

General Meeting MINUTES *draft*  
Huffman-O'Malley Community Council  
Thursday, August 15, 2024@ 7:00 PM  
WE ARE IN PERSON THIS MONTH with a Zoom option  
Please visit <http://www.communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/19.html> for ZOOM link

Location for the in-person meeting is Huffman Elementary at 12000 Lorraine Ave

- 1) Call to order at 7:06 PM by Rachel Ries
- 2) Welcome and Introductions

Present: Executive Board: Rachel Ries- President, Shannon Wileman- Vice-President,  
Members- Katie Nolan, Lisa Huffman, Nick Mazzolini, Jason Norris

Absent: Gretchen Stoddard- Secretary, Trina Lovdahl- Treasurer, John Yeafoli

\*\*There is one open seat\*\*

- 3) Agenda
  - a. Call for additions and approval of agenda- None, approved
- 4) Minutes
  - a. Approval of May 2024 minutes- Approved Katie 1<sup>st</sup>/Nick 2<sup>nd</sup>
- 5) Political Representatives' Reports (4min each speaking, 4min questions)
  - a. Legislators

Senator Cathy Giessel- District E- Not present

1. Contact her with any question/concerns
  - a. [Sen.Cathy.Geissel@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.Cathy.Geissel@akleg.gov)
  - b. (907) 465-4843
  - c. [www.alaskasenate.org](http://www.alaskasenate.org)
  - d. Sign up to receive her newsletter via email or website above

Senator James Kaufman- District D- Dominick present, just taking notes

1. Contact him with any questions/concerns
  - a. [Sen.kames.kaufman@akleg.gov](mailto:Sen.kames.kaufman@akleg.gov)
  - b. (907) 465-4843
  - c. [www.senatorkaufman.com](http://www.senatorkaufman.com)
  - d. Sign up for his email list or schedule a 15-minute meeting through his website above

Representative Julie Coulombe- HD 11- Edna present

1. Contact her with any questions/concerns

- a. [Representative.Julie.Coulombe@akleg.gov](mailto:Representative.Julie.Coulombe@akleg.gov)
  - b. (907) 748-4377
  - c. [www.akleg.gov](http://www.akleg.gov) or [www.julieforalaska.com](http://www.julieforalaska.com)
2. Two of Julie's bills were signed by Governor Dunleavy
- a. Tax reform
  - b. Property assessment reform

Representative Laddie Shaw- HD 9- Not Present

b. Mayor's staff- Not Present

c. District 6 Assembly Updates

Assembly Member Randy Sulte- Not present

- 1. Contact: [randy.sulte@anchorageak.gov](mailto:randy.sulte@anchorageak.gov), 907-229-2977
- 2. Is at Kaladi's on Old Seward/Huffman every Saturday 8-10am when he is in town.

Assembly Member Zac Johnson- Not present

- 1. Contact: [zac.johnson@anchorageak.gov](mailto:zac.johnson@anchorageak.gov) , (907) 206-0753

d. School Board Representative- Kelly Lessens- Present

- 1. Contact: [lessens\\_kelly@asdk12.org](mailto:lessens_kelly@asdk12.org), [schoolboard@asdk12.org](mailto:schoolboard@asdk12.org)
- 2. Currant ASD liaison
- 3. Today is the first day of school for 1-7<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders, tomorrow is the first day of school for 8<sup>th</sup> and 10-12<sup>th</sup> graders.
- 4. New start times this year
  - a. Elementary           8-2:30
  - b. Middle                9:30-4
  - c. High                   8:45-3:15
- 5. Freshman Academy has been approved but no curriculum yet.
- 6. FY 25-26 we are looking at a \$86,000,000 deficit, will be discussing school consolidation on 8/20

e. Other representatives from Police, Fire, JBER, or schools- Not present

6) Presentations

- a. FCC Update- FCC Executive Director Arianna Bellizzi- Arianna is meeting with all the community councils in the Muni. Her goals are outreach and training and will be holding a Town Hall Series for the community councils once a month. The first one is called "Demystifying Community Councils" on September 23, 2024
- b. AEDC Presentation- Walter Featherly- Co-chair of Project Anchorage. Project Anchorage is an initiative arguing for the implementation of a 3% sales tax where 2/3<sup>rd</sup>

of money raised would go to lowering property taxes and 1/3<sup>rd</sup> would go towards funding projects that would improve Anchorage. You can submit proposals to [www.projectanchorage.com](http://www.projectanchorage.com) through 9/15/24. You can also learn more in detail about what they are proposing at that website.

c. Alaska Regional Hospital Presentation- Harold is requesting letters of support from individuals and community councils for the building of an Emergency Room in South Anchorage near the intersection of Old Seward Highway and Huffman. 8/27 is the public forum deadline. It was unanimously agreed on to put together a letter of support from the HOCC. To learn more about the ER for South Anchorage go to [www.southanchorageer.com](http://www.southanchorageer.com) .

7) Reports (2 min ea.)- Please announce if you have anything to report

a. Treasurer's Report- T Lovdahl- not present

b. HALO – K. Nolan- HALO is holding a candidate forum at the zoo on 10/3, is requesting \$50 from HOCC to offset costs. Also, HALO applied for and received a grant for \$200,000, but it is currently being held up by the Anchorage Assembly. Rachel will draft a letter of concern addressing this. That money was to be used for several things including work on Huffman Park, education regarding fire safety at the school level, and distribute mailers for residents in Huffman School attendance zone. The newly adopted “Homes ordinance” allows duplexes or MIL apartments in every zone without affecting the HOA’s.

c. Traffic Calming Report – Jason Norris- DOT 2026 Project season includes Old Seward to Birch and O’Malley to Huffman

d. Crime Report – New Volunteer

e. Outreach- Nick- No report

f. Attendance questions- Nick- No questions

g. FCC – Jason Norris- No report

7) President’s Report

a. Incoming Correspondence- Frank and Diana at 12800 Plymouth Circle state that a neighbor started new construction last year which has led to permanent flooding in their yard as well as another neighbor’s yard (12801 Plymouth). They requested help from the Muni but were directed to discuss with HOCC. Rachel will go to property and investigate.

b. Outgoing Correspondence- None

8) New Business

a. HOCC Yard Sale Update/plan for 2025 sale- We made about \$300 this May! Plan to do it again next year. People can donate items to sell or can babysit items and give half to HOCC.

b. Planned speaker/topics:

- (i) Zoning & Planning ref. Personal Property- Katie Nolan and Christine Monette- A property changed hands, was under development, rezoning laws were ignored. There was no posting for permits for 2.5-3 acre lots.

R6 zoning requires vegetative buffer between properties. This property owner did actually get a permit through Muni Planning and Zoning but the neighbors were not notified anytime during the process. The community council will research more and address in September.

- (ii) ASD trail access & noise abatement ref South HS- will request more on this in September with ASD
- (iii) 2024-2025 HOCC Calendar & Topics discussion

c. Next meeting Thursday September 19

**d. Introduce Candidates for elected office – 2 minutes plus Q&A if time allows-**

**e. Open forum for Other New Business- Chugach Electric will be working on their undergrounding project starting 8/21, and will go until November. This will affect Huffman Road area east of New Seward.**

## 10) Open Forum

Adjournment at 9:08pm

Email the HOCC Chair: [HOCCPresident@gmail.com](mailto:HOCCPresident@gmail.com)

Visit our website: <http://communitycouncils.org> go to Huffman O'Malley Community Council

Visit our Facebook page: Huffman/O'Malley Community Council

Next Meetings

Thursday, September 19, 2024

Thursday, October 17, 2024