



**Wednesday, September 11, 2024 @ 5:30pm – 8 pm**

City Hall – Room 155

In-person meeting

downtown.c.council@gmail.com

### **MEETING IS CALLED TO ORDER**

Darrell Hess, MOA Ombudsman, conducted the **elections**.

Salte as followed:

Silvia Villamides - President

Mike Ward - Vice President.

Barbara Roberts - Secretary.

Jason Motyka - Treasurer.

Member at large: Chris Jones, Robert Turkington, Buz Rohlfing

FCC representative: Barbara Roberts (Silvia Villamides alternate)

Motion to approve slate was made and seconded, Motion was approved.

**Anchorage Police Department.** Chief of Police Sean Case. Police will start to enforce no sleeping, no camping in Town Square. No sleeping bags, No trash. A solid effort to have a downtown presence there and at the Diamond parking lot by G & H.

30 calls in the stack. Move resources more effectively. Quarterly meeting with the Chief of Police, update. Get people to transition to cold weather shelter in three weeks. Special team for the homeless. Outreach team. Four dedicated officers. Now 60 officers down, 50 additional officers are needed.

**ADP** - Jordan McCulley for Radhika Krishna. Oct 26 - 4th Ave Trick or Treat. December Santa, reindeer, entertainment. NYE celebration 3rd & E, fireworks, entertainment. Hawaiian theme.

Membership coordinator Sept 19 9am-10am 5th Ave mall 3rd floor

**OUR Downtown** . Daniel McKenna-Foster - handout for 5th & 6th. MOA. Reallocate space. Bring speeds down. Bolster activities. Consider snow and meters, etc. Pedestrian Sundays is one idea.

It is expensive to change the street to two ways. It will be safer to have traffic go slower. If the transit center changes, that will prompt some changes. Melinda Gant stated Master plan. Oct 3 Office of community development 9 am at the permit center and online presentation.

Daniel McKenna-Foster: Connect streets. Open street concept. Problem at 49th State with traffic and people crossing the street.

Jason Motyka, Mike Ward, Silvia Villamides: Discussion of a secondary route for truck traffic from the port.

Daniel McKenna-Foster: Tricky area with the state, federal and MOA involved. Mention of unification.

Melinda Gant: The new commissioner of DOT is for complete streets.

Daniel McKenna-Foster responds to the protected bike lanes. Learned a lot from that. Report will be out September 19, feedback. Write to Brad Coy with your comments.

We are looking for what makes the most sense. Stay in communication.

**3rd Ave Update.** RV resort. Permit expires in October. Should renew.

**ACDA Melinda Gant.** The RV resort will have an Alaska native memorial. She has been in touch with First Alaskans, the Eklutna tribe, ANTHC. She will have a table at AFN. They are in touch with the Heritage Land Bank about the lease. The objective is to have a long term lease for 10-15 years. Charging stations with \$12 million grant in Eagle River, Anchorage, Girdwood. Public and private parking areas. Talking to the Fairview Council.

Mobile payment - text to pay vs. app will help parking meter situations.

Anchorage Market has been a great partner. The usage is up. More vendors.

Sixth Avenue hotel/transit project Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>; find a hotel brand.

Transit - making a decision between the public & committees.

Mushing District on 4th Ave. Drawings are in. 2025 construction. Visitor log cabin to Fur Rondy area. Audio tour being developed.

**Guest House Kyle Lavey. MASH.** Guesthouse. 5th & Cordova apartment complex. He has to go to court for some evictions. Take care of abandonments. Work with the homeless coalition. If a tenant abandons for more than 7 days, they get a 7 day notice. Some behavioral problems. Assault. Providence House is new. 137 applicants from April. 95% occupancy. The Aviator will not be a cold weather shelter this year. SWS should be.

**Alcohol & Marijuana Committee.** All approved. Two no shows. Bruins. Four Points. Not approved.

**Jason Motyka. Treasurer report.** The DTCC does not have an EIN number. We need to move our funds to the FCC and manage through their account. Jim Renkert made motion Mike Ward second. Motion passed.

**Nicolette Dent. Petrovich Park.** Resolution. Accessibility. Event space. Safety. Read handout. Upgrade lighting. Widen walkways. Capital improvement. Architectural design. Vendors event areas so not on the sidewalks. Motion was made to approve and seconded. Motion passed. Unanimous.

**10-year review of community councils Mike Ward** talked about 10 year report for community councils. The public process for the Municipality's *10-year review of community council district boundaries* will resume this fall. It began in late 2022 with an online questionnaire and continued in 2023 with community council consultations and six meetings of the project's Boundary Advisory Committee. The municipal Planning Department will release a set of recommended public hearing draft district boundaries for review at the end of September. These recommendations will reflect the outcomes of the 2023 public process. Although most districts and boundary areas that were studied are not recommended to change, the public hearing draft materials will clearly identify approximately 10 study areas that are recommended to have boundary changes. Mike Ward will attend the meeting in September. Chris Jones, Silvia Villamides and Barbara Roberts will take turns to go to the other meetings as a representative.

**Patti Higgins, President. Anchorage Coalition of Community Patrols.** See handout. Each community has volunteers that help patrol neighborhoods to report safety issues. Call 311 to report to the police. Training involves a ride along and background check. Monthly meetings.

**Town Square. Dianne Holmes.** John Blaine. Residents of Alaska since 1959. They want to protect Town Square with the original ordinance without rezoning. In favor of step back design. Height limits. Discussion. The parks own air rights. Dianne has handouts and drawings and information. JCP garage in new proposals may have 200 feet height and mixed use. Volland and Constant join in the discussion.

### **Assembly Report.**

Volland: This is a public process. Planning occurs with business and property owners. He is in favor of a catalyst for downtown. More people living and working downtown is beneficial. Build commercial and retail. Development needs to happen.

Mike Ward: Make a compromise.

Constant: The market should decide.

Volland: Reach out to Daniel McKenna-Foster.

Volland: Airbnb, short term rentals are an issue, Need to know income for taxes.

Constant: Gathering data is important.

Silvia Villamides: The industry should report.

Silvia asks for information on where the money from the alcohol tax is going, how and where it is spent.

Constant: GPS tracking of snowplows and equipment for winter so you know when to move your car.

Volland: Report from the assembly. Access for youth for after school programs. Use tax to fund. Financial hardships. Early intervention. Mentorship. Keep kids off the streets. Homeless prevention. Program based on grants. Constant will address no shows for liquor license.

The Alexander case is under appeal.

They need to come to the council meeting for approval.

Capital projects are just a wish list for now.

**Anchor Gardens.org** handout **Larissa Wright-Nelson.** Gardens in town. Apple orchard at Dimond. Mt View library teaching garden. Eagle River. Senior center has a raised garden. Coaches. Education. Seed exchanges. Muni and other organizations also have gardens.

**New Business.** Mike Ward: Two people came to the meeting to ask for pickleball courts at the tennis courts on the park strip. Popular in Anchorage. Parks & Rec asked them to present to the council.

Volland: They need to present a resolution.

**Neighbor Comments:** Steve Callaghan. Downtown business. S4 Group. Concern about one way alley and cab traffic blocking by Covenant House.

Meeting adjourned at 8PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Roberts, Secretary