



Alaska State Legislature Legislative Council Minutes

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL MINUTES

FEBRUARY 23, 2009

The Legislative Council meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Harris in the Senate Finance Committee Room.

1. ROLL CALL

The roll was taken. In attendance were Council members: Representatives Harris, Chenault, Coghill, Gatto, Stoltze, Wilson, and Guttenberg; Senators Davis, Ellis, Elton, Olson, Stedman, and Stevens. Absent member: Senator Hoffman. Staff present: Varni, Bitney, Cook, Ibesate, Johnston, Lesh, Kurtz, Schofield, and Strong.

2. APPROVAL OF JANUARY 27, 2009 MINUTES

Senator Davis moved that Legislative Council approve the minutes of the January 27, 2009 Legislative Council meeting as presented.

The motion passed with no objection.

3. LATE PER DIEM APPROVALS

Senator Davis moved that Legislative Council approve the late per diem requests for Senator Gene Therriault and Representative Mike Chenault.

The motion passed with no objection.

4. RATIFICATION OF A CHARITABLE EVENT

Senator Davis moved that Legislative Council ratify the Council Chair's sanctioning of the Legislative Skits per AS 24.60.080(a)(2)(B).

The motion passed with no objection.

5. CUTTING EDGE DEVELOPMENT, INC. CONTRACT AMENDMENT

Senator Davis moved that Legislative Council approve an additional \$20,000 to our snow plowing contract with Cutting Edge Development, Inc. for our Juneau legislative parking lots.

Discussion followed.



Alaska State Legislature Legislative Council Minutes

The motion passed with no objection.

6. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FY 10 BUDGET PROPOSAL

Chairman Harris inquired whether members had any specific questions or areas of concern on which the finance committees should focus.

Discussion followed.

Sen. Davis moved that Legislative Council approve the FY 10 Legislative Council Proposed Budget and transmit it to the House and Senate Finance Committees for their review and action.

The motion passed with no objection.

7. TRAVEL AND MOVING POLICY AMENDMENT

Chairman Harris stated that he is bringing this forward on behalf of some staff; he requests that Legislative Council amend the Moving and Travel Policy, which currently authorizes payment for staff relocation expenses to and from a regular session based on the type of transportation used, to include staff flying to and from the Capitol as well as the cost of transporting one vehicle. This would be consistent with the way Legislators are currently reimbursed for the same session travel. This amendment would be retroactive to include reimbursement of travel for the current legislative session.

Discussion followed.

Sen. Davis moved that Legislative Council approve the amendment to the Legislative Council Moving and Travel Policy clarifying legislative staff travel reimbursement to and from the Capital for a regular session. Accounting should reimburse legislative staff retroactive to November 14, 2008 based on this change.

Chairman Harris objected to the motion for the purpose of discussion.

Discussion followed.

Speaker Chenault and Representative Wilson joined the meeting at this time (5:17 pm).

Chairman Harris removed his objection.

The motion passed with no objection.



Alaska State Legislature Legislative Council Minutes

8. REVISOR'S BILL INTRODUCTION

Kathryn Kurtz, Assistant Revisor, testified that, by statute, the Revisor and the Agency are obligated to prepare a draft bill to correct problems in the statutes; to fix little things that have become obsolete; language that is clearly in the wrong tense, for example. There is a summary of the contents included as well. The draft bill has been reviewed and approved by the Attorney General's office so there should be no surprises. We ask that Legislative Council find the draft acceptable so that it may be submitted to the House Rules Committee for introduction.

Representative Coghill stated that he will specifically highlight how many federal rules change our laws.

Senator Davis moved that Legislative Council approve the 2009 Revisor's bill and have the House Rules Committee by Request of Legislative Council introduce it.

The motion passed with no objection.

9. UPDATE ON LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATIVE COINS

Chairman Harris noted that Senator Huggins was in the room and asked him to give an update on this issue.

Senator Huggins testified that all good Legislators should have an anniversary coin; really good legislators – 60 of them – should have two. It was agreed by the subcommittee members and Chairman Harris to purchase 4,000 coins. Each Legislator will receive two coins free with the ability to purchase up to 50 more. He noted that each Council member has a copy of the design. On the front, there is a picture of the Capitol with space below to engrave a name, if desired; on the other side, we have added a bear and a salmon, two symbolic pieces, in addition to the logo of our 50th anniversary.

Discussion followed.

Senator Stedman inquired about the possibility of obtaining a higher quality coin, perhaps solid silver, and a coin set. He agreed to work with Senator Huggins and Executive Director Pam Varni to investigate options.

This was not an action item.

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.



Alaska State Legislature
Legislative Council
Minutes
