

TUDOR AREA COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes

October 24 2018; 7:00pm

First Church of God at Tudor and MacInnes

CALL TO ORDER: Tod Butler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PRIOR MEETING: None

ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY REPORT:

Dick Traini and Felix Rivera both focused on Assembly budget issues and their concerns. Due to an employee error, Anchorage has a \$4-5 million budget deficit instead of a projected surplus of around \$1.5 million. As a result, the city's accounting firm has been unable to complete the annual audit, which verifies the numbers from which the budget is derived. By law, the budget must be passed by December 10th or the assembly must go into special session every day until it is. There is great concern that the audit will not be completed in time for the budget to be thoroughly reviewed before this deadline.

Both Assembly members encouraged active participation in the budgetary process so that they are made aware of how the citizens would like their tax dollars allocated. They noted the meetings on October 23rd and November 7th when public commentary is scheduled to begin at 7pm. Felix Rivera also spoke about the considerable efforts made throughout the city and by other community councils to address the homeless camps. There is also a plan in the works to build residential and senior housing and a large retail complex with a grocery store anchor near the area of Elmore Road and Martin Luther King Drive.

The legislators were asked to comment on the impasse between the Anchorage School District and the Anchorage Teachers Union whereby the teachers have been working without a contract for going on two years. Dick Traini said that the Assembly is limited by law to providing \$200,000 to the district annually and he would support raising that limit because the city has the resources and could contribute more. He also talked about advancing an audit of the cost of education within the state as this has not been done for 15 years and would most likely show that the ASD is underfunded. The Assembly has already voted to allocate \$140,000 to this project but may need to increase

this a bit. The results would go to the State Legislature, where it may get buried and nothing accomplished because raising the amount in Anchorage means that it would be reduced in other boroughs and communities, which would be anathema to other legislators.

ALASKA LEGISLATURE REPORT:

Andy Josephson was asked about the impact of oil reaching near \$80 a barrel recently and he said that this could result in legislative complacency and a lack of motivation to arrive at a long-term solution to resolve the state's fiscal problems. When asked about the process of state education funding, Andy Josephson responded that the state allocated considerable resources to this and the boroughs and communities were responsible for distributing this as they saw fit.

Berta Gardner's representative spoke about the creation of Sobriety Awareness Month, which was advocated for by several non-profit organizations and groups and will focus on community outreach and education on the role that alcohol plays in Alaskan society.

SCHOOL BOARD REPORT: None

FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS REPORT: None

GUEST SPEAKER: Elvi Gray-Jackson, a former Assembly member and now a candidate for state senate in the upcoming election.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm.

Respectfully submitted by Mark Heinrichs