

**HALO Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, September 5, 2024 at 7 pm**  
**Shepherd of the Hills (corner Klatt Rd & Elmore Rd)**  
**Zoom Meeting ID 455 419 5765 Passcode HALO**

I. Call to Order and Welcome by President Katie Nolan. Other Board Members Present: Peter Johnson, Marc June, Mike Kenny, David Michael, Gail Morrison, Christine Monette, Lizzie Newell, Joan Priestly, Frank Pugh, Rachel Ries.

Members absent but excused: Frank Pugh, Carmela Warfield, Jason Warfield, John Weddleton.  
Absent: Sarah Denson

II. Agenda was accepted as amended.

III. Featured Presentation

A. Road Service Area Capital Improvement Budget Update (Rep Julie Coulombe)

Working with ValliVue to help - ask HALO to help get the word out.

Going into next session would like to get additional info + get a plan for future projects + any Muni / state funding that can go towards LRSA. 4 LRSAs got money. SkyRanch \$112,000 for cleaning and drainage. The more specific for money requests the better the chances of getting funding.

Is there a way to avoid going through the Assembly? There may be - all depends on the project. Does all monies have to go through the Assembly?

If there is money left over in a LRSA account, the money has to go towards that LRSA.

If a capital project is quite large, LRSA is limited to road maintenance.

How can HALO help with a coordinated effort to hand a LRSA proposal to Juneau before December. Randy will be the POC for doing a LRSA survey for what projects they want and monies.

What / why was O'Malley such a mess last winter? Roads were down to 1.5 lanes.

randy.sulte@anchorageak.gov

B. Project Anchorage (Clare Bryant Boersma) Walter Featherly - co-chair of this business coalition. It's a community driven/process. Core concept is aimed at spurring economic growth, lowering property taxes, capture visitor spending. Wants a 3% sales tax. 1% towards capital projects. Following the Oklahoma City concept. Ask citizens what projects they want, put before the city council who will determine project costs, then do a temporary sales tax to pay for that particular project.

Is there a way to keep the sales tax to stop after the project is finished?

What is exempt from sales taxes? It's up to the Assembly.

Would there be a tax cap on anything? Yes - \$1,000 cap on a transaction. \$30 max on any transaction for anything over \$1,000.

Put your idea in, see where it lands. Projects don't start until it's fully funded. Citizens advisory committee to help formulate the project. Then the project goes to the Assembly and is managed by a new Muni department + employees. Who pays for these new employees? Unclear.

Deadline is Sept. 15th.

C. Regional South Anchorage ER was added to the Agenda (Hank Grinold)

Most testimony was favorable - from South Anchorage.

Hank - imaging, full capability of any hospital ER, cardiology, extension of AK Regional Hospital. \$17.6 million investment (private). Insurance - same as any other hospital; same as AK Regional Hospital. Medical staff: 5 beds; 1-2 physicians; 1-3 nurses; 2 lab techs; 1 radiologist; ambulance standing by in case a person needs to go to the main campus / hospital. Goal is to provide excellent care and off-load AK Regional Hospital. Patients will see a doctor within 10 minutes of walking through the door. EVERYONE - please submit a letter of support. southanchorageer.com

#### IV. Presentations

##### A. State

James Kaufman - in the interest of time, there's no legislative session; not much to report; James is running for office.

Katie - the Assembly wouldn't release HALO's Firewise money that James and Julie made it happen.

Julie Coulombe - Snowplowing - State has the correct amount of snow plows and money to plow the streets - especially Hillside. Starting to Spotlight a small business. Correspondence school bill went through.

##### B. Assembly

Randy Sulte - new administration is getting settled in. Many rules are getting reset. CIP list needs to be submitted every year. Eklutna - governor is going to hold a meeting. AWWU is proposing a hydro pumping project \$56 million.

##### C. ASD

Kelly Lessens - at the end of Feb. the ASD budget has to be approved by the board; then goes to the Assembly. \$86 million deficit. Focus on having smaller classes vs. 45 students per class. Focused on reading, math, graduation / quality education. Onsite staff 5 days/week to assist students with coaching / tutoring, etc.

#### V. Minutes

A. August 2024 were accepted

- VI. Community Council Reports
  - A. Abbott Loop  
Elections next month. Same President - Lizzie Newell? 😊 There are positions open!
  - B. Bear Valley  
N/A
  - C. Glen Alps  
N/A
  - D. Hillside  
Bob - next meeting Sept 11 @ AK 7th Day / O'Malley and Rockridge
  - E. Huffman/O'Malley  
Sept 19th ASD presentation; trail access; new ER will be discussed
  - F. Rabbit Creek  
Mike - no August meeting;
  
- VII. Committee Reports
  - A. Firewise/Resilience (Nolan/Ries) - Thanks to Senator Kaufman and Rep Coulombe and lots of public input, the Assembly is going to release the funds.
  - B. ByLaws (Johnson, Monette)  
Everyone please read and submit comments for vote in November.
  - C. Land Use (Priestly)  
The communications / negotiations with the city have broken down in the Hultquist Canyon View Estates. The appeal is proceeding.
  
- IX. Old Business
  - A. October 3rd Candidate Forum @ Zoo  
All candidates have RSVP'd  
Requesting community council donations to pay for the space
  
- X. New Business
  - A. Motion Rachel, second Gretchen, to write a letter of support for the S. Anchorage ER, passed unanimous. Marc will write the letter of support
  - B. Need someone to take charge of our sign; put it out before meeting, take it home between. Marc volunteered.
  - C. Election workers - need volunteers for the Nov. election. Talk to State Elections.
  - C. Walter motion, Lizzie second, to write a letter of support for Dr. Jen Schmidt re: her tenureship; motion unanimous. Ky Holland will write the letter, Katie will co-sign.
  
- XI. Open Forum
  - A. We need a microphone / speaker system - else I am going on strike - Secretary
  - B. Requesting to move Joan's Land Use report-out to be "A" vs. "C"?
  - C. Walter Featherly - running for HD 11. Arrived in AK in 1966.  
[www.electfeatherly.com](http://www.electfeatherly.com)
  - D. Ky Holland - HR HD 9; Born in Anchorage; O&G, mining work; bunny boots are

being built in Ak! Running as an Independent. 35 years working in education and community councils. [alaskansforkyholland.com](http://alaskansforkyholland.com)

E. Janice Park - In AK since 2001; nursing degree and public health education; UAA paralegal working in family law; small business owner / water treatment; AK is hemorrhaging young people; need better retirement packages for teachers, state employees; affordable child day care; 243-9873

F. Julie Coulombe - HD 11; 25 years in HD 11; running for re-election; got \$ for evacuation routes; safe routes to school money; child care tax credits; standards and rules on how properties are assessed; worked across lines on common sense legislation.

G. James Kaufman - HD F; been involved with HALO for many years; retired O&G quality manager; capital projects manager; passed 10 pieces of legislation (his bills or adding language into bills); geared on practical fixes; formed workers comp laws; removed obstacles for getting a CDL license; increased DOT efficiency; voted for budgets that didn't need new taxes to support; we need stable, balanced budgets; try to optimize how the State government works; works across the aisle and coordinated more delegations to work together across the aisles; enhancing and streamlining legislation and policy.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gail Morrison, Secretary