

Minutes of Midtown Community Council Meeting

November 13, 2019

3000 C STREET, 1ST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

The November meeting was called to order at 12:03 pm and the October minutes were approved unanimously.

Reports of Local Law Enforcement: There were no officers present.

Reports of State Officials: Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson was present and reported on the swearing in of Senator Josh Revak, who took over the seat of the late Senator Birch as well as the Alaska local hire lawsuit. The Senator will host a coffee constituent meeting before heading to Juneau next year.

Sarah Evans, staff to Representative Drummond, attended the meeting. The Representative is pleased that the education forward funding has been approved in the courts. The joint House and Senate Resources Committees will hold a hearing on the BP/Hilcorp sale.

Reports of Local Officials: Assembly Member Meg Zaletal was present. She provided an update to the council on the Anchorage Assembly. The Assembly is working on the budget. Other items of consideration included proclaiming Anchorage to be a Purple Heart City and providing parking benefits on the “purple” level of the downtown parking garage, alcohol and marijuana licenses, the Port of Anchorage, and a climate action plan.

Schoolboard Member Deena Mitchell reports that the Board is updating the “20 by 2020” plan. There is also a joint venture between the Anchorage School District and the Lower Yukon School District to provide housing for rural students that can learn workforce ready skills. Ms. Mitchell also discussed the FY’21 state education funding and an upcoming meeting with state legislators.

Reports of Councils: The Executive Board met on November 5th and considered the two resolutions that will be heard under New Business.

Presentations: Tanya Hickok from the Boutet Company presented on the right of way of the old Natural Pantry space in the University Center. They are working with AKDOT&PF and were given a vacation on the right of way (127’). The application will be submitted in December for consideration in March, 2020. This is a Title 21 issue (1’ vs 3’). Council Member Tim Potter motioned to support the vacation, and the motion was seconded by Vice-President Davidge. The motion was approved unanimously (5-0).

The Midtown Congestion Relief public comment is open through December 20.

Hearing Notices: There will be no December Council meeting; the next meeting will be scheduled for January, 2020.

Old Business: Tim Potter spoke upon the Mom & Pop’s liquor store, which has been a consistent topic of discussion since entering a MOU with the Council. There have been ongoing compliance issues with the MOU, and has continually been non-compliant. Mr. Potter formally proposes the Council submit a resolution supporting the *non-renewal* of Mom & Pop’s liquor license. Mr. Potter moved the resolution which was seconded by Councilmember Doug Lampkin (Neighborhood Works). The Council adopted the

draft resolution unanimously (8-0). The Resolution is scheduled to be submitted to the Assembly in time for consideration on the upcoming renewal.

The Brown Jug Warehouse and the Walmart liquor store, both in midtown, are up for renewal soon. Mr. Potter brought in bags full of empty cans and other trash found at these and other various locations around Midtown liquor stores. Vice-President Ric Davidge motioned to allow the Executive Committee to provide guidance on how to approach package stores for license renewal; the motion was seconded by Council Boardmember Brian Swartzentruber. During discussion, a representative from Brown Jug was present and cautioned the Council against simply moving a problem to another Council's district and addressing this city-wide. The motion passed unanimously (10-1).

The 48th and Cordova Rebuild Project was discussed at length at the last meeting, and the Executive Committee sent a request to the Municipality's Planning and Zoning Commission with recommendations. The Council has not heard back from Planning.

New Business: The Council considered two resolutions: the first supporting the formation of a working group to look at a Midtown Tax Improvement District and Partnership, the second supporting the acquisition of a Midtown Day Shelter for homeless persons (one of the suggestions from the MTCC Report on homelessness). Copies of each motion were distributed at the Meeting.

Vice-President Davidge motioned to approve the Day Shelter supporting resolution and was seconded by Councilmember Brian Swartzentruber. Discussion from the Council included questions about funding, input from neighboring businesses and residents, and whether this might become a "new Brother Francis" shelter (no). The motion was approved unanimously (8-0).

Vice-President Davidge motioned to approve the resolution on a workgroup to investigate a Midtown Tax Improvement District and Partnership, somewhat modeled after the Downtown Partnership. The motion was seconded by Council Member Tim Potter. The Council discussed that when the MTCC was established, there was a plan to establish a partnership at that time. The motion was approved unanimously (9-0).

Public Comment:

The meeting adjourned at 1:22pm.