

Spenard Community Council Minutes February 1, 2006

Call to Order

The Spenard Community Council began its February meeting shortly after 7 pm.

Legislative Teleconference

Senator Hollis French provided our first legislative report from Juneau this year. Three weeks have passed in the second half of the 24th Legislature and there are three big topics to report on. First, the budget surplus, estimated at \$1.2 Billion, is a major topic of debate. Sen. French believes half should be saved for a rainy day, while the Governor and others are supporting spending the entire surplus. Second, the Gas line, is still a big deal. However, the legislature is still waiting to see a contract and may not see one until late in the session or during a Special Session. Finally, oil tax changes are now coming. Sen. French mentioned that the minority has been offering changes in the oil tax regime for a couple of years. The Governor has indicated he supports changes in the oil tax system and also supports exploration-based incentives. The Governor hasn't yet introduced a bill to change the oil tax system, but has indicated that a Stranded Gas contract won't be completed until changes are passed.

Issues raised for Sen. French included the following:

- the need for a comprehensive approach to addressing bad and unsafe drivers; some way to compel drivers to make necessary repairs before they can drive i.e., I/M issues or safety citations.
- The Seward Highway – spend more money on Troopers, the road isn't that bad.
- Municipal Revenue Sharing – when will we see it return?

Sen. French can be reached by email at Senator.Hollis.French@legis.state.ak.us

Minutes and Agenda

The Minutes from the last meeting and the Meeting Agenda were both approved as drafted.

Assembly Reports

Pamela Jennings provided the Assembly report this month. A summary follows:

- A. Legislative priorities were presented – broken down by House District. Most are based on the CIP list. Copies are available through the Municipality.
- B. Ballot issues – several issues added to the April Ballot including park land exchange in south Anchorage. Charter Amendment providing for municipal employees to handle ticketing/towing. Road Bonds. Fire Bonds. Park Bonds.
- C. The city is also working on updating demographic information.

Noisy car stereos and noisy exhaust systems were discussed again. Sam proposed the concept of using the I/M test to include a noise measurement of exhaust systems.

APD Community Liaison Report – Officer Stanton

Officer Stanton provided follow up on questions asked during the last meeting. Annual statistics for 2005 were reviewed. DWI's city-wide were down but had increased slightly in Spenard. Sergeant Stanton provided additional explanation of the Charter amendment. She also addressed questions related to when a vehicle may be impounded. Lack of a valid license was can't be used to impound a vehicle, although a suspended or revoked license, lack of insurance or prostitution could be used. The department is trying to fill its next planned academy class. Prostitution calls have declined and the reasons are based on area restrictions imposed during sentencing, special unit focus on the issue, and the new John Law. With respect to the new Nuisance Law, 11 out of 12 cases are resolved with voluntary compliance following the original citation. It takes 8 calls in a calendar year to cite someone under the Nuisance Law.

35th and McRae Rd project

The 35th and McRae Rd project was the subject of a meeting Jan. 11th. The Turnagain Council is also opposed to the current direction of the project. A committee of local residents has form to work with the designers. Basically, they don't want wider & faster design. Wendy Wilken is coordinating the project and wants to meet
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with the citizen's committee. A lot of local resistance is present related to where the design of this project is going.

General Aviation Update – Diana Rigg

Diana reviewed the Preferred Alternative General Aviation Master Plan. The plan includes land use changes to support the airport expansion, rehab of Alpha & Bravo parking lots, 60-69 new apron spaces, paving Delta parking and Hood Strip, Transient Floatplane spaces near Spenard Beach, special lease lot areas, and more. Separate from the Master Plan, the airport is expecting as many as 60 new Asian cargo flights per week. This will be a noticeable increase in operations. The Echo Parking Project hearing is set for February 15, 5:30 – 7:30 pm. For more information, contact Diana Rigg PO Box 196960, Anchorage, AK 99519 or Diana_rigg@dot.state.ak.us.

Election of Officers

The Nominations Committee chair, Sam O'Connor, offered the following slate of officers for consideration by the members:

Jason Bergerson – Chair Tom McGrath – Vice Chair
Alan Thornhill – Treasurer Sam O'Connor – Secretary

A motion was made to adopt the slate by unanimous consent. Being no objection, the slate of new officers was adopted by unanimous consent. Many thanks go out to Bob Auth for his service as Chair the last 2 years.

Public Outreach Update

Anne Brooks is the contact for a number of projects. The Spenard Rd project is set for a meeting on January 17th. We should hear more about that meeting from Anne next month. Ron Martindale from DOT provided information about the pedestrian safety project.

Steve Carey and Chad Waring provided information about the Minnesota Drive & 33rd intersection improvement options. The four options being evaluated include (1) block off 33rd passage across Minnesota, (2) extended puzzle-piece left turns only off Minnesota, (3) Left turn pockets, and (4) signalize intersection. All options include lengthening corner radii and have a budget in the \$200-250,000 range (except the signal option). Comments from the members asked for postponement of the design until the 36th couplet issue is decided.

Committee Reports

Westside Patrol Report: Sam O'Connor

Engine #5 has lost its fuel storage tank. The green light poles along Spenard are getting beat up. Calais Manor, 32nd and Bering area, has a number of prostitution issues. A Cold Alert continues as we expect continued below zero temperatures.

Planning & Zoning Report: Peggy Auth

Peggy reported that 4003 Lois is a horrendous junk yard. A meeting with the owners occurred January 25th. February 6 a certified building inspection is due.

Ed Norene has property issues going before P&Z. An enforcement order is at issue.

The Pizza Place, 25th and Spenard, has recently had a building permit issued.

The property at 904 Chugach was recently cited for being used as a 9-plex, although it is only a 3-plex. Storage units were being used as rentals.

3303 Dorbrandt has been mentioned for having an illegal car repair operation and is suspected of having drug activity. 4006 Barbara has also been mentioned as a property with problems.

Peggy can be reached at 248-0258 if anyone has questions about these issues. Also, Rich Fern, the code enforcement officer, can be reached at 343-8039.

Upcoming Meeting Schedule

The next scheduled meeting will be Wednesday, March 1st at 7pm. Several important agenda items will be included in March since it is the last meeting before the municipal election.