

FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING NOTES  
01/16/2019

The meeting was called to order by Matt Burkholder chair at approximately 6:00 pm.

The minutes were approved by consensus.

The treasurer verbally reported that we were on track to end the year at or slightly under plan.

For outreach a request was made for volunteers for Fur Rondy activities this year. Contact the FCC office if you are interested. Also the FCC will have a table at the UAA arena for their February 6<sup>th</sup> event.

Carla McConnell discussed her concerns about the timeliness of communications between the municipality and the community councils. There was a range of experiences by councils regarding this. She clarified that many of the problems her community council was having in this was with the Parks and Recreation group. We agreed to continue to work on this on a case by case basis.

Katherine Kemp, representing the Mayor's office, distributed a one page handout of the proposed 5% tax on retail sales of Alcohol. The primary benefits for this would be that the revenue from the tax could be used for specific purposes related to alcohol usage (homelessness, treatment, public safety, cleanup). As an example she stated that some of the cost impacts would be: \$.40 for an \$8.00 six pack of beer; \$.50 for a \$10.00 mixed drink; \$1.75 for a \$35.00 bottle of wine and \$2.50 for a \$50.00 bottle of hard liquor. The proposed ordinance (AO No. 2018-104 and AM 721-2018) can be downloaded from the Muni website. Other communities in Alaska have approved local sales taxes which range from 3% to 12%. There will also be some proposed changes to the Municipal charter this year as well as bond proposals for public safety, fire department, transit and road improvements.

Eric Croft, representing the Anchorage Assembly, introduced himself as the new Chair. He informed us that the Assembly was moving towards allowing non uniformed officers to cite vehicles which can be towed under current regulations. He stated abandoned or infrequently used vehicles are creating both an accessibility problem as well as eye sores throughout the city. As the regulations are now only uniformed officers can cite these and the assembly does not feel that is the most effective use of their time. He also shared that the assembly is considering changing the district structure within the Municipality. Currently we have one single member district and the remainder are two member districts. There are two proposals being discussed: one would be to go to all single member districts and the other would be to rotate the single member district around the municipality. Dick Traini shared that there will be two sets of bonds offered at the next election, one of

which is for earthquake damage (particularly for schools). If federal funding comes through, it could be used to pay off that bond.

The school district submitted a written report. They will be submitting a budget to the assembly which projects a budget gap of approximately 10 million dollars if the funding approved by the legislature stays as is. They have submitted their legislative priorities to the State of Alaska. February is visit your school month and ASD is encourage the public to do so. For details visit [asdk.12.org/visit](http://asdk.12.org/visit).

Albert Whitehead updated us on "Next Door". It has been proposed that the FCC be able to use this for announcements. He stated that currently Next Door has approximately 45,000 users within the Municipality. The Muni has agreed that the FCC can access this through them. It is felt that this will increase exposure for announcements, including individual community council announcements. Participation by individual community councils will be voluntary and controlled by the community council. Anything coming through the FCC will have a small FCC header on it. A number of individual community councils who have used it for meeting notices stated it had been effective for them in increasing participation. Any final action on our involvement with this was tabled to the next FCC meeting.

Tom Davis, Municipal Planning gave us a brief update on compatible-Scale Infill Housing (R-2 Zones). Comments can be made per the muni website ([www.muni.org/Planning/2040action.aspx](http://www.muni.org/Planning/2040action.aspx)). Either Tom Davis (343-7916) or Francis McLaughlin (343-8003) can be contacted about this. There will be an open house on February 11<sup>th</sup>. The goal on the housing changes to help facilitate an additional 20,000 housing units by 2040.

Rick Fern, Code Enforcement, discussed the Municipality's efforts to deal with abandoned or run down housing. They are concerned with the impacts of these facilities in areas such as public safety, property values, public health, drug usage. He reported that the new marijuana industry has been very good about code compliance and he is pleased to see the additional revenue from the taxes. He is also supportive of the proposed regulations on towing abandoned cars. They are working on making the process for removing these cars more efficient. The Mayor has also authorized more funds for cleanup of sites.

There was a proposal by the FCC board to increase the salary of the FCC manager and the per hour rate of the office staff. After a discussion regarding the wages and salary history they were approved.

Al Tamagi, President Midtown CC, proposed a review of the individual membership lists maintained by the FCC with the objective of creating a list for use by the individual community councils of members only as well as a general list of all those who had requested to be notified of individual council activities. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 pm.