



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

Zoe Lowery, Treasurer

Bob French, FCC Representative

Pete Murphy, Belinda MacIntire, Ron Clark, At-Large Board Members

GHCC Meeting Minutes October 19, 2023 Submitted by Peter Partnow

Meeting conducted via Zoom called to order at 6:32 p.m. by President Jody Sola.

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: Jody Sola announces changes in the agenda.

Motion to accept agenda as amended: Margy Hughes

Second: Peggy Wilcox

Motion unanimously approved

3. Approval of September 21, 2023, meeting minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of September 21, 2023: Margy Hughes

Second: Peggy Wilcox

Motion unanimously approved

3. Treasurer's Report: Zoe Lowery reports no significant changes, but notes fees charged by the bank.

4. Legislative update: A. **Senator Loki Tobin** reports various on various meetings she has attended around the country and panels on which she has served. She has visited several school including being a crossing guard at Government Hill Elementary. Reminded us that drivers cannot be on their cell phones in school zones due to danger.

Contact information: sen.loki.tobin@akleg.gov or 907-269-0224

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B. Representative Cliff Groh notes concerns regarding housing, health care, snow. Had discussion with Mayor Bronson regarding speeding on Harvard Avenue and better response to snow removal this coming winter. He too has visited several schools and is struck by the problem of large class sizes. Would like to get increased funding so class sizes can be reduced. Reminded residents of Milk Shake Saturday from noon until 2:00 for the next three weeks and starting again after the first of the year.

5. **Assembly Update:** **Chris Constant** discussed the ongoing budget process. Discussed his concerns with the budget proposed by the Mayor. Discussed issues regarding housing: <https://www.muni.org/Departments/Assembly/Pages/2023-Community-Housing-Action-Summit.aspx>

www.anchoragehousingaction.org

Dan Volland discussed zoning issues impacting the Anchorage Bowl. Also discussed possible change in process for confirmation of the chief medical officer and duties of the chief medical officer. Chris Constant raised question of loud noise emanating from the railroad yard. Meghan Clemens indicated she would check on this. Steve Gerlek thought it probably came from engine load testing, which has been an issue in the past.

6. **Anchorage School Board**—**Dave Donley** indicated school district still faced with a Ninety-million-dollar budget shortfall. Discussed the academies plans being pursued by the school district. In response to question, indicated the Thirty Million Dollars for the Inlet View School is still on the books, but unclear if change could occur.

7. **Alaska Railroad:** **Meghan Clemens**, the new external affairs director introduces herself. Discussed the problem that arose with calls to make reservations for the holiday trains and said next year, reservations for the holiday trains might be done by lottery.

8. **Anchorage Fire Department:** **Benjamin _____** from Station 1 provided a number of safety tips for the onset of winter such as having working smoke detectors, noting that all of the recent fire fatalities occurred in structures without working smoke detectors. Also summarized services provided by the fire department including technicians who help with adjusting child safety seats and fitting for bike helmets in the spring. Summarized the Pulse Point app that can be downloaded. Noted that they started a second academy two weeks ago and that there may be another academy in January. Discussed the mobile crisis team. Also noted that because of uptick in arsons, they have hired a second arson investigator.

9. Port of Alaska: Steve Ribuffo could not attend but submitted to Jody Sola the following memo which was read at the meeting:

- It's been a busy construction time down here since last May. What's been under way?
 - The new Port admin offices are now closed in, most of the windows are in, and the interior rough-ins of utilities and plumbing are moving along nicely. We can almost tell what the offices, meeting, and storage spaces actually look like! We are still on schedule to be moved in by early Spring 2024. I know some of you have been involved in the 1% of Art effort for the building. Thank you for that. And, for the record, I have no idea what's being suggested! I just hope it's not another "Rock-em Sock-em Robot" like what's in front of the Museum!
 - Year 1 of the North End Stabilization Project is done! The goal was to complete the "hardening" of what will be the new shoreline by drilling boreholes, mixing the removed fill with cement and re-injecting into the holes, then letting the natural moisture in the soils turn the material into buried pillars. Approximately 900 holes were drilled and filled for this purpose. Next season the contractor comes back to remove all the steel sheet pile structure and the fill material behind it up to the new shoreline. The armor rock which has been delivered on site all this season will be put in place along that new shoreline. Pretty amazing engineering! cost information that the Assembly has asked for so they can decide on the basic design for cargo terminal #2

- Also PAMP, on Tuesday and Wednesday this week we held an "Industry Day" at the Hotel Captain Cook. The idea was to invite the construction industry to come to Anchorage and hear about the construction opportunities that will be available for cargo terminal #1, which we'd like to award in 2024 so construction can start in 2025 as planned. Over 75 interested contractors representing 14 primes and 12 subs were present.

- Now that the transfer of approximately 8 acres of Tract J...AKA The Upper Bench...has been approved by the Assembly, the Port has taken it out of any plans we had for it related to the Port Power Plan that I have previously talked about. So,
 - Whether or not there will be any kind of a solar farm ever built will depend on how much development interest there may still be among the solar companies we've been talking to once they see what's left
 - The next required official step is to have Tract J re-platted so we identify the new boundaries. That responsibility belongs to Real Estate Services (Tiffany Briggs). Once we know that, we will contract for removal of the old fence and install a new one on the new property line
 - We would also hope that as our plans for the emergency road through Tract J get more clarity, we can talk about how we connect that which is still ours to that which is not any more.

The PCT area lights...We had them turned down to 40% illumination for the standard setting. The Corps of Engineers and the dredging contractor, who work off out floating dock in that area, said it was too dark and unsafe to operate while the lights are that low. So we turned them up. They will be done and the floating dock will come out in 2 weeks, which should be close to when that last cement delivery of the year to the PCT will also be wrapping up. After all that is over, we'll turn them down to 20% illumination and see how that looks. Please bear with us until then.

10. Old Business: Steve Gerlek discussed the new fencing for the Commons which has been held up by the Municipality regarding how close the fence is to the street and the height of the fence. Working on a variance so the fence can be installed next summer.

Jody Sola noted a Parks Committee meeting is scheduled for this coming Monday. There will be questions why none of the anticipated work was performed this past summer.

General discussion regarding the status of the former Tesoro Building, the role of DOT and the Railroad, and the apparent dealing of the DOT and the Municipality about which GHCC was not advised or involved.

Bob French advised that the FCC has a bit of extra funds due to a position vacancy and indicated funds could be obtained for mail out if funds are used before the end of the year, or funds revert to the Municipality.

Motion to Adjourn: Peggy Wilcox

Second: Zoe Lowery

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05.