

## RUSSIAN JACK COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

6:30 PM, Wednesday, May 9, 2018

At Emergency Operations Center

Present: Fred McLeary, Josh Spring, Ed Leach, Chris Smith, Pete Petersen, Renea Miller, Judy Kowal, Bernice Nisbett, Magdalena Olivera, Dan Wright, Sherry Wright

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Chair Ed Leach.

Anchorage Fire Department is having an Open House Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 11 am to 3 pm at 1150 Airport Heights Drive. The next Russian Jack Community Council meeting will be on June 13<sup>th</sup>. June 9<sup>th</sup> will be the park cleanup followed by the picnic. Cleanup will begin at 10 am and the picnic will begin at noon. There will be no council meetings in July and August. Meetings will resume September 12<sup>th</sup>.

### 1. Legislative report

Sen. Berta Gardner – no report

Sen. Bill Wielechowski – no report

Sen. Tom Begich – Report provided by Joshua Spring – will begin working on the homeless issue in Anchorage. They will try to assemble as many service providers as possible for a meeting. He asked if we have any specific issues, please let him know. Ed spoke up about problems and the severe backlog of documents at Public Assistance. Loss of productivity with the new Medicaid system is part of the problem. There are 40 vacant positions that apparently were NOT under the hiring freeze, but people are not staying in their jobs. The agency is out of compliance for processing documents and have been for years. Aries is the program that is part of the problem. Sounds like there are numerous computer programming issues with Aries that need to be addressed. Possible solutions would be to hire a local programmer to fix the problems or get rid of Aries and take ERS and rewrite it in a modern language so it can do what the feds need and we'd have something that works. A question of if the legislators can call Commissioner's in for questioning, like Congress does was asked. Legislative staff in attendance said they can. Public Assistance also needs to revise their manual, as it is outdated and confusing to find the information needed.

Rep. Geran Tarr – Report provided by Magdalena Olivera – SB26 Geran voted no because it doesn't include any language to protect the PFD.

Rep. Ivy Spohnholz- Report provided by Bernice Nisbett - Senate passed the capital budget. SB 26 spending cap also passed.

Rep. Andy Josephson – no report

### 2. Assembly report

Pete Petersen – An ordinance regarding charging for excessive police calls to Beans Café and Brother Francis Shelter was voted down. A security firm has been hired to work in that area. Homelessness is a problem across the country. 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter adjustments were not made this year. The new computer system has not totally finished last fiscal year, so they need to allow that process to take place until they make any adjustments. People Mover has been listening to proposed new routes, additional routes, shorter routes, etc for changes. City-wide cleanup was supposed to be done last week, but there's still a lot of garbage in our city. We will have visitors coming to Anchorage soon. A question if APD will begin to enforce the current litter laws – they have a noise ordinance law that is also not being enforced. Vote by mail election had a

record number of ballots cast. Some improvements to the process are going to be considered – one is return postage (or using bulk mail was suggested). The main problem is those types of mail don't get a time stamp when they are processed, so there's no way to know if it was submitted timely or not. There was a higher percentage that mailed their ballots than typically went to vote. Drop box locations will stay the same next year. They will be working with the state to update the voter rolls. There were well over 20,000 that were ineligible to vote. A request was made to eliminate the law that gives a clean slate for a residence each year that has excessive police calls. Pete said it would take an assembly vote to change that and is probably unlikely.

Forrest Dunbar – no report

3. School board report - no report

4. Principal report – no report

5. FCC report – no report

6. The council was given a tour of the Emergency Operations Center by Lexi Trainer who is the Emergency Program Manager. This is something we do every five years as a reminder for our personal preparedness and provides a briefing of what the Muni will do in the event of a major emergency such as earthquake, severe weather, energy utility disruptions, widespread fires, etc. Various agency and services are grouped into the room together – for example Public Safety, Utilities, Special Interest, IT around the group. A situation analysis takes place with the following overarching questions: What is the impacted area? Are people being injured? Are people being displaced? Is critical infrastructure or major transportation hubs threatened? Is commerce being disrupted? EOC Response Priorities Hierarchy – **Priority 1 is Life - Safety:** This allows us to know what type of help we can expect individually for the first few days following a major disaster. **Priority 2 is Essential Facilities:** Facilities that if affected would seriously and adversely affect the community's ability to respond. **Priority 3 is Critical Infrastructure:** Roadways, utilities, communications and other components of the infrastructure that if damaged, would seriously and adversely affect life-safety or response capability. Rumor control is part of their job also and directing traffic to avoid areas of danger or congestion. Bags were given out that has a list of items we should all have in the case of a major emergency and other handouts.

A reminder of the Parks & Rec meeting scheduled for tomorrow night at Spenard Rec Center was given as we all left.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Sherry Wright