

Old Seward/Oceanview Community Council (OSOVCC)
Minutes of Meeting – October 28th, 2020, 6:30 p.m. - Meeting Held Online via ZOOM
OSOVCC Website: <http://communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/25.html>

Board Members: President, Steve Beardsley, Vice President Roselynn Cacy, Treasurer Stan Moll, Secretary Nancy Joseph.

Called to order at 6:33 p.m. **President Beardsley** presiding. Quorum in place.

Anchorage Police Department Officer Culp was our first guest and relayed information about a typical shift, priorities for responses, answered questions about contacting Dispatch, and the importance of communicating details when calling in a committed crime or one in progress. Give Dispatch all the details you can remember about the offender and provide video from your security camera.

Officer Culp patrols the Old Seward/Oceanview area responding to property thefts from vehicles and homes, suspicious activity, prowlers, reckless driving, speeding, and traffic incidents on Old Seward and other streets, bear sightings near homes if appropriate, and homeless camps and fires. They especially appreciate REDDI calls (report every dangerous driver immediately) and can respond right away. There is an officer in our area on the night shift. Response priorities: 1 – burglaries, felonies, injury collisions, shootings, medical emergencies; 2 – suspicious activity and disturbances; 3 – vehicle parking problems on streets. A slow response to your emergency may be because of the #1's already in the on-screen queue of 50 items at all times.

Jefferson Childs – Community Patrol mentioned his interactions with residents from Nextdoor reporting burglaries, stolen political signs, increased activity on Ellen and Helen streets, and the other crimes mentioned by **Officer Culp**. In addition, the community patrols are trying to get dashcams to share observations with APD. Activities near patrol boundaries are communicated between patrollers. Please volunteer if you can help with community patrolling. Tips: Lock your vehicle, home, garage, shed doors, stow valuables inside your home, do not leave your garage door opener/keys in your car, and when observing a crime, call 3-1-1 and provide extensive details. If you are posting info about crimes in our neighborhood on Nextdoor as well as with APD, also contact Jefferson Childs on Nextdoor via private message to report the crimes; the community patrols provide the incident info through to APD and the larger Anchorage coalition for neighborhood patrols.

Agenda amended and approved. Minutes of September 23, 2020 approved. Treasurer's report: Bank account balance is \$1,537.08 with no expenditures since the last meeting. See the President's report info for funds coming from the FCC.

President's Report – Steve Beardsley:

- Carl's Jr. is gone and reportedly Sonic will occupy the building.
- A coffee/snack shack is going into the property south of the Super Floors building on the east side of Old Seward. No permits visible; Planning and Zoning is investigating as the structure is anchored into the lot.
- ASD has cancelled our CC meeting schedule for the Oceanview Elementary Library due to no plan for COVID mitigation. FCC is to develop guidelines for us, supply cleaning items, make and laminate signs etc. A new submission will be given to ASD when plan is developed. For the foreseeable future, our Community Council meetings will be held via Zoom.
- FCC is offering a \$75.00 payment for each Council. Our plan is to use it for signage boards (previously approved), but a needs assessment will come first as we are not holding meetings at facilities.
- Primo Farms at this writing is not open yet.
- The Open House for E. 120th Upgrade project was held October 8th; many ideas were put forth. Nancy Joseph will be our representative on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee. More details are provided in a status report below. Comments can still be made at: <https://120thaveupgrades.com/publicinvolvement/>
- Assembly Member John Weddleton updated on possible upgrades to road upgrades in progress within OSOVCC and Klatt Bayshore areas.
- Our ByLaws state that elections for all Officers are to occur in November. President, VP, Secretary and Treasurer are all 1-year terms. In addition, FCC Rep appointee is open. Anyone wishing to serve on these positions should contact Steve Beardsley at OSOVcommunitycouncil@gmail.com or 345- 4764.
- There is no update from Flying Crown 1 & 2 regarding the Alaska Railroad suit against them at this writing.
- The muni is offering packets of masks to individuals and groups; they have thousands. Contact Steve Beardsley.
- The Anchorage Transportation Fair will be held online on Wednesday, November 18th from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. This event updates residents on all projects being planned or in progress for our Anchorage streets, roads, trails,

corridors, and is highly informative. More information is available at <http://dot.alaska.gov/> and <https://publicinput.com/AnchorageTransportationFair?userId=564c3c020d7f4583a6cd2bd08578faf7>

Federation of Community Councils (FCC) October 21 Meeting Report - Nancy Beardsley:

- The Budget projections process has begun. A property tax increase of \$100 is planned for a typical home valued at \$350,000.
- Funding for APD officer body cams is planned as an April 2021 tax levy in the amount of \$1.8 Million.
- As reported last month in the OSOVCC meeting minutes, Planning and Zoning 2040 plans for residential new builds on the Hillside include the requirement for sprinkler systems; mitigations are being discussed by the Assembly regarding water availability for this requirement.
- The Assembly is taking training on how to deal with unruly and contentious visitors to the Assembly meetings who will not abide by standard conduct protocols.
- The ML&P/Chugach Electric sale is scheduled to close on October 30. A Municipality of Anchorage Trust will be established to accept the \$230 Million revenue, generating an additional \$4 Million. \$17.6 Million will be used to fund municipal services.
- Amazon warehouse at the airport is rumored, and a new Hultquist subdivision is planned for the Hillside.

Senator Natasha von Imhof: We were briefed on 1) the election process for counting absentee votes the following Wednesday; 2) the local races will reshape the Legislature; 3) The Governor will not propose a budget until he knows what the Legislature looks like; 4) the Legislative council will try to meet in Juneau but COVID testing, COVID R-factor monitoring, social distancing, and masking restrictions will be in effect, travel will be restricted, and visits by any family members, lobbyists will not be permitted; only Legislators and staff will be allowed in Juneau; 5) schools and universities are getting masks from the state.

Steve Beardsley: For information on Candidates, visit the OSOVCC FCC site Candidate Forum link for questions/answers asked of each candidate. <http://communitycouncils.org/servlet/content/25.html>

No report from Chuck Kopp, Anchorage School District, Anchorage Fire Department for this meeting.

Anchorage Assembly – Suzanne LaFrance report:

- Update to last month's topic of the Excise tax for Vaping implements and liquids. Assembly is working to remove the tax exclusion for the above which will add \$800,000 to muni funds and offset property taxes. Vaping use is up from 19% to 26% for high schoolers.
- At the last regular meeting we voted to move \$10M of the contingency CARES Act funds to the small business relief program. The \$6M that has been allocated so far is oversubscribed as the need outweighs the resources available at the state and local levels. Also, the intent is to make this money available to qualifying franchises as well. (This is based on feedback from small businesses franchises that have been ineligible for funds through other programs.) This brings the total for direct business and non-profit MOA CARES Act assistance to \$71,500,000.
- The Emergency Declaration was extended to November 30. In the meantime, the intent of a few of us is to transition to a more stable model of government through adopting some aspects of the emergency orders in code. This isn't intended to undermine anything positive that's been done but to ensure that we keep what's working, i.e., best health practices such as masking, repurposing MOA resources, enabling bargained employees to telework, preventing AWWU shut offs, enabling the emergency shelter at the Sullivan Arena to keep operating. Assembly counsel is drafting the AO, which hopefully will be introduced in early November and scheduled for public hearing for 11/24.
- The opportunity to tour the homeless shelter being operated out of the Sullivan Arena is going to be offered to community council FCC delegates. However, it's also open to any community member who is interested – just let me know and I'll make arrangements. The tour is informative and moving. It shows what the operators are doing to get people connected with services and off the streets.
- The sale of Municipal Light and Power is on track to close this year and is expected to deposit \$230M into the MOA trust, which will generate an additional \$4M in revenue. This brings the estimated total to \$17.6M to be used to pay for gov't services.
- AO 2020-116 to bond for \$1.8M the cost of leasing body cameras and related hardware for APD is being introduced. Public hearing is scheduled for 12/8. If passed this would be on the April ballot for voters to decide.
- The 2021 budget has been introduced. Public hearings are scheduled for 10/27 and 11/4. The proposed budget is about a one percent increase over last year's budget, which is less than the rate of inflation.
- AO 2020-85 pertaining to adopting building codes will be up for public hearing and vote on 10/27.

- A leadership change is underway with the mayor's resignation taking effect this Friday. West Anchorage Assembly Member Austin Quinn-Davidson was elected chair on Friday and will serve as acting mayor. Per the attached Memo of Opinion from the Department of Law, the charter identifies that the vacancy of mayor can be filled in one of three ways
 1. Through a special election on or after Thursday, 1/23 to serve until 6/30p
 2. Through the regular April election, to take office 7/1.
 3. Through the regular April election, to take office before 7/1 (would require a code change).
 The two big concerns about having a special election is that it would cost around \$350k (plus another \$300k if a runoff is needed), and it would bump up against the regular April election and might cause voter confusion with two sets of ballots being mailed out close together. I am curious to hear your council's thoughts.
- Contact Suzanne LaFrance, Anchorage Assembly – District 6, South Anchorage, Girdwood & Turnagain Arm, [907-351-7199](tel:907-351-7199) mobile/text, and at Suzanne.LaFrance@AnchorageAK.gov

Anchorage Assembly - John Weddleton report:

- Regarding Mayoral situation: Weddleton took a straw poll of OSOVCC attendees regarding the desire to hold the additional special election in January, then the election in April. All attendees did not support the special election in January, mentioned it is a waste of money and we need a stable period and stable leadership in Anchorage due to COVID-19 and economic challenges right now. The muni property taxpayers cannot afford the additional \$600,000 expense.
 - Discussed the proposed Anchorage Ordinance in play to accelerate the seating of the new Mayor after the April election. Proposal to seat in May rather than waiting until July. The longer period allows for a better handover and transition between mayors; however, seating a new mayor earlier may provide a more stable leadership model.
 - The Assembly is walking hand-in-hand with Flying Crown in their lawsuit with the Alaska Railroad as the muni has land interests as well. The matter was not discussed as the lawsuit parties were on the Zoom meeting.
 - Mentioned above in the **FCC** report, changes to the municipal code regarding sprinklers for new builds, condos, townhouses, etc., is cumbersome due to the availability of water sources on Hillside. Added in will be allowances for electric vehicle charging stations.
- Contact John Weddleton, Anchorage Assembly – District 6, South Anchorage, Girdwood & Turnagain Arm, (907) 770-0685, E-Mail: John.Weddleton@AnchorageAK.gov

Nancy Joseph Report - E. 120th Avenue Upgrade – Design Concept Phase – Huddle AK:

- Open House for the Design Concept phase was held October 8th online; received great input from the many participants from the neighborhood (bikers, walkers, school kids' parents, families, drivers, residents). More input is encouraged. Visit: <https://120thaveupgrades.com/publicinvolvement/>
- Design funding was approved by bond in 2019 - \$1.2 Million. Construction will start in 2023 if another \$3.6 Million is approved by Bonds and continue into 2024 with an additional \$3.6 Million to be approved. The construction funding amount will vary with the accepted design limitations.
- Topics of concern: Sidewalks, lighting, bike trail, excessive speeding, dangerous intersections without lighting, railroad track crossing for pedestrian travel, drainage problems with standing water runoff from the storage yard at the South side of 120th, icy conditions from standing water freezing in the winter at Division Street/E. 120th and S. Gambell/E. 120th, lack of water supply on east side of E. 120th, tree branch trimming for moose incident visibility, heavy load traffic from industrial traffic from American Landscaping and Alaska Crane, traffic mix is passenger vehicles, school buses, heavy equipment.
- Huddle was asked for a current traffic count on 120th.
- Extensive discussion held about lack of school zone safety, speeding cars, and stop sign running at Johns Road/E. 120th at the school where kids cross the street as the walk to school.
- Lengthy discussion about the traffic hazard at E. 120th/Old Seward Highway intersection. Wait times to turn left can be up to 10 minutes. Accident statistics are rising at the intersection. The Center turn lane is used as a driving lane at times. The turn lane facilitates drivers to turn into the coffee shop less than 100 feet away from the 120th intersection. Turn signal indication (if used) is misleading because the two destinations are so close together. Coffee shop patrons turn right and affect drivers' ability to turn left. Dangerous situation.
- The muni and State need to coordinate traffic hazard resolutions at E. 120th and Johns, and E. 120th and Old Seward Highway as both of those streets are State jurisdiction.
- A streetlight at Old Seward intersection was mentioned as was a right turn only requirement. Right turn only would place a heavy traffic count at the Huffman/Old Seward Roundabout which has its hazardous issues already on record with agencies.

Contact Huddle directly at holly@huddleak.com With design input ideas visit www.120thAveUpgrades.com

Holly's phone: 907-223-0136. Contact Nancy Joseph at mosesna@gci.net for a community council update.

NEW BUSINESS:

Carl Jacobs, visitor, mentioned that the in-person classroom schedule for the Anchorage School District is to start November 11th for staff and November 16th for students. For more information or to provide input, email schoolboard@asdk12.org or go to https://www.asdk12.org/school_board

Rosa Meehan – Reporting on bears in the neighborhood, bears in trash cans, bears in Johns Park, and residents cleaning up trash scattered by bears. We have brown and black bears in the area right now using the Furrow Creek corridor back and forth into Johns Park and accessing the coastal bluff zone. Rosa and team cleaned up recent debris scatterings from a homeless camp and from a bear getting into a resident's trash can. Bear scat contained plastics, so they are getting into residential trash. Fish and Game has been contacted. Fish and Game did a drive through and noticed that trash cans are readily available and are put out too early for trash pick-up, which is baiting the bears to come to the area. F&G recommends not putting out suet and waiting on bird feed in feeders, do not clean moose kill or any other game kill at your residence, get bear-proof cans in our area, and is working to design better bear-proof cans with a firm Outside.

Rick Phillips provided a supporting position for Yes on Proposition 1 from the Alaska's Fair Share Act.

Alaska Railroad – Tim Sullivan: Passenger season is over except for a train North to Talkeetna and Fairbanks which is generally used for supplies to communities. No holiday trains are planned for the winter 2020-2021 season.

Motion passed to Adjourn at 7:52 p.m.

Minutes taken by Nancy Joseph, Secretary

Motion to approve was granted _____.