

Minutes of Midtown Community Council Meeting

February 12, 2020

3000 C STREET, 1ST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

The February meeting was called to order at 12:00pm and the January minutes were approved unanimously. Amendments to the agenda were approved unanimously.

Reports of Local Law Enforcement: There was no local law enforcement present.

Reports of State Officials: There were no state officials present.

Reports of Local Officials: Mayor Ethan Berkowitz was present to give the Council a report on the proposed Alcohol Tax a five percent tax that will be on the April Municipal ballot. The Mayor answered questions from the council. Vice-President Ric Davidge voiced his support due to the work by Assembly Members Felix Rivera and Meg Zaletel and the reporting component of the ordinance. Secretary Albert Circosta also pointed out the work the Council has done with local liquor stores and the Memorandums of Understanding, and that some of the issues around homelessness can be solved through best practices, rather than taxation alone. A member from the Homeless Resource Council asked whether rumors of the Brother Francis Shelter running out of money is true—the Mayor responded that while the shelters are reaching capacity, there is not the threat of funding as rumored.

Assembly Member Felix Rivera was present. Mom and Pops' liquor license is on the agenda for the next meeting. Mr. Rivera received call data on service calls around Mom & Pops, and is waiting for a report from code enforcements; he will be compiling this information for the Alcohol and Marijuana Control Board. Mr. Rivera also discussed the Assembly priority list. Assembly Member Meg Zaletel was also present and discussed two transfer of ownerships, and the difficulty of identifying owners and operators at each of these businesses. Another Assembly item postponed until a March meeting is about front porches of residences (expanded from only single-family homes); she will provide information to the Council.

Deena Mitchell from the Anchorage School Board was present at the meeting; she provided an update on the 2-year school bonds (if passed in 2020, there will be no bonds in 2021) as well as the budget. Dave Donley, candidate for Anchorage School Board, was also present and introduced himself to the Council.

Reports of Councils: The Executive Council meets the first Tuesday of every month. Assembly Member Meg Zaletel provided an update on Anchorage Crime Reporting. The Council met with Walmart regarding the Council's proposed Memorandum of Understanding. Walmart keeps the trash on their property well cleaned up, but it often is blown off the property line, and possible solutions were discussed. The Executive Council also brainstormed creating a Midtown Partnership.

Presentations: Mark Hamilton (Pebble Partnership) presented to the Council about the permitting process. The Pebble Mine permitting process took 4 years.

A Representative from Big City Engineers presented on the relocation of Parimore and Young Chiropractic. There is a planned new building and parking space.

Alaska Rime Manufacturing was on the agenda but absent from the meeting.

Hearing Notices: The Assembly did recommend issuance of the Walmart liquor license renewal; two representatives from Walmart were present including the head of security. Walmart does intend to continue working with the Council.

Old Business: Vice-President Ric Davidge gave the council an update on homelessness; he is tracking trends in other states and will be sending an update reflecting this information.

Assembly Member Meg Zaletel gave an update on the 48th and Cordova project; the project is still in early design stages and would be on the 2021 ballot. Construction would not take place until 2022/2023. The Municipality continues to work with businesses in the area and look into possible variances.

New Business: There was no new business to announce.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

The meeting adjourned at 1:18pm.

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