



GOVERNMENT HILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

c/o Community Councils Center • 1057 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99503

Jody Sola, President

Stephanie Kesler, Vice President

Peter Partnow, Secretary

Susanne DiPietro, Treasurer

Bob French, FCC Representative

Pete Murphy, Greg Miller, Ron Clark At-Large Board Members

GHCC Meeting Minutes April 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes Submitted by Peter Partnow

Secretary Peter Partnow

Meeting conducted via Zoom was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Jody Sola who she sent agenda, past meeting minutes, and announcement to permit wide public notice and ability to attend.

1. Introduction of Attendees: Attendees were identified and noted on virtual sign in sheet provided with these minutes.

2. Approval of agenda:
Motion to approve agenda: Susanne DiPietro
Second: Pete Murphy
Motion unanimously approved.

3. Approval of January 2020 and February 2020 meeting minutes

Approval moved: Susanne Dipietro
Second: Stephanie Kesler
Motion unanimously approved.

4. Legislative update: **Representative Zack Fields** reported legislature is currently in recess—unclear when it will reconvene. Reported on a number of legislative actions at both the State and Federal levels in response to the current Covid 19 situation. Actions include expanded unemployment benefits both as to amounts and who is eligible, grants to small businesses, cessation of utility cut offs, evictions and foreclosures (through June 30), forgivable loan program. Noted that approved funds have been tapped out, but there may be additional legislation. Noted that Northrim Bank appeared to be the only local bank that was offering the program to businesses that did not have existing banking relationship. Reported that prior to recessing, legislature passed a state budget that included items such as sustained public education, public broadcasting, etc., but that a number of items in the budget were subject to line item veto by the Governor

Senator Tom Begich reported that the legislature continued to work well in a largely bi-partisan manner, and expressed distress that the Governor squandered good will created

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during the budget process. Noted he and others were exploring avenues to address issues created by the line item vetoes. Noted there will likely be two special sessions to address funding issues. Noted that folks can go on-line at the Alaska Senate website to locate and review details of the various programs etc enacted in response to the Covid 19 situation.

5. **Assembly Update: Chris Constant** reported the assembly has been acting through distance delivery. Reported the mayor had extended the emergency declaration to June 5. Reported the mayor and Dr. Ann Zink were essentially in agreement in approach to be taken, with belief that sufficient testing supplies should be available within a few weeks. Reported that the ballot proposition passed expanding the assembly to 6 to member assembly districts, so Government Hill will be included in a two member district as of the 2022 municipal election. Reported distress over the criminal activity that has arisen in the Third and Hyder area.

6. **NeighborWorks at Hollywood and Elm:** Tony Hoffman of Neighborworks shared the plat of Panoramic View Apartments that are being purchased from the Alaska Railroad, which purchase will facilitate funding to finance improvements to the interior of the buildings and units. Transfer anticipated to be finalized by July or August. Noted that external improvements and deferred maintenance on boilers and roofs had occurred in 2015.

7. **Port of Alaska Summer Work Update:** Steve Ribuffo, Port Director, reported on the upcoming start of two years of in-water work. Permits have been obtained. Discussed the required whale watching, with 4 points of observation that will be manned once the in water work commences. Materials for the work will be arriving on two different barges. The first should arrive next week, containing the +/- 200 piles that will be driven. The second barge should arrive in May, transporting the "monster crane" that will be used. Actual pile driving should commence around May 15 and continue until August. Work to be performed 6 days each week, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., though schedule can vary since the work is controlled by tides, since high tides are necessary in order to get the piles in a vertical position. Noise and vibration should be similar what occurred during the test pile program in 2016. Bubble curtains will be used to dampen the sound.

Regarding port operations, noted that all cruise ship operations for the summer have been cancelled, except the QE, and he anticipates word of that cancellation will be received soon. Notes that approximately 12% of Port revenue will be lost, but that the Port is fortunate to have a diversified operation, so we will not be devastated like some of the locations elsewhere in the state that are almost totally dependent on the summer cruise ship business.

8. **Treasurer's Report :** Susanne Dipietro is having documents transferred over and is setting up a gmail account for the GHCC treasurer to facilitate transfer to new treasurers in the future. Jody reported we have +/- \$ 3000 in the GHCC account.

11. **Business Update: Alaska Railroad: Tim Sullivan** reported things for the railroad are "grim." Passenger service adversely impacted by the loss of cruise ship passengers. Currently no passenger service planned until July 1 at the earliest. Freight service had been maintaining well as previously reported, but the drop in oil prices has led to cut back of North Slope work, impacting freight revenue. One positive note related to approximately 90 million dollars in grants for capital projects. Railroad has not yet identified which projects will be undertaken with these funds.

12. Committee Updates: **Bob French** reported there have been no FCC, AMATS, or Park Committee meetings due to the Covid 19 situation. Jody Sola did mention she has been contacting by the curling club and it wants to stay informed regarding park trail planning.

13. Community: Resolution for Banking Information Changes: Jody reported that no resolution is required and that she has the paperwork to address the changes.

Pete Murphy again mentioned concern regarding nuisance created by pigeons at certain locations.

Meeting adjourns at 7:30 p.m.

Peter Partnow reports, in response to a question raised at the January meeting that under existing GHCC by-laws, the sign in sheet for the GHCC board meetings may be used only to verify attendance, etc at the meetings. The sign in sheet is not available to individuals or entities who may desire to contact meeting attendees for one reason or another. Individuals or entities who do wish to obtain expressions of interest and/or contact information from meeting attendees may be permitted to circulate a sign in sheet for those attendees who wish to sign up.

Meeting adjourns at 8:07 p.m.