

ABBOTT LOOP COMMUNITY COUNCIL MINUTES

October 31, 2013

Al Tamagni, Sr. called the meeting to order at 7:07p.m.

Connie Carlisle, secretary and board member, took & transcribed minutes.

Minutes from the September 29, 2013 meeting were distributed.

Board members present: Patti Higgins, Al Tamagni, Jeff Turner, and Connie Carlisle.

Treasurers Report: \$231.33 in the community council's bank account.

Legislative Report: Senator Evan Myers stated things are improving regarding infrastructure. It will be difficult to receive funding next year due to shortage of oil production, and due to production taxes being so high. The state will have to pay higher taxes to have oil imported. Oil prices are stable for the next (5) years. The Education Committee is the third largest in the nation. The state is considering merging all schools due to health care costs and health reform.

Assembly and School Board Reports: Assembly Representatives, Dick Traini and Elvi Gray-Jackson, provided an update of what the Anchorage Assembly is currently working on. Assembly updates provided herein was provided by Elvi Gray, Assembly Representative, from the Assembly Report dated 10/31/13.

- A Public Hearing on Ordinance submitted by Assembly members Traini, Gray-Jackson and Honeman to have the A) 27 Labor issue before the voters at the April 1, 2014 election was held on October 9th and was approved on October 22nd-7-4. Mayor vetoed ordinance on the floor and the issue is now before the courts to determine if the Mayor has veto power regarding selection of an election date.
- Assembly approved ordinance to Repeal AO 27 and after the public hearing 7-4, Mayor vetoed ordinance on the floor.
- Citizen's Task Force Recommendations – The Rules Committee will meet on November 7th at 1:30 in the Assembly Conference Room to discuss suggestions that can be implemented through changes to the Municipal Code and those that can be implemented through policy. Task Force recommendations can be found online at www.muni.org.
- Title II – Taxicab Ordinance-Several changes to this section of the Code to address taxi availability for the disabled, during bar closing hours, and other issues. Ordinance can be found online at www.muni.org. The Public Hearing will be continued to the November 5th meeting.
- The Administration's new Financial, HR System aka SAP scheduled to go live on October 1st has been postponed and is costing the taxpayers' lots of money. Initial cost quote in a July 2011 Press Release was \$9.8 Million and is now up to \$20.6 Million and the Assembly to approve another \$7.5 Million at the October 22nd meeting. The Administration will hire the Peloton Group as the new Project Manager to fix the problems that have occurred with Black and Veatch (Project Manager). Although they reportedly have lots of experience, one of the partners

used to work for SAP, the other had contracts with SAP and Peloton Group has been in business since January 2013.

- Tennis Court Issue – Assembly approved the 2013 Capital Budget and Legislative Program submitted to the Legislature, which did not include funding for tennis courts. Funding for the library maintenance project was not appropriated by the legislature along with other community-wide and much needed requests. Public Hearing was held at the October 8th meeting and State Grants were approved for the other projects with debate and action on the remaining \$10.3 Million will be held at the November 5th meeting.
- The second public hearing on the 2014 budgets will be held at the November 5th meeting. Approval of the budget scheduled for the meeting of November 19th-December 3rd at the latest.
- Public Hearing on Fees and Fines increases will be held at the November 5th meeting. Proposed increases includes:
 - Department of Health and Human Services-Noise Permit Increases
 - Community Development-On-site Water and Wastewater Fees, Rights-of-Way and Land Use/Planning Fees.
 - Fire-Ambulance Fees
 - Public Transportation-Adult, Youth, Senior, and Medicare Single Trips, Day and monthly passes, and AnchorRides increase. Free Wednesdays for seniors will remain intact.

Dick Traini mentioned on Tuesday, November 5th there will be a final hearing on budget. Come see us!

Next Assembly Meeting-November 5th

School Board Report

Patti Higgins from the Anchorage School Board stated the Board approved a 59 Million bond for April 2014 Municipal Election.

Update on old business:

- A. Municipal Traffic Division, Stephanie Mormilo, P.E., Traffic Engineer was unable to attend this month's meeting to provide an update on the Commodore Drive/Independence Drive project. A memo of the Summary of 2013 Striping Project was provided to Al who distributed copies at the meeting. The memo indicates The Municipality of Anchorage's Public Works Department funded a project to inlay striping on Jamestown Drive and Commodore Drive between Independence Drive and O'Malley Road.

The project goals included:

- testing the effectiveness of inlaying striping on existing pavement,
- determining the feasibility of inlaying markings on a speed hump,
- and analyzing if the addition of striping has an impact on driver behavior in this area.

The project striping did not occur until late in September due to weather conditions and pavement repair activities. Initial observations indicate that the inlaid striping quality was reduced due to the poor existing pavement quality. The memo states the Traffic Division will use this location to

monitor the usable life of the inlaid striping. Follow-up traffic volume and speed data will be collected in spring 2014 to analyze impacts.

New Business and Presentations:

- B. Bill Johnson of CRW Engineering provided an update and copies of the plans for construction of the Academy Drive/Vanguard Drive Project. Twenty million dollars has been appropriated to open routes under Seward Highway. The project design estimate was 1½ years and the project is to begin in 2016. A business stakeholder meeting is scheduled on November 20th at Springhill.

Regarding the Seward Highway-Diamond to Dowling Project, there will be 6 lanes (Dowling & Tudor), a water table at Homer Drive & Tudor, a path at Homer & Brayton Drive, and new under box culverts should help with water quality.

A question was asked, "How will people know the road goes from 3 lanes to 2? Bill stated they will have to drop a lane somewhere. Will have merge lanes.

Bill mentioned that information for both projects can be found on DOT's website.

- C. Patti Higgins gave a presentation regarding dedication of the following non-dedicated parks: 6730 Meadow Street Park, Lake Otis Buffer Park, Atkins Park, Kobuk Park, Turinsky Park, Nadine Park, and Spruce Park, and requested a motion to overwrite the bylaws. The vote was 3 yeas, 2 nays to overwrite the bylaws. To be discussed at the next meeting.

- D. Al Tamagni discussed the possibility of a new meeting location and stated because our meetings are currently held in the Abbott Loop Elementary School, meetings are limited in the winter and summer when schools are closed. Al asked for suggestions on other locations we can look into for future meetings. A few suggestions were Holy Cross Church, Barbie's Restaurant, and Denny's. If anyone has additional information or suggestions, please give Al a call.

Al brought into discussion property taxes that are not being paid in Eagle River and on Native property buildings. Dick Traini stated that the state tells the Municipality who can and cannot pay taxes. He believes it was changed 8 or 11 years ago that churches became exempt, and said if it is state property, the Municipality cannot touch it, however he will look into it. Al recommends a review of this.

The next Abbott Loop Community Council meeting will be in January, 2014.