



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 September 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes Submitted by Peter Partnow

Meeting conducted via Zoom was called to order at 6:36 p.m. by Jody Sola. Jody noted she had sent the meeting agenda, past meeting minutes, and notice of the zoom meeting to facilitate wide public notice and ability to attend.

1. Introduction of Attendees: Attendees identified via Zoom appearance and noted on the virtual sign-in sheet provided with these minutes.

2. Approval of agenda:

Motion to approve agenda: Stephanie Kesler

Second: Pete Murphy

Motion unanimously approved.

3. Approval of May 21, 2020 meeting minutes

Motion to approve: Stephanie Kesler

Second: Pete Murphy

Motion unanimously approved.

4. Legislative update: Senator Tom Begich was represented by Brix Hahn who reported that Tom was at another meeting. Brix reported the Budget and Audit committee met a couple of weeks ago. She noted regarding the census that Alaska's numbers are the worst in the country and Tom is trying to get deadline for completion pushed. Noted a special session unlikely, although supported by Tom. Also noted it is unclear if there will be another round of CARES funding.

Representative Zack Fields, represented by Tristan Walsh who reported Zach was attending a homelessness town hall. Noted the approval of the latest version of the small business grant totaling 290 million dollars. Multiple program operators have been approved so far with 216 million left and 62.8 approved. Noted that new applications will be closed soon. Credit Union 1 is an operator, and is currently working on its backlog. Reported \$105,000 for non-profits. Invited people or organizations to contact Zack's office with questions re CARES Act or unemployment benefits.

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5. **Assembly Update:** **Chris Constant** reported he has been forced to carry a side arm due to death threats he has received. Noted many problems with resources that can only reach about 1/10 of needs. Discusses the issues surrounding the proposed purchase of buildings by the Municipality to address homelessness issues. Noted the homeless population is an area of covid concern. References the current recall attempt. Noted he has pursued job programs rather than just grants such as a program to remove beetle killed trees to protect homes from burning down. Noted that the MLP transaction will close in 5 to 6 weeks and indicated he had helped obtain benefit for his district to continue to see rates based on previous investments. As a result, believes are rates will go down. Steve Gerlek inquired about the proposed dog park on the previously contaminated defense fuel location. Chris indicated he is getting back to that issue. Steve Ribuffo has no updates on the dog park request and requested another request be made to the Port of Alaska through Chris C. Steve R wants to see what the EPA has done concerning that property.

6. **APD Report:** Officer Charles Worland indicated that many individuals are actually arrested on paper, even if it may appear that the APD officers are just talking to people and letting them go. Chris Constant adds that law enforcement has problem with people not reporting petty crimes. Officer Worland notes APD receives the most reports relating to activity on the East Side of the Hill, including calls re prowlers etc. in the evenings APD also get many calls arising from the boat ramp near the Port. Some comments regarding drivers ignoring the stop sign at Harvard and Anderson. Chris Constant notes need to have some of the bushes and vegetation that obscures views trimmed on the southwest side of the intersection at the traffic light. Wil Sola also noted concern regarding drivers speeding through the intersection at the traffic light to get to the East Side. .

7. **Pigeons on the Hill:** Pete Murphy reports a trap request was made but too late to obtain a trap for this year. Northpoint Bluff family owners have made a request for a trap for that area next year for their area. Other traps would be needed to expand mitigation beyond that area. Suggests information should be circulated to the public about not feeding these birds. Chris Constant noted a problem with starlings also appears to have developed. Jody Sola noted she has communicated to Fish and Game re pigeons and will bring up the starling issue.

8. **Alaskans for Better Elections. Ballot Measure 2:** **Jason Grenn**, co-chair Alaskans for Better Elections, Ballot Measure 2 reported the proposition involves a three pronged approach. Reported that 63% of Alaska voters are not affiliated. First prong is to open the primary with the top 4 vote getters in primary move on to the general. Next prong is rank choice voting, with voters ranking choices 1 through 4 (or less if preferred by the voter). The third prong relates to funding –for contributions of more than \$2000, origin of the funds must be identified by individuals, not some named group, so as to create transparency.

Stephanie Kesler inquired regarding out of state money supporting this ballot proposition. Jason reports the proposition was drafted by Alaskans and stated that while there is significant financial support for the proposition by Alaskans, significant financial support has been sought from outside groups because Alaska lacks such groups. Jason also stated their reports are transparent and clearly reveal all funding sources. Their intent is to stop dark money, not outside money. Their reports show everything they receive.

9. **Treasurer's report:** No report, though Jody reports accounts remain essentially the same as reported in May.

10. **Business Reports:** **Alaska Railroad--Tim Sullivan** confirms it was a tough summer for the railroad with passenger service down 85-90% and gravel transportation slow. Notes service to Seward has ended for the year, as is normally the case. The Railroad is still operating weekend passenger service to/from Fairbanks on weekends. Notes the railroad will likely lose the winter up-tick from the Far East to Fairbanks.

Port of Alaska-- Steve Ribuffo reports the Port lost all cruise ship ports calls, leading to a loss of about a quarter million dollars in revenues, which "stung" but was not a deal breaker. Reported the upside for the Port has been petroleum business going through the roof. With loss of airline passenger service, there has been a significant rise in air cargo with aircraft obtaining fuel from companies that store at the Port. Port has also been managing the expense side of its operations. Steve reported that most of the piles scheduled for this summer were installed as of late August/early September. Next is work on the pile caps and deck to be followed by concrete pour. Work is on schedule to finish by the end of the year. Next summer they will finish the dock and cut the ribbon. There is a Japanese vessel here briefly, mainly for just re supply, rather than the normal events that usually accompany this arrival.

11. **Committee Updates:** **FCC Update: Bob French** reports a meeting last night where Greg Miller of the court system made a presentation re status of jury and bench trials due to Covid 19 delays. Also discussion of CIP process, noting extension of deadline to June 15 and indicating update forms and information are available on line.

Parks Committee: Bob French suggested that due to the Covid 19 impact, we will likely have to pursue some smaller activities this summer. Also discussion regarding contact with the forester who, after report, came and cut down several trees that were blocking the trail on the hillside.

12. **Community:** **CIP Budget Submission: Jody Sola** met with Steve Gerlek regarding the CIP and invites others with comments and concerns to contact her or Steve in advance of the June 15 CIP deadline.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.