

ANCHORAGE DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Wednesday, February 3, 2021 @ 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Virtual Meeting

Downtown.c.council@gmail.com

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Welcome & Introductions

Roll Call: Silvia Villamides, Mike Ward, Jason Motyka, Richard Irwin, Andrea McCormick, Russ Reno, Chris Constant, Tom Begich, Zach Fields, Amanda Moser, Kristine Bunnell, Joann Mitchell, Will Webb, Nick Coltman, Art Johnson, Julie Makala, Steven Callaghan, Brix Han (Begich intern), Chris Jones, Mark Begich, Janna Hagrin, Jamie Allard, Elizabeth Stergio, Hilde Hyde, Melinda Gant, ACDA parking, Alisha Hilde

Additions/changes to the agenda.

Approval of agenda: Nick Coltman moved to approve the agenda. Russ Reno seconded the motion. The motion passed. Agenda approved.

Approval of January meeting minutes: Nick Coltman moved to approve the meeting minutes of the January meeting. Richard Irwin seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting minutes of January meeting are approved.

Reports: 3 minute limit

- **Assembly Report** – Chris Constant
 - Assembly is going towards federal recovery money to be used towards; K-12 education, relief recovery, vaccinations, stimulus money for individuals, rent relief.
 - Downtown 4th Ave. constituents met to discuss 4th Ave. lighting project and asked for input from effected businesses.
 - Assembly looking at EO converted into law. It would include masks, alcohol, marijuana – not interested in supporting that EO to be converted into law. Cannot change it quickly when needed.
 - Assembly looking at body cameras for police – find money – tax levy or funds elsewhere. Did appropriate money to get it started.
 - Vacant seat issue – nothing passed, working on how to fill the vacancy of a mayor.
 - Emergency Order will hopefully end in the spring or summer. Working on allowing restaurants and bars to continue operating outside in the summer.
 - Thanked Chris Jones, from Mad Myrna's.
- **Senate Representative Report** – Tom Begich – Brix Han
 - Working on a pre-k bill, petroleum tax bill, recovery
 - Online gaming to continue on Governor's desk.
 - 2 pieces of legislation; 1. – downtown area – bill on essential workers – give resources for tuition for further education to the essential workers to acknowledge their hard work, 2. means act bill – providing to catch up our readers pre – K,

- Jack Coghill Constitution Day (uncertain of information)
- Pursuing to help businesses work and serve outside.
 - Concerning cruise ships coming to Anchorage; No right now but by summertime maybe or yes.
 - Ak has the highest rates of vaccinated people in the states.
 - Concerning federal funding to help businesses - \$2 trillion dollars for states pending approval – it will come to us – some directly to businesses at local area for relief, some to state level government.
 - Jones Act – regarding the ports in Canada. Begich just named for Canadian Border Committee. Working with Canada to open ports to and from Alaska. Canada will initiate a prohibition to opening their ports, tomorrow.
- **House of Representative Report** – Zach Fields
 - Organization – Senate president – same as last time. Need a bi-partisan group to pass a budget in the house.
 - Protect the structured draw and protect the PFD from being drawn down,
 - Form relationships and find common ground, corporate rate structure with child care.
 - Develop our human capital. With Ken McCarty dual credit with vocational and work – trades/apprenticeships.
 - Pursuing online gaming.
- **Mayor's Office Report** – n/a
- **Anchorage Police Department** – n/a
- **Anchorage School Board** – Alisha Hilde
 - students back in school K-3 - rest of elementary back in school next week, middle and high schoolers returning for last quarter.
 - vaccine clinic going really well, trying to vaccinate staff
 - Focus ASD is looking at Reading in K-4, Math, vocational, life preparedness, career and tech classes, financial classes
- **Anchorage Downtown Partnership** – Amanda Moser
 - ADP reached out to 4th and E people in businesses
 - APD large member to help our community along with Silvia, ACDA and ADP have organized to form alliance to activate Anchorage (AAA)
 - snow – teams out clearing the sidewalks, looking at best ways to activate outdoor activities
 - Mad Myrna's now offering food.
- **Our Downtown Update** – Kristine Bunnell
 - Monthly update while completing targeted review
 - 3 meetings these weeks, background info since 20007 when project began, existing vision and 6 goals – feedback, will produce a report. ourdowntownanchorage.com
 - Trends report – online, go to project and download the report
 - Chris Constant – recommendation - make it inclusive of Native Hospital and down to American Tire, Check with Lucky Wishbone and see if they want to be included.

New Business: 6 minutes limit

- **Marijuana and Alcohol Committee Update** – Silvia Villamides - No report

- **Treasurer Update** – Jason Motyka
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- **Safety Committee** – Richard Irwin & Russ Reno
Nothing to report on. Appreciating the work being done with toilets, Russ – at 5th Ave. mall a clothing drop off for Hope Center
Constant – conversation on short term bathrooms – bond – we lost the support for permanent toilets in the downtown area.
 - **Presentations:** 6 minutes limit (3 Minutes To Speak / 3 Minutes for Questions)
- 4th Avenue Signal and Lighting E Street to A Street project – Joann Mitchell
 - Will Webb – shared slide show. Scope of the project, introduced team.
 - Construction starts July 2021 with Project Completion Summer 2022. Gave project e-mail to ask questions,
 - The contractor will be required to put up temporary lighting in the roadway under construction by August 1.
 - Chris Constant – recommends downtown community council to send question to the assembly about alley lighting that is absent after last project.
- Downtown Bathrooms – Silvia
 - Working on bathrooms - waiting
 - Appreciation of all people coming and participating in meeting to find solutions to the issue.
- Mayoral Candidate Forum – Silvia
 - In the past the councils have sponsored a mayoral candidate forum. Awaiting the information on that and then will forward information to all.

Announcements/Neighbor Comments (2 Minute limit)

Alisha Hilde – running for re-election of Anchorage School Board, multi-year bonds, this year on safely bringing students back, looking at recruiting teachers – retirement packages, set goals for the board and track them – board members working together to meet them. Budget planning for the future,

Amanda – ADP has a shop and dine – participating businesses downtown, enter to win AK airline tickets, fill out an entry.

Russ Reno – Challenged comments in the January 6, 2021 Downtown Community Council Meeting Minutes addressing his decorum.

Mike Ward – responded “I’ll Look at the bylaws and table this discussion until the next meeting.”

Russ Reno – stated that he was told to write down his complaints and submit them to the board, which he has done and has not received any responses other than received.

Jason Motyka – replied: the board receives every e-mail that you send. We as a board are hearing your points. If there is something we can help with we do it.

ADJOURN MEETING

Russ Reno moved to adjourn the meeting. Amanda Moser seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting adjourned at: 7:20pm