



# Alaska State Legislature Legislative Council Minutes

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**FEBRUARY 18, 2010**

[4:30:54 PM](#)

The Legislative Council meeting was called to order at 4:30 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, Gatto, Stoltze, P. Wilson, and Guttenberg; Senators Davis, Egan, Ellis, Hoffman, Olson (via teleconference), Stedman, and Stevens.

Absent members: Representative Dahlstrom

Staff present: Varni, Bitney, Clothier, Cook, Gullufsen, Ibesate, Johnston, Lesh, Lord-Jenkins (via teleconference), Schofield, Strong and Young

Others present: Representative Mike Hawker

## **2. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 4, 2010 MINUTES**

Senator Davis moved that Legislative Council approve the minutes of the February 4, 2010 Legislative Council meeting as presented.

The motion passed with no objections.

## **3. SANCTIONING OF A CHARITABLE EVENT**

Senator Davis moved that Legislative Council sanction the Dare to Care Banquet per AS 24.60.080(a)(2)(B).

The motion passed with no objections.

## **4. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL FY 11 BUDGET PROPOSAL**

Chairman Harris invited Representative Hawker, co-chair of the House Finance Committee, to join the members of Legislative Council for this discussion.

Representative Hawker declined the invitation and said that if he had a question he would join in the discussion at that time.

Chairman Harris asked Executive Director Pam Varni to give members a short summary of the proposed Legislative Council Budget Request.

Pam Varni, Executive Director of the Legislative Affairs Agency, informed members that in the Legislature's budget structure there are 13 separate budget components, four of which are not included in the attached budget detail before the Council, and those are Legislative Audit, Legislative Finance, Legislative Budget & Audit Committee Expenses and the State Facilities Rent budgets that are submitted directly to the Finance Committees.

Ms. Varni stated that the FY 11 Legislative Council Request is a decrease of \$113,300 from the FY 11 Governor's figure and a 0.2% reduction from the FY 11 Governor's figure. Along with the budget detail book is a summary showing the increments and decrements from the FY 11 Governor's figure and the FY 11 Request. This document includes narratives explaining what each component pays for and what is comprised in those the components.

Senator Stevens joined the meeting at this time.

Senator Stedman asked if Ms. Varni would walk the Council through the summary.

Ms. Varni went through the three page narrative component by component, highlighting the various increases and decreases for each component.

Representative Stoltze and Speaker Chenault joined the meeting at this time.

Discussion followed.

Representative Stoltze asked who requested the increase for office allowances.

Chairman Harris responded that the request has come from multiple different members. He said that Legislative Council would have to approve it and he directed Ms. Varni to include it in the budget; if members did not want to change the policy, it is easy enough to pull out.

Discussion followed.

Chairman Harris asked if Senator Stedman would like to hold this budget for further consideration.

Senator Stedman responded that he was comfortable with moving it on.

Discussion followed.

Senator Davis moved that Legislative Council move the budget as presented.

Chairman Harris asked members if there was any objection to moving the Legislative Council FY 11 Budget proposal forward to the respective Finance Committees.

Representative Wilson objected to ask that if there were any amendments would the budget go to the Finance subcommittees to do that.

Chairman Harris replied that there is still a process ahead. He said this process goes from here to the full Finance Committee; if they want to refer it to their subcommittee they can or they can deal with it in the full committee which is normally where the negotiations happen.

Representative Wilson removed her objection.

The motion passed with no objections.

## **5. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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. I ask that the following staff remain in the room to answer questions: Pam Varni, Tam Cook, Don Johnston, and John Bitney.

The Council went in to Executive Session.

The Council came out of Executive Session.

There was a brief at ease in order for Senator Olson to re-join the meeting via teleconference.

Senate President Stevens moved that Legislative Council give authority to Legislative Affairs to negotiate on behalf of Legislative Council for the purchase of the Christian Science Church at 5<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets. If the purchase price is acceptable to the Council Chair, the Chair will execute the purchase on behalf of Legislative Council but not to exceed \$300,000.

Representative Stoltze objected for the purpose of a roll call.

YEAS: Harris, P. Wilson, Guttenberg, Davis, Egan, Ellis, Hoffman, Stedman, and Stevens

NAYS: Chenault, Gatto, Stoltze, and Olson

The motion passed 9-4.

## **6. OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

[5:05:47 PM](#)