



Alaska State Legislature Legislative Council Minutes

DECEMBER 18, 2013
10:06 AM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Mike Chenault
Representative Max Gruenberg
Representative Craig Johnson
Representative Lance Pruitt
Senator John Coghill
Senator Charlie Huggins
Senator Gary Stevens

MEMBERS ON TELECONFERENCE

Representative Mike Hawker, Chair
Senator Peter Micciche, Vice Chair
Senator Dennis Egan

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Bill Stoltze
Representative Peggy Wilson
Senator Mike Dunleavy
Senator Kevin Meyer

AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
CONTRACT APPROVALS
OTHER COMMITTEE BUSINESS

SPEAKER REGISTER

Pam Varni, Executive Director, Legislative Affairs Agency
(LAA)
Juli Lucky, Staff to Representative Mike Hawker and Committee
Aide to Legislative Council
Doug Gardner, Legal Services Director, LAA

10:06:00 AM

- I. **SPEAKER MIKE CHENAULT**, acting on behalf of Chair Mike Hawker who participated via teleconference, called the Legislative Council meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. in room 105 of the Anchorage Legislative Office Building located at 733 W 4th Avenue.

Present at the call were Representatives Chenault, Hawker (via teleconference), and Johnson; Senators Huggins, Coghill, Egan (via teleconference), Stevens, and Micciche (via teleconference). Representatives Gruenberg and Pruitt joined the meeting during executive session.

II. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

a. **RFP 598: Alaska State Capitol, Seismic Retrofit & Exterior Renovation, Phase II**

SPEAKER CHENAULT, prior to the motion to go into executive session, noted for the record that the following people would participate in executive session in addition to Council members: Pam Varni, Executive Director, LAA; Tina Strong, Procurement Officer, LAA; Juli Lucky, Legislative Council Committee Aide; Wayne Jensen, Jensen Yorba Lott (via teleconference); Don Johnston, Capitol Building Manager, LAA (via teleconference); Jeff Goodell, Incoming Capitol Building Manager, LAA and Evaluation Committee Member (via teleconference); and Cecile Elliott, Evaluation Committee Member (via teleconference).

10:09:07 AM

SENATE PRESIDENT HUGGINS moved that Legislative Council go into executive session under Uniform Rule 22 (b) for the discussion of matters, the immediate knowledge of which would adversely affect the finances of a government unit.

A roll call vote was taken.

YEAS: Chenault, Johnson, Huggins, Coghill, Egan, Stevens, Micciche, Hawker

NAYS: None

The motion to go into executive session passed 8-0.

10:09:59 AM

Legislative Council went into executive session.

Representatives Gruenberg and Pruitt joined the meeting during the executive session.

10:18:30 AM

Legislative Council came out of executive session.

PAM VARNI, Executive Director, LAA, said LAA went out to bid for RFP 598: Alaska State Capitol, Seismic Retrofit & Exterior Renovation, Phase II. The RFP was issued to solicit proposals from general construction contractors to serve as "construction manager/general contractor." The Agency received three proposals for an initial professional services contract for Phase II for pre-construction services with a maximum amount not to exceed \$200,000 for time and materials. The Agency will be coming back to Council after working with the design team and negotiating a maximum allowable construction cost, which is estimated at this time to be \$22,575,000. The evaluation committee for this RFP was appointed by Chair Hawker and they have a recommendation to the Council to award RFP 598 to Dawson Construction, Inc.

SENATOR HUGGINS asked about the final cost expended for Phase I.

MS. VARNI responded that it was approximately \$1.8 million for the crawl space and portico work.

10:21:06 AM

SENATE PRESIDENT HUGGINS moved that Legislative Council award a professional services contract for pre-construction services to Dawson Construction, Inc. not to exceed \$200,000 per RFP 598: Alaska State Capitol, Seismic Retrofit & Exterior Renovation, Phase II.

A roll call vote was taken.

YEAS: Chenault, Gruenberg, Johnson, Pruitt, Huggins, Coghill, Egan, Stevens, Micciche, Hawker

NAYS: None

The motion passed 10-0.

REPRESENTATIVE GRUENBERG asked for confirmation that since Council was no longer in executive session, the materials related to that item could be disposed of as normal. He received confirmation in the form of a staff member nodding yes.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. October 30, 2013

10:22:54 AM

SENATE PRESIDENT HUGGINS moved that the minutes from the Legislative Council meeting on October 30, 2013 be approved as presented.

A roll call vote was taken.

YEAS: Chenault, Gruenberg, Johnson, Pruitt, Huggins, Coghill, Egan, Stevens, Micciche, Hawker

NAYS: None

The motion passed 10-0.

IV. CONTRACT APPROVAL

a. Kodiak LIO

JULI LUCKY, staff to Legislative Council, said that, unfortunately, after reviewing the minutes of the last meeting, she realized that Council had adopted an incorrect motion for the Kodiak LIO in approving just a one year lease extension when the document was actually a five year lease extension. By this next motion, Council would just be approving what was presented at the last meeting; all of the back-up and all of the presentations were for a five year extension but the motion was incorrectly worded.

10:25:01 AM

SENATE PRESIDENT HUGGINS moved that Legislative Council authorize the chairman to approve a four-year renewal, in addition to the one-year renewal approved on October 30, 2013, of the existing lease agreement for the Kodiak Legislative Information Office and Legislators' District Office space for a cost of \$69,848.64 per year until October 31, 2018, with CPI-Urban adjustments each July.

A roll call vote was taken.

YEAS: Chenault, Gruenberg, Johnson, Pruitt, Huggins, Coghill, Egan, Stevens, Micciche, Hawker

NAYS: None

The motion passed 10-0.

b. Westlaw Access

10:27:11 AM

Legislative Council took a brief at-ease at the request of Representative Gruenberg to ask a question of staff.

10:28:10 AM

SPEAKER CHENAULT called Council back to order.

REPRESENTATIVE GRUENBERG, in response to Mr. Gardner's inquiry about his question or concern during the at-ease, said he spoke with Ms. Varni and is okay to go forward with this item.

DOUG GARDNER, Director of Legal Services, said that he approached Chair Hawker to ask that he consider, as procurement officer, authorizing an exempt procurement for purposes of the Westlaw contract. As the Council members may know, there are really only two providers of online legal research that meet the high standard of thoroughness that is demanded in the work of Legal Services and Legislative Research. While Westlaw and LexisNexis provide similar services, there are some distinct differences in the results. In discussions among staff of Legal Services, there is a general consensus that a search conducted using each provider's software does furnish different results, often enough to make it worthwhile to have access to both resources. Mr. Gardner said he requested that Representative Hawker authorize an exempt procurement for Westlaw and the Chair approved it. It's a very good decision because it maintains the diversity needed between the two systems to get the best answers possible for the client.

Mr. Gardner noted that there are additional details in his memo to Chair Hawker and Legislative Council where he outlined the increase in online services coupled with a decrease in printed materials in the proposed Westlaw contract.

SENATE PRESIDENT HUGGINS asked if the proposed contract amount of \$135,583.47 was an annual amount or for the total of three years.

MR. GARDNER confirmed that the \$135,583.47 was for a total for three years. He added that in the past, the services provided by Westlaw for both online and print materials were considered under one price package and that those services will be considered separately from now on. While the Westlaw online accounts cost more, the overall price tag presented today is about 11% less than the combined printed materials and online services in the prior three years.

[10:32:21 AM](#)

SENATE PRESIDENT HUGGINS moved move that Legislative Council approve a three-year contract with West, a Thomson Reuters Business, to provide access to online legal research services through Westlaw for a cost of \$135,583.47.

A roll call vote was taken.

YEAS: Chenault, Gruenberg, Johnson, Pruitt, Huggins, Coghill, Egan, Stevens, Micciche, Hawker

NAYS: None

The motion passed 10-0.

V. OTHER COMMITTEE BUSINESS

a. Late Travel Reimbursement Requests

There being no questions from Council regarding late travel reimbursement requests for Representatives Foster, Seaton and Kreiss-Tomkins, the Speaker asked for a motion.

[10:34:11 AM](#)

SENATE PRESIDENT HUGGINS moved that Legislative Council approve the following late travel and per diem claims for travel commencing on the following dates:

- Rep. Neal Foster - July 29, 2013.
- Rep. Paul Seaton - August 12 and August 15, 2013.
- Rep. Jonathan Kreiss-Tompkins - October 1, 2013.

A roll call vote was taken.

YEAS: Chenault, Gruenberg, Johnson, Pruitt, Huggins, Coghill, Egan, Stevens, Micciche, Hawker

NAYS: None

The motion passed 10-0.

There being no further business before the committee, the Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

[10:35:31 AM](#)