

**FNSB Economic Development Commission
Tuesday, June 24th, 2014, 3:45 p.m.
Mayor's Salcha Conference Room**

Meeting Minutes

Once a quorum was established, Mayor Hopkins called the meeting of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Economic Development Commission to order at 4:30 p.m. He asked Barbara Johnson to call the roll.

Commissioners in Attendance

Mayor Luke Hopkins
Assemblymember Van Lawrence
Commissioner Paul Robinson
Commissioner Fred Schlutt
Commissioner Russ Talvi

Commissioners Excused or Absent

Mayor John Eberhart
Mayor Bryce Ward
Assemblymember Kathryn Dodge
Commissioner Fred Schlutt

Commissioner (Vacant)

1 position

Citizens in Attendance

Ro Bailey, Deputy Director, Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration

Staff Present

Barbara Johnson, Special Assistant

Chair's Comments:

This meeting was called to order at 3:45 p.m.

Mayor Hopkins - I'm going to go to the Economic Development Commission at this point. The agenda for the commissioners and those around here who have the public document, and for those that made the presentation before the meeting, if you don't want to listen to us conduct public business, you're free to go.

Mayor Hopkins called for Citizens Comments. Seeing no citizens coming forward for comment, we'll close that section then. Next is to approve the Consent Agenda marked with asterisks, but I would ask that the agenda be not approved and we amend that, but we do have the minutes before you also. So.....

Commissioner Talvi - Move that we approve the agenda as modified.

Mayor Hopkins - And that modification would be?

Commissioner Talvi - Removing the Unmanned Aircraft Air Quality Presentation.

Mayor Hopkins - Okay. Thank you very much. Any objection to that removal from our public session? Seeing none, are there any objections to the agenda and the minutes that we have before us? Seeing none, thank you. We have that.

So moving on, under New Business, the important piece today is for the discussions of the FY-15 projects. And, previously, there were handed out our FY-15 list of projects that we had submitted to the commission and had more than ample time to consider it. And so at this point, I ask Barbara to put together a draft project list from those lists of possible projects that we had for our upcoming FY-15 grant and some of these match up with our CEDS priorities and you see that on your handout.

So a discussion on this. It's not up for approval, but we certainly want to say that this is what we're proposing as a draft and if there are any changes in this draft -- Van, do you have that?

Assemblymember Lawrence - No.

Mayor Hopkins - You don't have a packet?

Assemblymember Lawrence - I've got a packet for the district commission.

Mayor Hopkins - Okay. Well, we'll certainly get you one of those. There's one right there.

Assemblymember Lawrence - Thanks.

Mayor Hopkins - So we're trying to tie these -- what we're going to work on this year to the, as I said, the CEDS priorities. And, of course, energy is number one, and number two is military importance in our community and number three, of course, is the agricultural marketing. Local agricultural marketing instead of those Outside.

So, Barbara, if you wanted to have any overview as to how this ties into the CEDS and why we're working on these projects this year, briefly. We have just a few minutes.

Barbara Johnson - Okay. For the Section 331, Shared Services, a comment I'd like to make is we just came back from economic development meetings in Anchorage and what is absolutely incredible is Assemblymember Dodge and Commissioner Talvi and Nadine Winters and then Chamber of Commerce have all banded together to do business retention and expansion in the private sector. So we complement that by doing something similar within government, state and local government, and the military.

So I think Fairbanks is actually getting the best coverage of anyone for making it joint, working both sides of the fence. So for the Section 331, the other reason that is important is continuation of the Coal Ash Management project that you guys have done so much on. Really, really incredible. Last week I was able to talk with Commissioner Bell. And so the potential to use part of our ARDOR funding to continue working on that, and one of the potential next steps the mayor was looking at is providing you with more information, like having a report done, a study done on Wisconsin because they use 100 percent of their coal ash, and then looking at their system of management and getting some ideas there, besides continuing meetings here locally with our coal ash experts.

So it was really positive to me when Cole Sonafrank was saying that DOT was reaching out to him and working with him. But Commissioner Bell took it and actually distributed information to Alaska Railroad and ADA and made connections. And then also when I was in Anchorage last week, I actually met with ADA and with Northern Economics, and Northern Economics is actually working on the Watana Dam. So it's like getting the word out so people are aware that we might actually have a substance that they can use in place of concrete. So that had been really positive.

And then Ro and actually Keith who was just here as well participated in AUVSI with us for this year and the turn-out was absolutely outstanding. Our booth was really, really busy. And so we have

partnered again with the university and DCCED and Department of Military and Veterans Affairs again to have a booth in Atlanta, which I know you guys have got to be having a really hard time keeping up with everything. It's just off the charts. But today the presentation that Keith gave, you can see the incredible things that we can do that are really, really positive with it. So on having that focus and for unmanned vehicles, the military is used to using them, so it's like a perfect transition job, too, for all of the young intelligent folks coming out of college and for the military that want to transition out of the military into a civilian job; it's a perfect industry.

And then with the agricultural community support, I know Assemblymember Dodge is actually working on a grant that ties in -- it has to do with peonies and then two other agricultural products. So we actually gave her a letter of support for that and we'll continue supporting everything with the agricultural community and the cooperatives.

And then we do have to maintain our Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, so starting this fall, if we start on it this fall, we will have it done and completed because it does have to go through a process through our community planning department, which takes a couple months, I believe. So that kind of takes a whack on the amount of time we have. But I thought that this would be a really comprehensive and solid list of projects that you'd be interested in us pursuing in the coming year, and so we kind of boiled it down to that.

Mayor Hopkins - That's a quick overview. Thank you very much. And on that issue with the peony actions, the assembly has on their docket for July 10th the approval of the peony as the official flower of the borough. The borough official flower. So this commission passed a resolution back in February and now, of course, it's a perfect time to call out that the peony is the official flower because they're everywhere. They're beautiful buds and some are opening, I think. So anyway that will be a good item.

So that's the discussion point on the project list and that ties back to our ARDOR grant, so we certainly will be submitting the ARDOR grant application.

Barbara Johnson - And just one comment, we had a meeting, an ARDOR meeting last week, and the Department of Commerce might be proposing that we have it allocated where 50 percent is to admin and 50 percent is to a project. We have a really nice umbrella with the Section 331 Shared Services that the coal ash comes under because we have a lot of substantial projects going on there, so it's a way for us to allocate it where we can work on multiple projects at the same time.

One of the other projects is the Shared Maintenance Facility and the city of Fairbanks has the large oversized maintenance facility and that's going to take a lot of work because it will be really complicated with legal work, because we want to be able to share their mechanics as well. So it gets kind of complicated, but in submitting the application that's what we were thinking would work well because the CEDS update actually falls in under the administrative piece.

So we just wanted to share this with you so that -- I don't know if the timing will work where we can have approval of the projects come in July, and we could do that, but if you have any comments at all on the project list and you wanted something added or modified, that would be great.

Mayor Hopkins - So, of course, we tackle things by resolution from time to time asking the assembly to do this or to consider that, but these pieces can be, and I think they are, important to this commission and we can work on that. We tax our property owners for economic development both areawide and non-areawide, so there are pockets of funds where if we're going to do something with unmanned vehicles or agricultural community support, we can work on those as we have done in this past year, or the year that's about to end.

Any comments, questions on any of that discussion, on the FY-15 projects? Okay. I'll get back to my agenda here. So moving on, we have no Old Business and so that brings us in timeliness to Commissioner Comments, and we will go around the table again for the commissioners.

Fred, it's good to see you here.

Commissioner Schlutt - It's good to be here. Just a couple comments on the ag part. We are going to put a major EPSCoR grant in, a USDA EPSCoR in food security and food safety. We're hoping to partner with the state and the governor's office, if at all possible. Really thinking that that will interface well with the Ag Food Policy Council.

Mayor Hopkins - Yep.

Commissioner Schlutt - They're doing good work, but I think they're tending to drift a little bit now. And so I think if we can get some significant resources and revenue and focus that, it's going to benefit us all.

Mayor Hopkins - I think agriculture would benefit us all, that's for sure.

Commissioner Schlutt - True. Yep.

Mayor Hopkins - All right. Thank you for your comments. Russ? Comments from you?

Commissioner Talvi - Just good work on the list of projects. Good to see them all kind of pulled together in one place. Thank you.

Mayor Hopkins - Uh-huh. Yes. Going around the table, Van?

Assemblymember Lawrence - Yes. Sorry I missed most of the presentation. I've got a day job.

Mayor Hopkins - Well, I'm glad you're here. We're going to put these PowerPoints up on our Economic Development Commission website. That's where the coal ash study is, and others. So we can certainly put a discussion on the next agenda, the PowerPoint is there, and we can have our own discussions with it if we need to. There will never be a dull moment with talking about those items in the PowerPoint, and I don't think they'll go away for a long time, I hope. So does that conclude your comments?

Assemblymember Lawrence - Yes, it does.

Mayor Hopkins - Thank you, sir.

Commissioner Robinson - I think it's exciting.

Mayor Hopkins - Thank you.

Commissioner Robinson - I'm looking forward to it. Thanks.

Mayor Hopkins - My comments are I'm very pleased that the Peony Resolution is coming forward at this time. If there were still snow on the ground, it probably wouldn't be as important, but certainly right now it's a great time. Fairbanks Soil and Water joining with 4H, and I don't know whether it's still going on, but the bare root purchases of the peony stalks and then you could donate them to a location or you could buy them yourself. One way to try to catch up with China.

In our assembly agenda, as I said, on this Thursday night we'll have a new commissioner I hope confirmed by the assembly and that's the CFO of Doyon Corporation.

Assemblymember Lawrence - Very good.

Mayor Hopkins - So high power to come over here; that will be good. Paul can ask all kinds of questions of the CFO, and so can other commissioners.

So with no other comments from commissioners, Barbara, do you have any comments?

Barbara Johnson - No.

Mayor Hopkins - You're probably glad to be back from all the travel.

Barbara Johnson - Yes.

Mayor Hopkins - And so with that, I'll look for a motion to adjourn.

Assemblymember Lawrence - Move to adjourn.

Commissioner Robinson - Move to.....

Mayor Hopkins - It has been moved and seconded.

Commissioner Schlutt - Second.

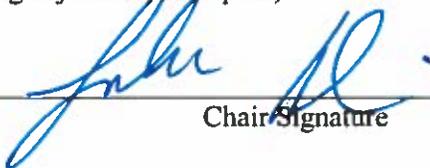
Mayor Hopkins - All right. And our next meeting is going to be on July 22nd, and thank you all for being here. And, Ro Bailey, thank you for being able to share with us all the information.

Ro Bailey - Absolutely.

Mayor Hopkins - Thank you, commissioners.

(Meeting adjourned: 6:00 p.m.)

Approved: _____



Chair Signature

July 22, 2014

