

Midtown Community Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 12:00pm –1:05pm
Meeting location: 3000 C Street, 1st Floor Conference Room

Meeting called to order by Ric Davidge, President. Quorum present via zoom and in person.

Minutes of last meeting were not available for approval.

Agenda accepted without objection.

Reports:

1. School Board member, Alicia Hilde, presented update on school board activities.

2. Assembly member, Meg Zaletel, reported on:

a. School District budget was divided into 2 portions of Operating Budget and Capital Budget. We were encouraged to contact our State of AK Legislators to continue support funding for school bonding (approximately \$35MM). If not supported by legislators, Anchorage tax payers can expect increased property taxes of \$110/\$100,000 assessed evaluation in 2021.

b. Redevelopment of property at Arctic/Benson (Debenham properties) Assemblyperson Zalatel is working to phase the reconstruction so the area does not lose housing units in the short term.

c. Transportation Long-range Plan discussed. Noted that Anchorage can expect Federal Highway Funds to be released in 2020-2021 included in the recent \$1.9T Congressional legislation. Funding may come directly to Anchorage.

d. Camp abatement support is ready and in place to be active this summer.

3. Assembly member, Felix Rivera.

a. OMB is requesting Capital Project list from Community Councils; to be submitted by May or June, 2021.

b. Federal Covid-19 (funds 2021 \$1.9T), there will be a public process to access these funds. Grants expected to be available and processed quickly.

c. AO68-B3 zoning change. Mr. Rivera provided the history of Planning and Zoning drafting of the ordinance at the request of the Assembly (expected to be provided to Assembly by May/June). Mr. Rivera stressed that the Assembly will now go through the in depth and detailed public comment process. Assembly will either approve, disapprove or remand back to P & Z. Process will take several months.

4. No State Senate or House representatives present or reports provided.

5. Crime and Homelessness: no police department rep. or report available. Board requested that better statistics be provided by the new police administration. Assembly member Zaletel commented that it would most likely be August before new Chief is appointed.
6. Mary Jo Torgerson reported on bond proposition #2, \$1.1M, for library and the Chugiak & Anchorage Senior Centers.
7. Two liquor license renewals were noted. As per Assembly policy, in absence of objection, the Council remains neutral.

Action Items:

1. Board members request: a. P&Z make a presentation at April meeting. b. Presentation from the Rasmussen Foundation & Weidner for the 3rd Avenue redevelopment.
2. Members were encouraged to participate in the upcoming School Board candidate zoom presentation on 3/15/21, and for the Mayoral candidate zoom presentation on 3/16/21.
3. Board members request presentation from the Downtown Business Partnership discussing the pro/con of a midtown business partnership.
4. Preparation of our Capital Project list by May or June.

Alaska Roundtable Homelessness 2020 booklet was made available by President Ric Davidge.

Meeting adjourned approximately 1:05 pm.