during the recent storm some had no services to participate. Kuddos for trying, however there is no substitute for in person learning.
 - ASD is facing an approximate \$98 million budget shortfall. ASD Enrollment is 1,084 less students than last year, down ~4,800 in the last 10 years. ~7,000 fewer than the peak 21 years ago. By ASD's own projections the number of kids in ASD facilities in 2028 will be lower than they were in 1980 when ASD was 5 million square feet. Currently, ASD sits at 7.9 million SQF. Other cities have had success removing facilities (Seattle/Tacoma). I look at it like the old Fireweed Theater, it was closed, sold, and look what is there now.
- December 14th CEDC meeting: Reviewed AO 2023-117 and 118 re Titel 10 and 21 for marijuana internet/telephone sales, samples, and drive throughs. It is my understanding Fairbanks and Juneau have this, Kenai has voted no.
- December 19th Meeting:
 - Will have a pro Palestine speaker and potential demonstration similar to last meeting.
 - AR 2023-423: Updating and amending the Election Observer's Handbook and associated forms.
 - AIM 227-2023: Final Draft of 2024 Legislative program per AR2023-422: These are the priorities for the Municipality to the State. For District 6 we have 100th and Southport as

a priority. That potential to improve the intersection may impact a proposed comms tower.

- AO 2023-123: To put before the qualified voters a capital improvement bond for ASD (\$62,370,000).
- AO 2023-125 (S): Expands the scope of criminal activity punishable as an election violation and to insert a new section 8.30.190 codifying the offense of tampering with a public record in the third degree.
- AO 2023-131: to establish an official policy for the restoration of the Eklutna River, subject to the 1991 Fish and Wildlife Agreement with the Eklutna Power Purchasers, State of Alaska and the federal government
- AO 2023-405: Approval of APD Collective bargaining agreement
- AO 2023-81: Adoption of the Naming Panel recommendation of the Port of Alaska as the Don Young Port of Anchorage.
- AO 2023-103 and 2023-130: Creates a classification of residential development for three and four dwelling unit construction; apply the Residential Design Standards for one- and two-family dwellings to such developments. 103 classifies three dwelling units as residential.
- AR 2023-421: authorizing Grant Agreements with the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness for the Anchored Home Next Step Pilot program (\$1,500,000) and to restorative and reentry services for operations costs of its Pallet Shelter Pilot Program (\$500,000). Pallet shelters is a good method to help expand shelter and the path to a permanent home.
- AO 2023-110: STRs ordinance. Postponed to January 23rd. Work Session January 9th. S version coming.
- Ballot Props Coming before the Assembly
 - AO 2023-123: ASD (See above)
 - AO 2023-114 Anchorage Goes: Anchorage restroom bond for the ballot
 - \$9MM Postponed to January 9th
 - AO 2023-59 CASA: Chugach States Park Service Area
 - Postponed to January 9th
 - Work session January 5th
 - Anchorage, Eagle River, Girdwood Cemetery bond forthcoming

Some of what has taken Place:

- Tuesday, December 5th Assembly meeting:
 - Ballot propositions: the last date for ballot propositions to make the April ballot is the January 23rd meeting for approval
 - AO2023-114 and initiative for restrooms throughout the municipality estimated at \$9 million was postponed to January 9th
 - AO 2023-59 Chugach State Park service area was postponed to January 9th.
 - There will be a work session the first week of January most likely a Thursday or Friday
 - Cemetery bond (Girdwood, Anchorage and Eagle river): this has not come before the body yet
 - AO2023-110 Short Term Rentals was postponed till January 23rd to allow more time for community feedback and allow the sponsors to agree on an S version.

- FY 2024 Budget: Mayor's veto was overridden. Please look to his veto for a list of items that had been proposed for veto and the reasoning.
- Legislative priorities: this was agreed to on Tuesday and are the joint priorities of the municipality from the administration and the assembly. These will be the priorities we will work and push with our state legislators.
- Utility and Oversight Committee met last Wednesday with the municipality and state of Alaska DOT to discuss the recent snow response while the crews did well with the record snow there's room for improvement as always. Communication was greatly improved showing which roads were state versus Muni/Parks versus LRSA versus Private. Sectors were displayed to get current updates on plowing and sidewalks, there was a snow hotline as well as a senior citizens snow hotline to allow citizens to request plowing provide information and make complaints.
- AO2023-87 HOME initiative is currently before planning and zoning and due back before the Assembly within the next month.
- AO2023-130 an initiative to make it easier to build three and four plexes in areas that are already allowed them will come back before the Assembly December 19th.

If I have missed something or there is something of interest that you'd like to learn more about, please reach out to me and I will do the best I can to get you that information.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy
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*That which delivers value will be maximized, that which destroys it will be minimized.
The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago, the second best time is today.
Bring me solutions, not problems.*