

TO: Federation of Community Councils
THRU: Ted Carlson, President
FROM: Erin Dovichin, Secretary
SUBJECT: Chugiak Community Council Minutes for November 21, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

The President called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

Roll Call

Present:

Ted Carlson, President
Randy McCain, Vice-President
Erin Dovichin, Secretary
Deborah Jones, Treasurer
Pat Tilton
Maria Rentz
Deb Thorall
Jake Horazdovsky (alternate)

Excused:

Benjamin Sherburne

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes have been prepared yet from the September and October meetings. Dovichin just returned from out of state and has not had the opportunity to review the recordings.

Copies of the Chugiak Community Council's meeting minutes and bylaws are available on the FCC's website at www.communitycouncils.org (Click on Chugiak). These minutes are a summary form of the discussion and key decisions. Audio files of the full discussion are also available on the website.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda approved as is.

APPEARANCE REQUESTS

R&M Consultants, Eklutna Bridge Replacement Project Update

Rand Gaynor with the municipality's project management and engineering department and Donna Lee of R& M Consultants gave an update on progress on the project since the September Council meeting. They shared drawings of four bridge concepts. Details and differences in the four concepts and prices were discussed at length. McCain pointed out that it is important to the community that the bridge looks nice, that it potentially incorporate features like retro rails even if the bridge can't be as visually interesting as the old bridge. Lee and Gaynor went over the project timeline and the details can be found at the project website. Representative Stoltze reiterated his comments from September about trying to keep costs down.

Representatives Bill Stoltze and Dan Saddler

The Representatives discussed changes in the redistricting map. Representative Stoltze gave an overview of the fiscal issues and the issue of the budget deficit and his perspective on the state of affairs. We're going to need to be circumspect about capital spending. He also discussed some of the challenges and conflicts between the Mayor of Anchorage and other civic leaders, including assembly people and legislators. This will also increase the challenges of the budgeting process. Representative Saddler talked about potential LNG pipelines, the oil tax issues and how the session is starting late in January. There was some discussion of the status of the proposed Susitna dam.

REPORTS

CBERRSA Road Board

Randy McCain shared a list of some of the roads that are proposed for resurfacing and other maintenance in the coming year.

Eagle River-Chugiak Parks & Recreation Board

Tilton reported a short meeting. Chugiak Dogmushers came to the meeting and expressed concern again about loose dogs on the Beach Lake Trails. There was some brief discussion that the capital budget is coming up. The Student Conservation Association is applying for a grant to control erosion on the Mt Baldy trails. There are issues at the McDonald center that appear to be tied up with some of the current conflicts with the mayor and municipal leadership.

Treasurer's Report

Jones reported the Council has \$3816 but owes a reimbursement to Erin for post office box fees.

Title 21/Consortium of Chugiak-Eagle River Community Councils

McCain reported that the Mayor has initiated new amendments to Title 21 but they have not involved public participation. The Mayor says these are minor technical amendments; however, some of them are not so minor. For example, Chugiak wanted overlay districts removed from our airport but now those same overlay districts are being written into the code.

Legislative and Assembly Report

Addressed earlier in the meeting

FCC Update

Jones reported there was no FCC meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Eklutna Monofill

Carlson reported that because of the MEA substation issue we are losing three Planning & Zoning Commission members and he is concerned about how that may impact future decision-making about the dump. He reiterated that we must stay on top of this issue and he remains committed to ensuring there is no dump. Rentz noted that the Alaska Center for the Environment is willing to work on the alternative solution of a reduced tipping fee issue at the Anchorage Regional Landfill for material such as Central Recycling's. Tilton reinforced Carlson's comments that we must stay on top of this issue. He expressed concern about the potential for the administration to simply override us

and Planning and Zoning and allow things to go forward like they did with the MEA substation. The Council needs to remain vigilant on this issue.

Checking Account

Deborah Jones and David Baldwin, the former Chugiak Council President, were able to get the Wells Fargo account closed and a cashier's check is ready for deposit into a new Alaska USA account. The President, Secretary and Treasurer will meet after the meeting to set a time to go to Alaska USA and sign the paperwork. They will need the minutes from the meeting where they were elected officers.

OPEN FORUM

Motion was made and seconded to suspend the December meeting. Motion passed unanimously. The next meeting will be January 16, 2014

There was a discussion of the Rural Lighting Standard issue and the need to defend the rural character of our community. Horazdovsky will draft a letter of concern for the council.

Horazdovsky noted that there is public notice about removal of a drainage easement on Amonson Road and asked if anyone knew why they were trying to vacate the easement. No one was familiar with why they might wish to vacate it. Discussion ensued about drainage issues and how the Road Board handles them.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Thursday, January 16, 2014, 7:00 pm at the Elsie Oberg Community Center.

The Chugiak Community Council serves Fire Lake, Chugiak, Peters Creek, Mirror Lake, Thunderbird Heights and Eklutna. We meet at 7pm on the third Thursday of the month at the Chugiak Benefit Association's North building, the Elsie Oberg Community Center (18606 Old Glenn Highway).