

Mid-Town Community Council (MTCC) General Meeting Minutes
Meeting will be located at 3000 C Street –First Floor Conference Room
Wednesday; March 13, 2024
12:00 Noon to 1:30 PM

Sign in and Call to Order – Kris Stoechner President – All MTCC businesses, residents, land owners and guests are welcome to participate and bring ideas forward to this meeting.

Kris Stoechner called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM

MTCC Officers and Board Members in attendance:

Kris Stoechner, President
Ric Davidge, Vice President
Jason Bergerson, Treasurer
Bill Borchardt, Board Member
Rosemary Borchardt, Board Member
Mike Mason, Board Member
Brian Swartzentruber, Board Member
Greg McDonald, Board Member

Approval of Minutes: 1 Minute

Ric moved and Greg seconded that the minutes from the February 14, 2024, general meeting be approved. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Approval of Agenda: 1 Minute

Greg moved and Ric seconded that the agenda be approved. Agenda was approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report – Jason Bergerson - Treasurer – 1 Minute

Jason reported that he just received the banking information from the previous treasurer and the account has a balance of \$345.00.

Assembly – Felix Rivera, Meg Zaletel, Chris Constant, Daniel Volland – Update on relevant subjects – 5 Minutes Total

Felix reported on the following:

- Port of Alaska – Revenue Bonds of \$470 million to be spent on Terminal 1 and construction should begin next summer.
- Homeless and Housing
 - Cold Weather Shelter (CWS) beds are substantially full with 574 occupants.
 - The Assembly is expected to vote at 3/19 meeting to extend the CWS through 5/31 at an approximate cost of \$1.6 - \$1.7 million.
 - There have been 69 homeless who have been housed and there are 81 left to house, and they are trying to tie the camp abatements to placing homeless in housing.
 - The Administration's proposed AO 2024-26 has been postponed at the Administration's request until the 4/9 Assembly meeting, and there is an Assembly work session scheduled for 4/5 to make changes and clarifications to the AO.

Q. Mike – The National Archives site has a serious issue with camper's human waste and what action will be taken to address that issue?

A. Felix – When the National Archives site is rezoned and sold the site will be cleared and fenced.

Q. Jason – What can be done for property owners whose property abuts a campsite to protect them from the issues associated with a homeless camp site like the National Archives site?

A. Felix – Legal standards will need to be established to protect abutting properties.

Q. Kris – There is a large number of campers and vehicles at the National Archives site and there have been numerous deaths due to exposure. What is being done to prevent the homeless population from moving to Cuddy Park when the National Archives site is sold?

A. Felix – This needs to be addressed and the Assembly is weighing long term vs short term solutions.

Q. Jason – The homelessness working group (Clean Slate) has changed meeting times and he has been unable to attend and asked for an update?

A. Felix – The Assembly is waiting for funding from the State and is considering locations identified by past and current Administrations, however, potential locations have not been identified.

Q. Rosemary – There are know “bad actors” at the homeless camp sites and what is being done to arrest or otherwise eliminate them from the sites?

A. Felix – Arrests have been made and need to continue when individuals cause health and public safety concerns.

Civic Presenters:

Mayor’s Office – Michelle Hodel - 4 Minutes

Mayor’s representative was not present.

School Board – Kelly Lessens – 4 Minutes

Kelly Lessens was not present but provided a written report that is in the meeting attachments.

Legislators – Senator Gray-Jackson, House Representatives Alyse Galvin & Andy Josephson – 3 Minutes Each

Alex Schroeder, staff member for Andy Josephson joined the meeting by zoom and provided an update of the items Representative Josephson is working on and there were no questions.

Committees:

AMATS -Meg Zaletel and Jason Bergerson – 2 Minutes

Jason reported that TIP II has been issued and comments are being taken. Brian noted that there is an AMATS open house on 3/26 and all projects will be on display and open for Q & A.

Marijuana and Alcohol – Brian Swartzentruber & Rosemary Borchardt; new license coming forward for onsite consumption and growing; WNDJ, LLC – 2 minutes

Rosemary reported that Speedway Express gas station and convenience store desire to transfer their off-sale liquor license from Government Hill to their Midtown location. She also reported that WNDJ, LLC who owns Cannabaska would like to transfer their grow/retail operation to the former Cattle Company location, however it was clarified they only posted a notice of intent and have not applied.

Transit Center Study Update – Jason Bergerson – 2 Minutes

Jason reported that three locations are under consideration: the existing location, the Conoco parking lot, and the Chinook parking lot. No Midtown locations are under consideration.

Special Presenters:

Gallos/Aqua Vitae - Abraham Gallo (Rosemary Borchardt) – Purchase of Aqua Vitae - 7 Minutes
Abraham Gallo reported that he bought the building about a year ago and the liquor license was included in the sale. He plans to operate the liquor store as an upstanding business and will sign the MTCC MOU. It was suggested he consider adding a driver's license reader at the front door like Brown Jug to prevent unauthorized individuals from entering the store and he said he is open to the idea.

Meeting with Mayor – Kris – Businesses are invited to meet with the mayor to discuss the homeless situation in Mid-Town – 3 Minutes
Kris provided a recap of the first meeting with the mayor and said it was very enlightening and encouraged everyone to attend monthly on the last Wednesday of each month. A meeting information flyer that was available at the meeting is attached.

Roger Marks -Bond Issue for Chugach State Park – 3 Minutes
Mr. Marks gave an overview of how the \$4 million bond funds would be utilized which would provide safe access to a prime access to the Chugach State Park and provided a information flyer that was available at the meeting is attached.

Dowl Engineering/Lounsbury & Associates/State of Alaska – Update on Fireweed Road upgrade - 10 minutes
The project team postponed their presentation until the next meeting.

District 1 Resolution requesting the Municipality of Anchorage fulfill its responsibilities to effectively manage publicly owned land and facilities. – Kris - 7 minutes
Kris presented the information regarding the “Call to Action” from District 1 and explained the MTCC needs to vote on this matter to move the Resolution forward. Ric said that the Supreme Court will address the public lands issue in June and suggested MTCC wait on the vote until then. Kris believes the matter needs to be addressed now and called for a vote. Supporting the Resolution passed with 11 Yay and 1 Nay vote.

AO No 2024-26 – An ordinance amending Code section 15.20.020 talking about homeless camps on public property; also discussing abatement of camps – Greg McDonald - 7 minutes
Greg did not report as this matter was discussed during Felix's report.

Rosemary moved and Mike seconded that Kris be given the emergency authority to speak on behalf of the MTCC during the 4/9 Assembly meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Jason moved and Rosemary seconded that the meeting adjourn, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM.