



Alaska State Legislature Legislative Council Minutes

DECEMBER 10, 2007

1. ROLL CALL

The Legislative Council meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Senator John Cowdery, Chairman, Legislative Council, in the Anchorage LIO, 2nd Floor Conference Room and via teleconference.

Roll was taken. In attendance were Council Members: Senators Cowdery, Davis, Elton, Green, Hoffman, Stevens (via teleconference), Wilken (via teleconference); Representatives Coghill (via teleconference), Dahlstrom, Harris, Samuels, Stoltze (via teleconference), Wilson (via teleconference), and Guttenberg (via teleconference). Staff present: Varni, Makinster, Cook, Edwardson, Fleek, Gullufsen, Ibesate, Lesh, Lobaugh, Price, Schofield.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - AUGUST 17, 2007

Representative Samuels moved Legislative Council approve the minutes of the August 17, 2007 Legislative Council meeting as presented.

Senator Wilken asked that the minutes be changed to reflect that under Item 11 - Blackberry Proposal/Approval, the second motion to allow the Agency to enter into an agreement with Cellular One to purchase a monthly voice service package was made, then withdrawn and not put forward again until the end of the meeting, after a brief *At Ease*, an Executive Session, and Item 12 – Other Business. Pam Varni, Executive Director of the Legislative Affairs Agency, said she would listen to the recording and correct any inconsistencies.

Discussion followed.

Representative Samuels withdrew the motion to approve the August 17, 2007 minutes pending correction. This item will be re-scheduled at a future Legislative Council meeting.

3. SANCTIONING AND RATIFICATION OF CHARITABLE EVENTS

Representative Dahlstrom moved that Legislative Council sanction and ratify the 2008 Fahrenkamp Classic Putting Tournament, Auction and Reception and the 2008 Legislative Skits per AS 24.60.080(c)(10).

Senator Davis joined the meeting at this time.

YEAS: Cowdery, Davis, Elton, Green, Hoffman, Stevens, Wilken, Coghill, Dahlstrom, Harris, Samuels, Wilson, Guttenberg

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Stoltze

The motion passed 13-0.

4. LATE PER DIEM REQUEST

Representative Dahlstrom moved that Legislative Council approve a late per diem request for Representative LeDoux.

Senator Cowdery noted that Representative Stoltze had joined the meeting.

YEAS: Cowdery, Davis, Elton, Green, Hoffman, Stevens, Wilken, Coghill, Dahlstrom, Harris, Samuels, Stoltze, Wilson, Guttenberg

NAYS: None

The motion passed unanimously.

5. CARPET REPLACEMENT APPROVAL

Pam Varni, Executive Director of the Legislative Affairs Agency, explained that the carpet in the Lobby of the Capitol needs to be replaced. It is patched and worn and was purchased 13 years ago. Carpet was chosen to match the blue and gold ceiling in the Lobby.

Representative Dahlstrom moved that Legislative Council approve the solicitation, award and expenditure for replacement carpet in the Lobby of the Capitol in an amount not to exceed \$29,500.

YEAS: Cowdery, Davis, Elton, Green, Hoffman, Stevens, Wilken, Coghill, Dahlstrom, Harris, Samuels, Stoltze, Wilson, Guttenberg

NAYS: None

The motion passed unanimously.

6. BLOCK 39 – RIM ARCHITECTS APPROVAL

Pam Varni, Executive Director of the Legislative Affairs Agency, noted that at a previous Legislative Council meeting, Council decided to move forward on preliminary planning for office space for the Anchorage District Offices and the Anchorage LIO into a combined facility on Block 39. In addition, we would be moving the Anchorage Audit Office, Office of Victim's

Rights and the Anchorage Ombudsman's Office into this new proposed office building. The Alaska Court System owns Block 39 with the exception of the Teriyaki Restaurant property. In addition to new legislative space, the Court System would have new administrative offices and the Municipality would be building a parking structure on Block 39. The Legislature appropriated \$240,000 to the Court System for a portion of the Block 39 architectural fees. Legislative Council will need to pay their portion of \$100,000 to the Court System who will administer this contract for us.

President/CEO of RIM Architects Larry Cash testified that the structure they are initially proposing will be a mixed-use project; a combination of office space, a parking structure to service offices and potentially street-level retail or additional office space around the perimeter which should be appealing to pedestrians. There will be approximately 38,000 square feet for the Legislature and 50,500 square feet for the Court System, which is all usable office space. There will also be an anticipated 400-500 parking spaces, which will provide parking to the building's tenants as well as potentially to the Municipality; this number is flexible and will be worked out among the various stakeholders.

Mr. Cash noted that mixed-use space is a major component of downtown Anchorage. The proposed retail space is optional and can be converted to purely government use if that is what is deemed appropriate.

Discussion followed.

Representative Dahlstrom moved that Legislative Council approve the expenditure of \$100,000 from Legislative Council Chair funds to the Alaska Court System for Block 39 architectural fees to RIM Architects.

YEAS: Cowdery, Davis, Elton, Green, Hoffman, Stevens, Coghill, Dahlstrom, Harris, Samuels, Stoltze, Wilson, Guttenberg

NAYS: Wilken

The motion passed 13-1.

7. DISCUSSION OF CAPITOL ANNEX PLANS

Pam Varni, Executive Director of the Legislative Affairs Agency, explained that Senator Wilken asked that this item be brought before the Council again. Up for current consideration are 35% conceptual plans that incorporate the one requested change of providing a public lounge in place of the proposal to move House Records to the Annex. Once the final bid-ready documents are prepared, the Legislative Affairs Agency will issue an Invitation to Bid (ITB) for construction. The results of the ITB will be brought back to Legislative Council for final award.

Discussion followed.

Representative Dahlstrom moved that Legislative Council approve the 35% conceptual plans dated November 2007 from Jensen, Yorba, Lott, Inc for the remodel of the Scottish Rite Temple.

YEAS: Cowdery, Davis, Elton, Green, Hoffman, Stevens, Wilken, Coghill, Dahlstrom, Harris, Samuels, Wilson, Guttenberg

NAYS: Stoltze

The motion passed 13-1.

8. DISCUSSION OF VACANT LEGAL COUNSEL POSITION

Senator Cowdery noted that Ted Popely, Legal Counsel to the Legislative Council, had resigned. The Senator proposed that the Council discuss and decide whether the position should continue in its current capacity or whether to consider hiring an attorney on contract to fulfill the duties of this position as needed. As an alternative, Legislative Council could eliminate the position as a state job and instead rely on individual contracts as matters arise.

Discuss followed.

There were no objections and Pam Varni was directed to put the position out for bid.

9. ADDITIONAL SECURITY CAMERAS APPROVAL

Pam Varni, Executive Director of the Legislative Affairs Agency, informed the Council that both the Chief of Security and the Capitol Building Manager have noted areas where additional cameras were needed in both the Capitol and Terry Miller Buildings. The estimated amount of \$100,000 for the additional cameras would come from existing FY 08 funds.

Discussion followed.

Representative Dahlstrom moved that Legislative Council approve the solicitation, award, and expenditure for additional security cameras in the Capitol and Terry Miller Legislative Office Buildings.

YEAS: Cowdery, Davis, Elton, Green, Hoffman, Stevens, Wilken, Coghill, Dahlstrom, Harris, Samuels, Stoltze, Wilson, Guttenberg

NAYS: None

The motion passed unanimously.

10. 50th STATEHOOD LEGISLATIVE PUBLICATION APPROVAL

Pam Varni, Executive Director of the Legislative Affairs Agency, on behalf of Senator Stevens, noted that our 50th Statehood Celebration is taking place in 2009. Senator Stevens suggested that Legislative Council authorize the Legislative Affairs Agency to produce a publication to celebrate 50 years of the Legislative Branch.

Discussion followed.

Representative Dahlstrom moved that Legislative Council approve funds up to \$25,000 to produce a 50th Statehood Legislature Publication.

YEAS: Cowdery, Davis, Elton, Green, Hoffman, Stevens, Coghill, Dahlstrom, Harris, Stoltze, Wilson, Guttenberg

NAYS: Samuels

ABSENT: Wilken

The motion passed 12-1.

11. OTHER BUSINESS

Pam Varni, Executive Director of the Legislative Affairs Agency, informed the Council that the Chair has received a request from Mr. Kim Halverson with Wyndham Publications. Since 1993, they have worked with the Alaska Administration and Legislature in producing a table top book that promotes statewide economic development. The majority of the statewide projects are sponsored by either the Governor's Office, Legislative body, or other high-level entity. There is no request for funding for this book. The publisher goes to non-profit organizations, corporations, small businesses, local government, etc. to underwrite this publication. Wyndham Publications is requesting the Legislature's support for this endeavor. Over the years, we received approximately 500 volumes of this publication and make those copies available to each Legislator.

Discussion followed.

Senator Cowdery asked if there were any objections to supporting this concept and none was offered.

Senator Elton announced that Judge Tom Stewart is currently hospitalized in Juneau in serious condition. Judge Stewart was a member of the Constitutional Convention.

Legislative Council adjourned at 3:40PM.