

**ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

**MAY 7, 2025
5:15 PM**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Representative Sara Hannan, Chair
Senator Gary Stevens, Vice Chair
Representative Ashley Carrick
Representative Bryce Edgmon
Representative Mike Prax
Representative Calvin Schrage
Representative Louise Stutes
Senator Matt Claman
Senator Cathy Giessel
Senator Elvi Gray-Jackson
Senator Jesse Kiehl

MEMBERS ABSENT

Representative Chuck Kopp
Representative Donna Mears (alternate)
Senator Lyman Hoffman
Senator Bert Stedman
Senator Löki Tobin(alternate)

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT

AGENDA

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
APPROVAL OF MINUTES
COMMITTEE BUSINESS

SPEAKER REGISTER

Jessica Geary, Executive Director, Legislative Affairs
Agency (LAA)
JC Kestel, Procurement Officer, LAA
Shay Wilson, Chief Information Officer, LAA

I. CALL TO ORDER

5:17:19 PM

CHAIR HANNAN called the Legislative Council meeting to order at 5:17pm on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, in Room 532 (Senate Finance) of the State Capitol. Present at the call were Representatives Carrick, Edgmon, Prax, Schrage, Stutes, Hannan; Senators Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Kiehl, Stevens.

Ten members present.

Senator Claman joined the meeting at 5:26pm.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

5:18:57 PM

VICE CHAIR STEVENS moved and asked unanimous consent that Legislative Council approve the agenda as presented.

The motion passed without objection.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. March 31, 2025, Minutes

5:19:20 PM

VICE CHAIR STEVENS moved and asked unanimous consent that Legislative Council approve the minutes dated March 31, 2025, as presented.

The minutes were approved without objection.

IV. SANCTIONING OF CHARITABLE EVENTS

a. Sham Jam—May 10, 2025

5:19:54 PM

VICE CHAIR STEVENS moved and asked unanimous consent that Legislative Council ratify the Chair's sanctioning of the following charitable event per AS 24.60.080(a)(2)(B): Sham Jam—May 10, 2025.

CHAIR HANNAN objected for the purpose of discussion and stated the 501(c)(3) status of the beneficiary of Sham Jam has been verified. The beneficiary is Southeast Alaska Gay & Lesbian Association.

There was no discussion. Chair Hannan removed her objection, and the sanctioning of the charitable event was ratified.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a. RFQ—Alaska State Legislature Telephone System Equipment**
- b. Telephone System Services**
- c. Capitol Parking Lot Design, Engineering, and Construction Administration Services**

CHAIR HANNAN stated that Legislative Council would go into Executive Session to discuss several procurement items.

[5:21:31 PM](#)

VICE CHAIR STEVENS 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 and 22(b)(3), discussion of a matter that may, by law, be required to be confidential. The following people may remain in the room or on-line for the Executive Session: Jessica Geary, Santé Lesh, Shay Wilson, Tim Powers, Serge Lesh, JC Kestel, Ernest Daigle, Emily Nauman, any legislators not on Legislative Council, and any staff of Legislative Council members.

REPRESENTATIVE PRAX asked for clarification on the justification for Executive Session, noting the documents appeared final and would be made public, and inquired what elements in the documents could adversely affect State finances or otherwise necessitate going into Executive Session.

JESSICA GEARY, Legislative Affairs Agency (LAA) Executive Director, explained that the procurements include vendor bid information, and to prevent public disclosure before a contract is awarded, the matter is handled in Executive Session.

[5:23:14 PM](#)

Council went into Executive session.

[6:11:56 PM](#)

Council came out of Executive Session.

Roll was taken to establish a quorum. Present at the call were Representatives Carrick, Edgmon, Prax, Schrage, Stutes, Hannan; Senators Claman, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Kiehl, Stevens.

Eleven members present.

a. RFQ 683—Alaska State Legislature Telephone System Equipment

6:13:08 PM

VICE CHAIR STEVENS moved that Legislative Council approve the award of RFQ 683 for telephone system equipment to Synergy Telecom Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$110,070.71.

CHAIR HANNAN objected for the purpose of discussion and asked Legislative Affairs Chief Information Officer Shay Wilson and Procurement Officer JC Kestel to speak to this item.

JC KESTEL, Procurement Officer, LAA, stated that the Agency issued RFQ 683 on April 4, 2025, to solicit proposals from potential contractors to provide new telephone equipment for the Legislature.

The RFQ was published on the State's online public notices and distributed to several vendors throughout the state. There were eight bids received in response to the RFQ, and the low bidder for this project is Synergy Telecom Inc., at a total price of \$110,070.71. After evaluation of the bids, LAA recommends the award to Synergy Telecom Incorporated.

CHAIR HANNAN, noting there were no further questions, removed her objection and asked for a roll call vote.

6:14:40 PM

YEAS: Representatives Carrick, Edgmon, Prax, Schrage, Stutes, Hannan; Senators Claman, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Kiehl, Stevens

NAYS: none

The motion passed 11-0.

b. Telephone System Services

CHAIR HANNAN stated that the Telephone System Services agenda item does not have a motion, but that Shay Wilson and JC Kestel will provide a brief update.

SHAY WILSON, Chief Information Officer, LAA, stated that the Legislature's phone system is currently provided through the Executive Branch at an annual cost of \$217,000. In 2020, SOA began transitioning to Microsoft Teams for phone service and since the Legislature operates a separate Microsoft environment, it can no longer rely on the Office of Information Technology (OIT) to support its phone services. The Division of Technology and Information (DTI) identified a preferred provider with projected costs of \$94,000 annually. The Juneau conversion is planned for this fall, with Anchorage and Fairbanks to follow in 2026. As this utility is exempt under Section 020 of the Procurement Procedures, no Legislative Council action or motion is required.

c. Capitol Parking Lot Design, Engineering, and Construction Administration Services

[6:17:04 PM](#)

VICE CHAIR STEVENS moved that Legislative Council approve a contract award to PND Engineers, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$75,000.

CHAIR HANNAN objected for the purpose of discussion and asked Facilities Manager Serge Lesh and Procurement Officer JC Kestel to provide a brief explanation of this item.

JC KESTEL, LAA Procurement Officer, stated the Agency solicited proposals from qualified engineering firms throughout the state to provide design, engineering, and construction administration services to the Agency for a revitalization of the Capitol parking garage and bid-ready construction documents and construction administration during any construction.

Five firms initially expressed interest in the project, however only two submitted proposals-the lowest proposal from PND Engineers for \$71,500, and another proposal from Hollatz Engineering Inc., for \$113,950. Both proposals were reviewed thoroughly to make sure they met the Agency's requirements. The Agency recommends the award to PND Engineers Inc., in the amount of \$71,500. Serge Lesh, LAA Facilities Manager, is also available to answer any questions.

CHAIR HANNAN, seeing no further questions or discussion, removed her objection and asked for a roll call vote.

6:18:46 PM

YEAS: Representatives Carrick, Edgmon, Prax, Schrage, Stutes, Hannan; Senators Claman, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Kiehl, Stevens

NAYS: none

The motion passed 11-0.

VI. Committee Business

a. FY26 Computer Hardware Refresh

[6:19:58 PM](#)

VICE CHAIR STEVENS moved that Legislative Council approve the FY26 computer hardware refresh expenditure of \$228,084.

CHAIR HANNAN objected for the purpose of discussion and asked Shay Wilson to speak to this item.

SHAY WILSON, Chief Information Officer, LAA, stated that members have a memo outlining the FY26 annual hardware refresh, which replaces outdated technology across the Legislature and requires Council approval each year. This year's \$228,084 proposal, to be paid from existing capital funds, reflects price increases due to international tariffs and includes replacement of a PC model incompatible with Windows 11. The request also includes the Ombudsman, Office of Victims' Rights, and Legislative Finance, agencies that had been previously excluded from annual requests. Without this funding, DTI would be unable to replace aging equipment, which would impact legislative productivity. The IT Subcommittee reviewed the proposal and recommends approval.

CHAIR HANNAN, seeing no further questions or discussion, removed her objection and asked for a roll call vote.

[6:22:00 PM](#)

YEAS: Representatives Carrick, Edgmon, Prax, Schrage, Stutes, Hannan; Senators Claman, Giessel, Gray-Jackson, Kiehl, Stevens

NAYS: none

The motion passed 11-0.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the committee, the Legislative Council meeting was adjourned at 6:22pm.

[6:22:56 PM](#)