

Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council (OSOVCC)
Minutes of Meeting – October 23, 2019

Called to order at 6:30 p.m. Steve Beardsley, President presiding. Quorum in place.

Agenda modified to add Alaska Railroad and Take Back Prescription Drugs Day under Item 7, to add Mr. Haberman to Guests under Item 8, and to add the Package Store Application from the Sisters of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus under Item 9. Agenda approved.

Minutes approved.

Treasurer's report: Bank account balance is \$1,538.84.

FCC Notes: Nancy Beardsley discussed 1) APD Chief Doll update on the current staffing – 600 APD staff; 2) the decline in car thefts; 3) the increase in violent crime, being very high; 4) the focus on increased traffic safety with more traffic patrols and stops; 5) APD's attendance at community council meetings to cover topics and hear feedback; and 6) the recent officer misconduct incident and the APD zero tolerance policy. Also mentioned were 1) the FCC's effort to obtain insurance certificates for local community councils to hold meetings at schools; 2) the Anchorage School Board's community survey regarding strategic planning; 3) the Nov 30, 2018 earthquake damage assessment for schools is at \$80 Million, which will be voted on as a bond in April 2020; 4) the Parks and Rec trick or treat at Fish Creek Park, and the "Moose" project to connect all of the trails and to work with the railroad to have trails along the tracks; 5) the plans for a new Solid Waste Transfer Station on Abbott Road; and 6) DOT and community councils to focus on Roundabout aesthetics and issues.

Community Patrol: Jeff Childs – No current issues to report but urged homeowners to turn on exterior lights and make you home look unwelcome to deter crime.

Senator Natasha von Imhof – Lots of info relayed regarding 1) the three past sessions to deal with budgets and vetoes; 2) the Chris Birch vacancy; 3) the Fall Revenue Forecast coming from the Dept of Revenue; 4) the Governor's Budget due 12/15/19; and 5) a health care bill promoted by von Imhof to help lower health care costs. Question/answer period covered 1) Alaska opting out of Daylight Savings Time as several other states have done so. Answer: It will be looked into but most likely will have to be some kind of national effort; 2) Upcoming von Imhof/Kopp town hall to be scheduled around January 9-10, 2020 right after the budget comes out. Members asked to hold it in our District perhaps at Klatt Elementary; 3) the Petition to raise oil tax rates. Answer: 25,000 signatures needed by 1/21/20. The initiative is difficult to interpret and implement. The proposed modeling does not make sense. The state loses money and jobs when oil companies must spend those funds on taxes; 4) What the impact to the state will be when BP leaves and Hilcorp doesn't have to pay the \$30 Million each year in corporate income taxes. Answer: The state is examining the LLC laws in Alaska and in other states that exempt oil company LLC's from paying corporate income taxes.

Representative Chuck Kopp – Grace from Kopp's office provided a written update as a handout which discussed similar topics as last month (refer to September minutes for reference). She emphasized the Public Safety Office Working Group plan.

John Weddleton, Assembly – Briefing provided regarding a new stormwater utility program to be pursued. Currently our systems become full of debris and the piping is from the 1970's – '80's. Property owners usually have to bear all of the costs for the system. The Muni wants to set it up as a utility so every user of the stormwater utility will have to pay by the size of their lot. It is possibly 1 to 2 years

away, but a new utility will be created. Costs for revamping the piping system is in the \$1 Billion range. The plan will be more in the \$10 Million to \$40 Million ballpark with impacts to property owners, again, based on lot size and other conditions. Question about a surface surveys having been done to cover Anchorage? Answer: A recent report was done on infrastructure but there are more steps to go, and a commission is being set up needing skilled volunteers. Email John Weddleton if interested at John.Weddleton@AnchorageAK.gov

Also mentioned was 1) effort to add a second Assembly member to the downtown District. Currently there is only one member; all other Districts have two; 2) Dump fees are going to be raised 5% to help cover losses. Recycle as much as possible. Muni is considering an incinerator option. Question: #5 plastic cannot be recycled, why? Answer: No market for it; 3) Question on Homeless camps. Answer: The city does very little. Non-profits help. We need mental health, drug rehab centers, but none are available. Question: Besides mentally ill and homeless because of employment hard times, what is the city doing about vagabonds? If villages can banish derelicts, why can't Anchorage do the same and use tough love. Answer: All we can do is send violent people to jail.

Not Present this time - Anchorage School Board - Starr Marsett.

Not Present this time – Anchorage Police Department

Announcements:

- 1) The OSOVCC P.O. Box will be terminated and all future mail will go to the Federation of Community Council main office.
- 2) The upgrade to 120th Street is moving forward, as it has been designated a collector street. 2023 project. Point person works at Huddle consulting firm. If you have questions, contact Julie Makela, P.E., Project Administrator at Julie.makela@anchorageak.gov
- 3) Hamilton Park needs public input and volunteers to help decide what it to be done at the park. Contact Maeve at NevinsLavtarMV@Muni.org to help. Or contact Steve Beardsley, OSOVCC President at beardsleysn@ak.net
- 4) "Take back prescription drug" day to be held at Fred Meyer on Saturday, October 26. Note: You can properly dispose of old prescription drugs every day at Providence Hospital at the pharmacy.

Alaska Railroad Corp Engineering Services/All Points North LLC: Updated the status of the South Anchorage/Jarvi area earthquake ground slough areas and the scheduled work ahead. Site maps were provided. Granite Construction will be onsite in November to dump rip rap materials from rail cars onto the degrading areas to prevent slopes from further failure. The rifle range area will be the start/end point for truck traffic. FEMA and the state will be helping with funding which will be ~ \$850,000. A Question/ Answer period followed covering 1) noise issues to residents/work hours; 2) timeframe for completion? A – before New Years; 3) trails being rehabbed and road usage to the rifle range; 4) Drainage issues on Jarvi being affected by construction and ground slough area? A – the drainage has been dealt with but will be reviewed, and the area will be rehabbed. Seven property owners will be affected. Further questions should be directed to the Alaska Railroad Engineering Services.

Eugene Haberman spoke as a Guest. He regularly attends Assembly meetings and encourages all residents to get involved, to go to the Anchorage School Board and Assembly meetings because opinions and comments matter. Listen to the budget issues. Express your opinions. Ask the Muni to move the meetings from City Hall to the Loussac Library to accommodate residents.

New Business – Discussed Bell's 5840 application to open a winery on Industry Drive. Question was raised whether this is will be facility for selling wine or a consumption location to serve wine at wine tastings, etc. Answer – Unsure. More details needed; the community council is neutral at this point.

The Sisters of Eucharistic Heart of Jesus is applying to set up a package store at Top Shelf Storage out of a connex. The state application package is to be reviewed by OSOVCC. They are applying to sell eucharistic wine used in churches but are applying for a package store license. Members in attendance raised questions about whether this is a wholesale operation or a package store. Security could be a concern, as connexes can be broken into easily. Can a connex contain a package store? Can this license be sold or transferred in the future to become a standard package store? John Weddleton said that licenses aren't attached to locations. Comments are well recommended to Steve Beardsley to meet the comment requirement.

Susan LaFrance, Assembly – Briefed us about 1) the upcoming budget hearings – three public hearings to be held. Send you comments to the entire Assembly membership.

2) The Port of Anchorage \$2 Billion estimate has been reduced to \$1 Billion. Plans for repair, replacement, renovation will be a part of the tariff commissions mission to set tariffs, currently assessed at higher rates for petroleum and cement. Question/Answer period addressed whether downstream modeling had been done to detail how much the services costs will be raised. This will impact businesses using those commodities and uncertainty exists re: how much they will have to pay to deal with the Port problems because it is a monopoly Port. Businesses are trying to use other ports instead. A tipping point will be reached. Senator von Imhof talked about the Port briefing they had in Juneau. The model was not well received and was pushed back to come up with better data and solutions. She has visited with other states' Ports and find there are much better models out there to come up with creative solutions for financing and management. Suzanne LaFrance will follow up with this feedback.

3) Marijuana – Onsite consumption issue continues. Mentioned the newly developed marijuana breathalyzer and wants to include this in the budget for APD. Nancy Joseph to forward Suzanne the information on it.

4) Cyber Security was discussed. Questions from members were: How does a cyber attack plan go into effect in Anchorage? Will we have regulations in place to make cyber attacks felonies (federal – the Muni only issues misdemeanors). What triggers a state of emergency on a cyber attack. Suzanne will provide feedback to explore this further.

5) Regarding the need for another solid waste transfer station, Nancy Joseph mentioned to Suzanne LaFrance that there is an incinerator on JBER. It has been there on Elmendorf for a long time, and perhaps the Muni and the Military can collaborate on a project to deal with incineration of garbage to generate power and to reduce landfill waste in the future. BP is undertaking a pilot project to incinerate garbage to make jet fuel. Suzanne will investigate further.

Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Nancy Joseph, Minutes-taker - alternate