

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
APRIL 27, 2017
4:17 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Sam Kito, Chair
Representative Matt Claman
Representative Bryce Edgmon
Representative Charisse Millett
Representative Dan Ortiz
Representative Louise Stutes
Representative Harriet Drummond, Majority Alternate
Representative David Eastman, Minority Alternate
Senator Pete Kelly
Senator Anna MacKinnon
Senator Kevin Meyer
Senator Peter Micciche
Senator Gary Stevens
Senator Cathy Giessel, Alternate

MEMBERS ABSENT

Senator Bert Stedman, Vice Chair
Representative David Guttenberg
Senator Lyman Hoffman

AGENDA

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
EXECUTIVE SESSION

SPEAKER REGISTER

Brian Meissner-AIA, Principal Architect, ECI Alaska
Pam Varni, Executive Director, Legislative Affairs Agency

[4:20:04 PM](#)

I. **CHAIR SAM KITO** called the Legislative Council meeting to order at 4:20 p.m. in Room 519 (House Finance) of the State Capitol. Present at the call were Representatives Claman, Millett, Ortiz, Stutes, Eastman (alternate), and Kito; Senators Meyer, Micciche, Stevens, and Giessel (alternate). Representatives Edgmon, Drummond (alternate) and Senators Kelly and MacKinnon joined the meeting for executive session. Representative Guttenberg and Senators Hoffman and Stedman were absent.

II. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

SENATOR MICCICHE moved that Legislative Council approve the agenda.

The motion was approved without objection.

III. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

[4:22:12 PM](#)

SENATOR MICCICHE moved that Legislative Council go into executive session 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 can remain in the room along with legislative staff that work for Legislative Council members. In addition, the following people can be on line or remain in the room:

Pam Varni
Doug Gardner
Brian Meissner, Principal Architect with ECI Alaska
Helen Phillips, House Finance Staff
Bree Wiley, House Finance Staff
Jodie McDonnell, House Finance Staff
Donna Page, House Finance Staff
Keira Alkema, LIO Moderator
Santé Lesh, Recorder
Tim Banaszak

Legislative Council went into executive session.

[4:34:41 PM](#)

Legislative Council came out of executive session.

Roll call was taken to reflect members present after executive session. Present at the call were,

Representatives Claman, Edgmon, Millett, Ortiz, Stutes, Drummond (alternate), Eastman (alternate), and Kito; Senators Kelly, MacKinnon, Meyer, Micciche, Stevens, and Giessel (alternate).

SENATOR MICCICHE said that the original proposal at the last meeting was to spend \$8,000,000 on the building at 1500 W Benson, which also house the Legislative Information Office. He said Council took some extra time over the last couple of weeks to work with the architect and others, and decided to reduce that cost, if approved today at \$3.5 million. The only work that is being considered today is the work necessary for the air system handling and the code requirements for the LIO section. These renovations are for the benefit of the public only. There is an active group that engages with the Legislature regularly and he wanted them to know that these costs are simply to outfit an adequate LIO, and none of the costs are associated with comfort for the Legislators in the other floors of the building.

SENATOR STEVENS asked Mr. Meissner, the lead architect for the renovation, about the issue of sound quality. One of the problems in the 716 W 4th building was that the conference room was not sound proof, so when a committee went into an executive session, anyone could hear the discussion. Since there is a public area right outside the meeting rooms in the 1500 W Benson building, he wanted to know if there would be adequate sound control for executive session meetings.

BRIAN MEISSNER, Principal Architect with ECI Alaska, responded that the intent was that each of the walls around all three of the conference rooms will be acoustic walls; they will be constructed up to the structural deck above and sound proofed at all gaps. The only source of sound leakage will be around the doors; the doors will have acoustic seals. He said the acoustic separation between rooms will be quite satisfactory.

DISCUSSION FOLLOWED regarding signage. Representative Drummond wanted to know the current location of the sign from 716 W 4th Avenue since it had disappeared once the Legislature vacated the building. Ms. Varni said she would follow-up. Further discussion regarding that issue, as well as Wells Fargo's re-branding signage requirements included in the lease agreement.

CHAIR KITO noted that we are in discussions with Wells Fargo regarding their signage needs as they are in the middle of their re-branding process. His goal would be to look at signage once Wells Fargo finished the process, and would be bringing that issue back before Council. He added that as we look forward, we will be considering other modifications to the building on a piece-by-piece process, and some of that activity will be taking place over the interim, so there will be office space discussions in upcoming Legislative Council meetings. He said that what was before Council at this particular meeting was work to remodel the first floor Legislative Information Office and the core building systems, which are necessary to ensure safety and security for the building.

SENATOR MICCICHE said that as we adjust the scope and cost of this project by over 50 percent to just the bare bones necessities of the LIO, he thanked the Chair for being flexible, professional, and very reasonable. He further thanked Mr. Meissner and said he had been a pleasure to work with; he said he certainly had a better understanding of some of the deficiencies of that system. It was inadequately designed initially and, again, we've taken it down to what is necessary for serving the constituents in the LIO.

[4:44:07 PM](#)

SENATOR MICCICHE moved that Legislative Council approve the Phase I Construction budget of \$3.5 million for the core, shell, and 1st floor remodel at 1500 W Benson Blvd from legislative capital funds with the Department of Administration/Coldwell Banker government-to-government property management RSA for construction services.

The motion passed without objection.

There being no further business before the committee, Legislative Council adjourned at 4:44 p.m.

[4:44:38 PM](#)