



Alaska State Legislature Legislative Council Minutes

OCTOBER 27, 2009

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The Legislative Council meeting was called to order at 1:38 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, Gatto, Stoltze, Wilson, and Guttenberg (via teleconference); Senators Davis, Egan, Ellis, Hoffman (via teleconference), Olson, and Stedman.

Absent Members: Representative Chenault and Senator Stevens

Staff Present: Varni, Bitney, Clothier, Cook, Gullufsen, Ibesate, Johnston, Lesh, Schofield, and Strong

Other Legislators present: Representatives Buch, Cissna, Dahlstrom, Doogan, Gruenberg, Johnson, and Lynn; Senator Meyer

Others present: Ron W. Miller

Chairman Harris welcomed new member Honorable Dennis Egan to Legislative Council. Senator Egan was recently appointed to the Council by the Senate President.

2. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 10, 2009 AND SEPTEMBER 3, 2009 MINUTES

Senator Davis moved that Legislative Council approve the minutes of the August 10, 2009 and September 3, 2009 Legislative Council meetings as presented.

The motion passed with no objections.

3. KOTZEBUE LEASE RENEWAL APPROVAL

Senator Davis moved that Legislative Council approve the lease renewal agreement for the existing Kotzebue lease space for \$25,124.64.

Senator Olson stated that the office space has worked remarkably well.

The motion passed with no objections.



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4. KETCHIKAN LEASE RENEWAL APPROVAL

Senator Davis moved that Legislative Council approve the lease renewal agreement for the existing Ketchikan lease space for \$34,142.16.

Senator Stedman stated that the location serves the community well. There are nice meeting rooms, good office space, and ample parking in the winter.

The motion passed with no objections.

5. RON W. MILLER CONTRACT APPROVAL

Senator Davis moved that Legislative Council approve a contract to Ron W. Miller in the amount of \$65,000 and approve the attached section 040 written justification.

Chairman Harris invited Ron Miller to speak.

Senator Hoffman was recognized as being present via teleconference.

Ron Miller testified that he had been asked to work with both Senate Resources and Energy Committee and the House Special Committee on Energy as they go through their exercises in drafting state energy policy and direction for the future of Alaska in terms of energy. He testified that he has worked with staff and members of the various committees and that he is on the stakeholder group for the House Special Energy committee. He stated that he has been given the latest product from the Senate Resources and Energy Committee to analyze and to work with staff. He stated that it's a matter of coordination, providing input, assembling past policy statements on energy just to make sure that the staff and the members have all the resources necessary.

Representative Gatto questioned whether the amount of the contract (\$65,000) was a flat rate or billable hours up to \$65,000 and whether it included expenses.

Mr. Miller responded that his understanding is that the \$65,000 was to be a maximum rate with expenses included and that it was a flat rate starting from September 1.

Representative Gatto pointed to Clause III, Section E of the contract, which states "The Presiding Officers shall reimburse the Consultant for reasonable expenses that are incurred... etc, etc". He stated that sounded separate from the \$65,000 and wanted to know what Mr. Miller's understanding was.

Discussion followed.



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Senator Stedman commented that during the last session it became apparent that both bodies were working very hard to deal with these energy issues; one of the challenges he experienced in the Finance Committee was that when bills came to Finance there were multiple bills, all very good standalone issues. The concern was that we come up with a more concentrated and on-point policy and legislative action. He believes this will help facilitate the process coming in to the winter.

The motion passed with no objections.

6. ANCHORAGE OFFICE SPACE ANALYSIS

Chairman Harris stated that, for the interest of the folks in the audience, the issue the Council would be discussing in Executive Session is Anchorage Office space analysis. Each member has a packet that has a number of proposals that were brought forward to Legislative Council for possibilities of providing space for the legislative office building in a variety of different manners including vacant land, buildings around town, the current building, and other state lands. To preserve the integrity of the offers that have been brought forward, the Legislative Council will meet in Executive Session in order to protect the folks who made submittals.

Chairman Harris stated that all the members of the Legislature are invited to join the Executive Session. He went on to say that it is his duty as Chairman to make sure that the wishes of the Legislators from this area are mostly taken into consideration. He noted that currently on Legislative Council there are only two members directly from Anchorage – Senators Ellis and Davis – although Representatives Stoltze and Dahlstrom represent parts of Anchorage as well.

Chairman Harris stated that the majority of the membership is not from Anchorage and this is really a decision that should be made by the people that represent this area.

Senator Davis moved that 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. I ask that the following staff remain in the room or be on teleconference to answer questions: Pam Varni, Tam Cook, Chuck Burnham, Mike Warendia, and John Bitney.

Chairman Harris clarified that no one would be on teleconference. He stated that only those folks that were mentioned as well as any and all Legislators may remain in the room.

The Council went into Executive Session.



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The Council came out of Executive Session at 3:30 p.m.

Chairman Harris called the Council back to order. He stated that the members have determined to continue to look at available office space in the community and come back with more specific numbers and directions for the members.

The meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

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