



Alaska State Legislature Legislative Council Minutes

JULY 13, 2009

The Legislative Council meeting was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by Representative John Harris, Chairman, via teleconference and in the Anchorage LIO 2nd Floor Conference Room.

1. ROLL CALL

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

Staff present: Varni, Bitney, Carpenter, Clothier, Gieser, Gullufsen, Ibesate, Johnston, Powers, Schofield, Strong, and Waid.

Others present: Bill Schaeffer and Howard Jorenby, both of International Roll Call.

2. APPROVAL OF MAY 27, 2009 MINUTES

Representative Coghill indicated a minor correction to the minutes that on Item #8 (THOMAS B. STEWART LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING – SPACE ALLOCATION TO SENATE/HOUSE RULES) second paragraph, line 2, the word “locates” should be “allocates”. The sentence should read as follows: “Rules Office, which confirms that the Legislative Council *allocates* the space and the Rules...”

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

The motion passed with no objections.

3. 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):

Midnight Sun Charity Shoot – May 28, 2009

Fish for the Future – August 14-15, 2009

The motion passed with no objections.

4. RFP 490 – HOMER OFFICE SPACE

Chairman Harris moved this item to the bottom of the agenda.

5. KENAI OFFICE SPACE APPROVAL

Executive Director Pam Varni stated that this is a renewal request of the Kenai State Facility Lease Agreement for this fiscal year.

Senator Davis moved that Legislative Council approve the FY 10 lease renewal for the existing lease space in Kenai for \$47,606.

The motion passed with no objections.

6. ITB 486 – SENATE AND HOUSE CHAMBERS SOUND SYSTEM

Executive Director Pam Varni explained that two bids were received; a bid of \$127,995 from Chatham Electric and a bid of \$134,750 from Alcan Electric. The current sound system is more than 15 years old and this contract will update the sound system in both chambers.

Discussion followed.

Senator Davis moved that Legislative Council approve the award of ITB 486 to Chatham Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$127,995 for replacement of the Senate and House Chamber Sound Systems.

The motion passed with no objections.

7. SENATE AND HOUSE VOTING BOARD APPROVAL

Curtis Clothier, Legislative Affairs Agency Information Services Manager, testified that this proposal is to purchase four new voting boards (two for each chamber) to replace the existing boards, last upgraded in 1999. The current voting boards have performed well, but with the current remodel of both chambers, it is a good time to upgrade to modern voting boards with new LED technology. The outside dimensions are similar to the existing boards, but have much larger display areas, much brighter and smaller LEDs, which will allow more information to be displayed and are more customizable. In addition, new boards require less maintenance which has been an issue with the existing boards. Mr. Clothier noted that Bill Schaeffer with the vendor International Roll-Call was available via teleconference to answer questions as well as Tisha Gieser from the Chief Clerk's Office and Senate Secretary Kirstin Waid.

Senator Davis moved that Legislative Council approve the purchase of new voting boards for the House and Senate Chambers from International Roll-Call in the amount of \$449,600 and \$37,600 for the travel, installation, and training from existing capital funds and approval of Section 040 of the Legislative Procurement Procedures which is attached.

The motion passed with no objections.

8. ALASKA RETIREMENT MANAGEMENT BOARD V. MERCER LEGAL REPRESENTATION

Senator Davis moved that the Legislative Council direct the Legal Services Division of the Legislative Affairs Agency to provide legal representation to David Teal or other legislative staff in the case *Alaska Retirement Management Board v. Mercer*.

Representative Stoltze joined the meeting at this time (2:15 p.m.).

The motion passed with no objections.

4. RFP 490 – HOMER OFFICE SPACE

Senator Davis moved that Legislative Council go into Executive Session per Uniform Rule 22(b)(1) and (3) discussion of matters, the immediate knowledge of which would adversely affect the finances of a government unit and discussion of a matter that may, by law, be required to be confidential. The following staff were asked to remain in the room: Pam Varni, Tam Cook (via teleconference), and Tina Strong (via teleconference).

The Council went into Executive Session.

The Council came out of Executive Session at 2:22 p.m.

Senator Davis moved that the Legislative Council approve RFP 490 for Homer Office Space to Red Rose Rentals, Inc. in the amount of \$30,060.

The motion passed with no objections.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

Speaker Chenault asked about the need for approval regarding a Compassionate Gift for Representative Foster. Ms. Varni informed the Speaker that Legislative Council had previously approved this request and that compassionate gifts are different from charitable events in that they do not need to be approved every year. Ms. Varni stated that she had spoken with Joyce Anderson, Administrator of the Select Committee on Legislative Ethics, who confirmed that no additional approval was needed. Ms. Varni stated that John Bitney had relayed that information to a member of the Speaker's staff and the issue should be settled at this point. Speaker Chenault said his concern was satisfied.

Chairman Harris indicated that at the next Legislative Council meeting three ladies from Bethel may testify before the Council regarding a business venture they are pursuing. Chairman Harris noted that he sent them a letter advising that they consider obtaining private funding for their venture but that he had no objection to them sharing their proposal with the Council if other members did not object as well.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.