



Alaska State Legislature Legislative Council Minutes

NOVEMBER 4, 2011

[1:59:54 PM](#)

The Legislative Council meeting was called to order at 2:01 p.m. by Senator Linda Menard, Chair, in the Anchorage LIO 2nd floor conference room and via teleconference.

1. ROLL CALL

Chair Menard called the roll. In attendance were Council members: Senators Davis, Egan, Hoffman, Olson (via teleconference), Stevens, Menard, and alternate member J. Thomas (via teleconference); Representatives Chenault, Herron, Holmes, Johnson (via teleconference), P. Wilson, and alternate member B. Thomas. Absent members: Senator Stedman; Representatives Austerman and Stoltze.

Other Legislators present: Representative Max Gruenberg and Senator Tom Wagoner

Staff present: Varni, Tilton, Burnham, Gardner, Ibesate, Johnston, Lesh, Strong

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Representative Herron moved that Legislative Council approve the agenda as presented.

The motion passed with no objections.

3. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 29, 2011 MINUTES

Representative Herron moved that Legislative Council approve the minutes of the September 29, 2011 meeting as presented.

The motion passed with no objections.

4. SANCTIONING OF A CHARITABLE EVENT

- Alaska Raptor Center

Chair Menard stated that the Alaska Raptor Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to the rehabilitation of Alaska's wild birds and their habitats. This year's fundraising event will be November 12, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. at the Alaska Raptor Center in Sitka.

Representative Herron moved that Legislative Council sanction the November 12, 2011 Alaska Raptor Center charitable event per AS 24.60.080(a)(2)(B).

The motion passed with no objections.

5. KETCHIKAN LEASE APPROVAL

Chair Menard stated that the Ketchikan Gateway Borough has lease space available in the newly renovated White Cliff Building. The Borough has agreed to pay for leasehold improvements as needed. The current lease is expired and we are on a month-to-month basis. She said it is her understanding that both Senator Stedman and Representative Johansen are in favor of this move. This would be a five year lease with five one-year renewals beginning December 1, 2011 with a price of \$45,000 for the first year of the lease, which will be adjusted each year by the yearly CPI adjustment rate based on the Anchorage CPI rate. The Chair noted that both Pam Varni, Executive Director of the Legislative Affairs Agency, and Tina Strong, Procurement Officer, were available for questions.

Chair Menard noted for the record that Senator Tom Wagoner had joined the meeting.
[2:05:38 PM](#)

Chair Menard asked for a motion.

Representative Herron moved that Legislative Council approve a five year lease with optional five one-year renewals with the Ketchikan Gateway Borough for December 1, 2011-October 31, 2016 in the amount of \$45,000 for the first year of the lease.

Representative Bill Thomas said that he wanted to point out that he was not considered in this new space. He said that part of his district is in Ketchikan and that the floor plan only considers Senator Stedman and Representative Johansen. He said he does have a staff that works in that office and he was not contacted about the proposed new space. He said he was told he could sit in the conference room and doesn't think that is fair. He said he is a sitting Legislator, and he has offices in Anchorage, Haines, and Juneau. He thinks out of respect he should have a space and suggested that he share an office with Senator Stedman since he is a visiting Legislator to Ketchikan as well.

Chair Menard asked Pam Varni to speak to this issue.

Pam Varni, Executive Director of the Legislative Affairs Agency, said that Senator Stedman wanted us to go into this building and the Agency has been working with Julie from his office and with the Ketchikan LIO officer and several floor plans have gone around. She said she did ask about having a separate office and did not receive an indication from Senator Stedman that he wanted to have an office for Pete Eckland, staff to Rep. Thomas in Ketchikan. Ms. Varni said that what ends up happening in some LIOs is that during session, we need a second conference room because there are often simultaneous teleconferences but during the interim that second conference room is not used as much and we then set up space for a Legislator or legislative staff that are from that district. She said right now, in addition to Pete Eckland, David Scott of Senator Olson's staff would like a small space in Ketchikan. She said she has a floor plan that includes more space that would make room for another office for a visiting Legislator, for instance, but we would need the limit of \$45,000 raised to add more square footage.

Chair Menard asked Representative Thomas if that answer was satisfactory to him. She said that if the extra space is under \$25,000, she can sign off on that as Chair. She said that she thinks that it is respectful to try and accommodate when session is over. She said that rather than hold up this motion, she can work with Pam to make the extra space work. She asked if that was okay with Representative Thomas and that she would keep the rest of Council in the loop on what was happening.

Speaker Chenault joined the meeting.

[2:10:24 PM](#)

Discussion followed.

The motion passed with no objections.

6. LEGISLATIVE MAINTENANCE BUILDING CHANGE ORDER APPROVAL

Ms. Varni said that before members is a change order for Carver Construction. She said the Agency was made aware of this extra charge for quite some time but just did not have a cost. This change order concerns removal of a buried oil tank and remediation of contaminated soil. She said the total cost of this change order is \$4,981.00 and requires Council approval. Don Johnston is available on line to answer questions.

Chair Menard asked for a motion.

Representative Herron moved that Legislative Council approve Change Order #5 to Carver Construction, LLC in the amount of \$4,981.

The motion passed with no objections.

7. ANCHORAGE OFFICE SPACE

Chair Menard said a request was made at the last Legislative Council meeting that the Executive Director obtain further information regarding the Anchorage Office Space. She asked for a motion to go into Executive Session.

Representative Herron moved that Legislative Council go into Executive Session under Uniform Rule 22(B)(1), discussion of matters, the immediate knowledge of which would adversely affect the finances of a government unit. Any Legislators not on Council are welcome to stay. I ask that the following staff remain in the room or on teleconference to answer questions: Pam Varni, Doug Gardner, Cathy Tilton, and Chuck Burnham.

The Council went into Executive Session.

[2:16:41 PM](#)

The Council came out of Executive Session.

[3:14:44 PM](#)

Speaker Chenault was not present when the Council came out of Executive Session.

Chair Menard asked for a motion.

Representative Herron moved that Legislative Council make an offer to the owners of the property and parking lots at 909 W. 9th Avenue, giving the Legislative Council first right of refusal.

Chair Menard called the roll.

YEAS Davis, Egan, Olson, Hoffman, Menard, Stevens, J. Thomas, Herron, Holmes, P. Wilson

NAYS Johnson and B. Thomas

The motion passed 10-2.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

[3:16:37 PM](#)