



# Alaska State Legislature Legislative Council Minutes

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APRIL 14, 2009

The Legislative Council meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by Representative John Harris, Chairman, in the Senate Finance Committee Room and via teleconference.

## **1. ROLL CALL**

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

## **2. APPROVAL OF APRIL 2, 2009 MINUTES**

Senator Davis moved that Legislative Council approve the minutes of the April 2, 2009 Legislative Council meeting as presented.

The motion passed with no objections.

## **3. COIN POLICY APPROVAL**

Senator Davis moved that Legislative Council adopt a Legislative Coin Policy for distribution and sale of legislative coins.

Chairman Harris explained that each Legislator will get 10 coins for free, two of which are engraved with the Legislator's name; additional coins will be available from the Executive Director's Office for purchase at a cost of \$4.00 each with an initial yearly limit of 50 coins per Legislator.

The motion passed with no objections.

## **4. FAIRBANKS TELEPHONE UPGRADE APPROVAL**

Executive Director Pam Varni stated that the Agency has been in the process of getting Juneau, Anchorage, and Fairbanks legislative sites off the old PBX system. Fairbanks is wired correctly and the amount requested is to purchase the Cisco equipment and approximately 33 phones for our Fairbanks LIO and Legislator's District Offices. The cost to upgrade to the Cisco VoIP telephone system includes all equipment, materials, personnel, and deployment.

Senator Davis moved that Legislative Council approve the Fairbanks LIO and Legislator's District Offices telephone upgrade in the amount of \$79,989.70.

Discussion followed.

The motion passed with no objections.

## **5. LEGISLATIVE LEGAL REPRESENTATION APPROVAL**

Chairman Harris explained that he had been contacted by Senator French requesting authorization to be represented by the Legislative Legal Services Division in the matter of *Alaska Retirement Management Board v. Mercer*. Chairman Harris asked Tamara Cook to testify in more detail about the matter.

Tamara Cook, Director of Legal Services, stated that we have been contacted by the Attorney General's office and informed that their opponent in this law case, which deals with the actuarial work that was done for the state retirement system, has indicated an interest in deposing several Legislators. Ms. Cook noted that the Attorney General's office informed Legal Services as a courtesy and they, in turn, informed the Legislators that have been identified for deposition. She went on to say that two of the Legislators, Senators French and Stedman, have asked for representation from the Legal Services Division.

Senator Davis moved that the Legislative Council direct the Legal Services Division of the Legislative Affairs Agency to provide legal representation to Senator Hollis French and to Senator Bert Stedman in the case *Alaska Retirement Management Board v. Mercer*.

Discussion followed.

Senator Davis withdrew the motion and moved that the Legislative Council direct the Legal Services Division of the Legislative Affairs Agency to provide legal representation to Senator Hollis French and to Senator Bert Stedman, and any other Legislator that requests representation.

The motion passed with no objections.

## **6. AMENDMENT TO MOVING & TRAVEL POLICY**

Senator Davis moved that Legislative Council approve the amendment to the Legislative Council Moving and Travel Policy to authorize reimbursement of studded tire waiver fees.

Discussion followed.

Representative Stoltze objected to the motion and stated that the fee was so minimal he felt Legislators should do what they tell state departments and agencies – absorb it.

The roll was taken.

YEAS: Harris, Guttenberg, and Davis

NAYS: Chenault, Coghill, Stoltze, Olson, Stedman, and Stevens

The motion failed 3-6.

## **7. ANCHORAGE OFFICE SPACE PROPOSAL**

Chairman Harris stated that this proposal is the first step in a possible project that would put in a new facility for the Anchorage Legislators and other Legislators who have office space in Anchorage including incorporating all legislative offices in Anchorage into one building. He explained that this initial proposal authorizes the Executive Director to talk to the Governor's Office about procuring property that the Alaska Housing Corporation owns as a possible site for the new building.

Chairman Harris said that the majority of Legislators surveyed stated they wished to stay in downtown Anchorage, some were willing to stay in the current building, and many would like to build a new stand-alone building. He notified members that the Legislature has four remaining one year renewal options in our existing lease and the Council can certainly negotiate another lease for our current space.

Chairman Harris said this motion simply gives authorization to the Executive Director to discuss with the Administration a possible sale of the proposed property.

Senator Davis moved that Legislative Council direct the Executive Director to enter into negotiations with the Department of Administration and the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation to determine the terms for acquisition by the Legislature of Block 102 in Anchorage. The Executive Director will then report on those negotiations to the Legislative Council.

The motion passed with no objection.

## **8. BETHEL LEASE**

The Council went into Executive Session.

The Council came out of Executive Session at 5:35 pm

Chairman Harris stated that, after deliberation, the Council will move forward with more conversations regarding the Bethel lease.

## **9. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 5:36 pm. [5:36:03 PM](#)