

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

February 13, 2006

1. ROLL CALL

The Legislative Council meeting was called to order at 5:11 p.m. by Representative Kott, Chairman, Legislative Council, in the Senate Finance Committee Room and via teleconference.

The roll was taken. In attendance were Council members: Representatives Kott, Coghill, Gatto, Harris, Weyhrauch, Berkowitz, Senators Ben Stevens, Cowdery, Gary Stevens, Therriault, Wagoner, Wilken, and Davis. Member absent: Representative Rokeberg. Staff present: Varni, Ohmer, Collins, Cook, Gullufsen, Ibesate, Maher, Popely, Schofield, and Williams.

2. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 2, 2006 MINUTES

Senator Therriault moved Legislative Council approve the minutes of the February 2, 2006, Council meeting.

With no objection, the motion passed unanimously.

3. FY 07 LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY BUDGET APPROVAL

Ms. Varni, Executive Director, Legislative Affairs Agency offered the FY 07 Legislative Affairs Agency Budget overview. Ms. Varni stated that the Legislative Affairs Agency budget contains eight of the thirteen budget components and two of the three RDU's in the Legislative Branch. The Legislative Affairs Agency request is a decrease of \$50,100 from the FY 07 Governor's figure and a decrease of \$42,600 from the FY 07 Adjusted Base figure.

Senator Therriault moved that Legislative Council submit the FY 07 Legislative Affairs Agency Budget Request to the House and Senate Finance Committees for their review and action.

With no objection, the motion passed unanimously.

4. LEGISLATIVE PER DIEM

Senator Wilken offered the following amendment to the Legislative Council Travel and Per Diem Policy.

Under Section: "A. Interim Per Diem". Delete all text.

Replace with:

During the interim, a legislator is entitled to receive per diem at the long-term rate while engaged in legislative business, including necessary travel time as follows:

Legislators spending one to four hours on legislative business are entitled to \$75.00/day.

Legislators spending more than four hours on legislative business are entitled to \$100.00/day.

Senator Wilken objected for discussion purposes.

Discussion followed pertaining to the Travel and Per Diem Policy amendment.

Senator Wilken removed his objection and called for the question.

Additional discussion followed regarding the Travel and Per Diem Policy amendment.

Chairman Kott moved the Legislative Council Travel and Per Diem Policy amendment as offered by Senator Wilken.

YEAS: Coghill, Ben Stevens, Therriault, and Wilken

NAYS: Kott, Gatto, Harris, Weyhrauch, Berkowitz, Cowdery, G. Stevens, Wagoner, and Davis

ABSENT: Rokeberg

The motion failed 4 - 9.

5. SCHEDULING OF MEETINGS

Senator Wilken requested that Legislative Council meetings be scheduled like the other legislative meetings. Senator Wilken also expressed an interest in having them on Thursday at 5:00 p.m. Senator Wilken further requested that if possible at least a week's notice be given. For example, if the meeting is on a

Thursday, notice would be given on Friday morning allowing for sufficient notice time.

Chairman Kott stated that Legislative Council meetings do not fall under the Uniform Rules notice of meeting provision. Chairman Kott further stated on average Legislative Council usually schedules four or five meetings during the legislative session or about once a month because of the convenience of having all members in Juneau for the legislative session. Chairman Kott stated he would keep in mind the scheduling preferences of meetings for Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

6. SANCTIONING OF CHARITABLE EVENTS

Senator Therriault moved that the Legislative Council sanction the Thanksgiving in March charitable event to be held this session per AS 24.60.080(c)10.

With no objection, the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.