



Alaska State Legislature Legislative Council Minutes

MAY 27, 2009

The Legislative Council meeting was called to order at 2:07 p.m. by Representative John Harris, Chairman, in the Anchorage LIO 2nd Floor Conference Room and via teleconference.

1. ROLL CALL

The roll was taken. In attendance were Council members: Representatives Harris, Chenault, Coghill, Gatto (teleconference), Stoltze, Wilson (teleconference), and Guttenberg (teleconference); Senators Davis, Ellis, Hoffman, Olson, and Stedman (teleconference). Absent member: Senator Stevens.

Additional Legislators present: Senator Huggins

Staff present: Varni, Bitney (teleconference), Clothier, Cook, Ibesate, Johnston, Lesh, Schofield, and Strong.

Others present: Randy Burton (KTOO/Gavel to Gavel), Dave Donaldson (APRN)

2. APPROVAL OF APRIL 14, 2009 MINUTES

Senator Davis moved Legislative Council approve the minutes of the April 14, 2009 Legislative Council meeting as presented.

The motion passed with no objections.

3. LATE PER DIEM APPROVAL

Senator Davis moved that Legislative Council approve the late per diem request for Representative Sharon Cissna.

Executive Director Pam Varni clarified that this claim is for airfare reimbursement rather than per diem as stated in the motion. The claim was filed more than 60 days after travel occurred and, as such, needs approval by Legislative Council.

The motion passed with no objections.

4. RATIFICATION OF CHARITABLE EVENTS

Senator Davis moved that Legislative Council ratify the Chair's approval of the following charitable events under AS 24.60.080(a)(2)(B):

- Kenai River Classic
- Kenai River Jr. Classic

- Kenai River Women's Classic

The motion passed with no objections.

5. RFQ 489 – HEATING BOILERS AND ACCESSORIES

Senator Davis moved that the Legislative Council approve RFQ 489 to Harri Plumbing & Heating, Inc. for two new heating boilers and accessories for the Capitol in the amount of \$227,474 which does not include installation.

Speaker Chenault asked Pam for clarification on what the funds actually purchase. Pam Varni explained that it takes time to manufacture the boilers, so we went out to bid early to purchase the equipment and then will go out to bid for the installation and the piping in the future.

Discussion followed.

Representative Gatto joined the meeting at this time.

Chairman Harris moved this item to the bottom of the calendar to allow for Don Johnston, Maintenance Manager, to gather additional information on the energy rating of the proposed new boilers.

6. SITKA LEASE RENEWAL

Senator Davis moved that Legislative Council approve the FY 10 lease renewal for Sitka office space with Shee Atika, Inc. for \$25,697.40.

The motion passed with no objections.

7. ANNUAL HARDWARE REFRESH

Senator Davis moved that Legislative Council approve the solicitation, award and expenditure not to exceed \$175,000 for computer and printer upgrades from Legislative Council capital funds, as well as the upgrade of all legislative computers to the Microsoft Office 2007 software suite.

Curtis Clothier, Information Services Manager, stated that the equipment refresh is something we've done for the last six years. Legislative Council has assisted us with funding for replacing the oldest computers in the Legislature. The Information Technology Subcommittee met, conducted a survey of all legislative offices to inquire about the desire for a laptop or a desktop, and the results were that most offices wanted a desktop model. As a result, the proposal is to purchase 70 desktop and 30 laptop computers. In addition, the Subcommittee recommended the purchase of 14 HP color laser printers to be distributed to legislative offices per the House and Senate Rules Chairs wishes.

Curtis noted that \$175,000 is in the middle, approximately, of requests made in previous years. It will cover the replacement of computers six to seven years old.

The motion passed with no objections.

8. THOMAS B. STEWART LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING – SPACE ALLOCATION TO SENATE/HOUSE RULES

Chairman Harris noted that both Rules Committee Chairs – Representative Coghill and Senator Huggins – were present for this discussion.

Representative Coghill stated that the packet contains a legal opinion, requested by the House Rules Office, which confirms that the Legislative Council allocates the space and the Rules Committee Chairs manage that space, once allocated. The packet also contains floor plans showing the proposed allocations for each house as well as a spreadsheet outlining the square footage.

Discussion followed.

Senator Stedman joined the meeting at this time.

Representative Coghill moved that the Legislative Council adopt the space allocations and related authorities as listed in the spreadsheet entitled Annex Building Allocations for the Thomas Stewart Office Building dated May 27, 2009, version 12:01 p.m. and the recommendations entitled “Report to Legislative Council with Recommendations for Space Allocation for the Thomas B. Stewart Office Building.

Discussion followed.

The motion passed with no objections.

9. CAPITOL PRESS CORPS DISCUSSION

Dave Donaldson, Alaska Public Radio Network, stated that there were some concerns about space for the Capitol Press in the space allocation planning. He stated that he was told by Representative Coghill that Press would be in the same room for the following session and then the Press would likely be moved over to the Annex. He testified that his understanding from members of the Press Corps is that the move could be very welcomed; however, many were dismayed by the lack of planning in terms of being equipped to meet the needs of television and radio production - electronics and audio are just two examples – which would make the Annex totally unusable for the Press, not only in the press office but throughout the building.

Mr. Donaldson said that news organizations have different needs and those needs can be met if included in the initial planning process. He offered that members of the Press Corps are available to help with this process and encouraged members of the Legislative Council to set out a process for planning for these needs. He went on to express his sincere gratitude for considering his concerns and for the good working relationship that exists currently.

Chairman Harris noted that Representative Coghill would be the main contact for space concerns.

No action was required for this item.

5. HEATING BOILERS AND ACCESSORIES CONTINUED

Don Johnston testified that he spoke with the mechanical engineer and, depending on seasonal efficiency, the annual fuel utilization efficiency of the boilers specified would be 82% fuel efficient. The engineer did state that other boilers are more efficient, but are too large to fit in the boiler room; another reason for the boilers we currently are purchasing is that they are consistent with existing equipment, can be easily converted from steam to hot water, and are standardized equipment between the Capitol Building and the TMLOB.

Chairman Harris asked that Senator Davis make the motion again.

Senator Davis moved that the Legislative Council approve RFQ 489 to Harri Plumbing & Heating, Inc. for two new heating boilers and accessories for the Capitol in the amount of \$227,474 which does not include installation.

The motion passed with no objections.

10. Other Business

Representative Stoltze presented James Armstrong of his staff with a 20 year pin in service to the State of Alaska.

11. RFQ 491 – Asbestos Abatement

Senator Davis moved that Legislative Council approve RFQ 491 to Absolute Services, Inc. to perform asbestos abatement to the Capitol Boiler Room for the total price of \$56,996.00.

Discussion followed.

The motion passed with no objections.

The meeting adjourned at 3:19 p.m.