ASSEMBLY LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES COMMITTEE AGENDA

July 9, 2020

This meeting will be held by teleconference and in the
Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers
Juanita Helms Administration Center
907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, AK
5:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. NEW BUSINESS
   a. Coordinate annual legislative priorities with Fairbanks North Star Borough Administration for the 2021 legislative session. (Page 2)
   b. Review of the past legislative session with the FNSB Lobbyist.

4. COMMITTEE COMMENTS

5. ADJOURNMENT

THE AGENDA ITEMS AS LISTED MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED IN SEQUENCE. THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE TO INCLUDE THE DELETION OF ITEMS; OR EXECUTIVE SESSIONS, IF NEEDED.
Legislative Communications Policy

Draft Date 7-1-20

The FNSB has historically communicated with the Congressional Delegation and their staff, the Alaska State Legislature, and members of the Interior Delegation and their staff in an inconsistent manner. This policy seeks to clarify and standardize communication methods regarding state and federal legislative actions.

Scheduling Requests

The FNSB is regularly in communication with state and federal legislative offices to discuss meeting availability, generally scheduling, or for planning purposes. These conversations are not substantive in nature.

*Appropriate Means of Communication:*
- Text or other messaging application
- Verbal (telephone or in person)
- Email

*Records:* These communications should not be used as part of the official legislative record of intent.

Informational Requests

Legislators or their staff regularly contact the FNSB to request information on facts, background or historical data, impact analysis, or comment/feedback on policy or legislative actions. Such communications shall not be used in place of position or policy statements but are limited to informational purposes only. These communications may be substantive in nature.

*Appropriate Means of Communication:*
- Verbal (telephone or in person) – May be used when information or clarification is informally requested, and a response can be clearly and easily explained. This does not preclude written communication.
- Email – May be used when a longer or more in-depth response is required, or if the initial request warrants a less formal means of response. Such responses may come from FNSB Department Directors or designated staff; however, the Mayor shall be cc’d on such responses.
- Letter – Will be used when a formal or comprehensive response is required, or if the information requested is being used to shape policy or legislative action. While Department staff may assist in drafting the letter, such correspondence will be sent coming from the Mayor.
Records: These communications may be used as part of the official legislative record of intent; however, that may not always be the case if being used to simply inform the legislator rather than to inform or shape policy.

Position or Policy Statements

Position or policy statements will only be submitted as coming from the Administration (i.e., letter) or from the Assembly (i.e., resolution).

Appropriate Means of Communication:

- Letter – Such communication will be reviewed and approved by the Mayor prior to submittal. Letters will be used to communicate a position or policy statement from the purview of the administration or to express the intent of the assembly (provided guidance has been given to the Mayor or the Assembly’s Legislative Priorities Committee chair).
- Assembly Resolution – To be used when the FNSB legislative body approves a position or policy, such as legislative priorities or a specific stance on a specific bill or issue before the state or federal legislative bodies. Resolutions are the strongest form of position or policy statements, and should be used when communicating a clear, unified stance is important as a community.

Records: These communications are anticipated to be used as part of the official legislative record of intent.
1. **PERS Contribution Rate and strategy**
   Maintain the 22% PERS contribution rate as was agreed to by PERS employers and the state in allocating the unfunded liability and to provide certainty of set rates for all employers. There should be focused efforts to develop strategies to reduce the unfunded liability and reduce the overall payout through incentive programs not by adjusting the contribution amount. Options may include buy out provisions.

2. **(Title 29 PILT exemptions)**
   For properties that meet certain criteria they may negotiate a PILT with the taxing jurisdiction for up to 20 years. Eligible properties would be identified as businesses that provide or support high wage employment within the borough. Eligible properties would include Class III value added industries defined by AS 36.30.332 that employ 20 or more FTE workers, Military support businesses in a Military Facility Zone, Private projects that implement all or part of a urban renewal plan, a Mine that has a daily average of 100 or more FTE workers. Privately owned large scale renewable energy facilities, municipally owned real or personal property located in a separate municipality.

3. **Road Service Area Consolidation**
   (see work from 2020)

4. **Establishing standards and regulations for unorganized boroughs**
   Management of Boroughs. Article 10 section 3 of the Constitution requires the Legislature set policy for the establishment, alteration and nature of Boroughs. the Legislature has not yet enacted standards and procedures for the establishment of unorganized boroughs. The lack of such standards and procedures precludes a meaningful determination of whether an unorganized area has attained the fiscal and administrative capacity to support areawide functions. If such standards existed, an unorganized area could be signaled to form an organized borough when it achieved the administrative and fiscal capacity to support areawide functions.

5. **Creation of a legislatively authorized military affairs commission**

Create a Commission to provide advice, counsel and recommendations to the Governor, the Alaska Legislature and State agencies on initiatives, programs and legislation that will continue and increase the role that Alaska’s military installations, the National Guard and Reserves play in America’s defense strategy and the economic health and vitality of the State.

The Commission shall also develop a strategic plan that identified goals and objectives that support the mission of the AKMAC consisting of the following concepts:

- Develop strategies for maintaining existing military mission in the state;
- Develop strategies for expanding military missions in the state;
- Develop strategies for better cooperation between military training and land access for recreational and hunting opportunities;
- Develop strategies for maximizing federal military investment in Alaska bases;
- Develop strategies for strengthening military families and encouraging military families to stay in Alaska after retirement.

6. **Tax Increment Financing**

Tax increment financing (TIF) is a financial tool widely used by local governments to promote economic development and redevelopment in specific areas. AS 29.47.460 is structured very similar to several other states and allows a municipality to pledge tax dollars to pay for bond notes for investment in capital projects needed to stimulate business. Greater definition is needed to specify for what constitutes an ‘improvement area’ and how the boundaries are determined.

7. **Exempt Certain Animal Adopter Information from Public Records Disclosure**

AS 40.25.110 opens all public records of public agencies to inspection by the public unless specifically provided otherwise. This proposed statutory change would exempt the release of any personally identifiable adopter information from the requirements of AS 40.25.110. Animal Control is aware of several situations where the prior owner of an animal obtained adopter information for a legally adopted animal through a Public Records Request and used the information to intimidate and pressure the adopter to return the animal to its previous owner.

8. **Allow the Imposition of an Enhanced 911 Surcharge on VoIP Telephones**
AS 29.35.131 authorizes a municipality to provide an enhanced 911 system and to impose an enhanced 911 surcharge not to exceed $2 per month for each wireless telephone number and each local exchange access line. The proposed statutory change would allow a municipality to impose a surcharge not to exceed $2 per month on each consumer of interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol Service (VoIP) with access to the emergency communications system. This will help to shore up the revenue required to operate municipal 911 systems as wireline and wireless telephones are replaced by VoIP.

9. Alaska Multi-Modal Transportation Improvement Program
One over-arching program would facilitate the funding of all transportation-related projects in the State of Alaska, established as the Alaska Multi-Modal Transportation Improvement Program (AKTIP). The objective of this new program would be to ensure that all transportation related projects were vetted in one program which would reduce redundancies and enhance modal coordination through a transparent and objective process. All federal and non-federal funding would be included in the AKTIP.

The modes addressed would include highways, marine, rail and aviation. The program would be established under the Department of Transportation. The structure of the program would be akin to the structure of a metropolitan planning organization with a Policy Board and a Technical Committee. The make-up of the Policy Board would be representative of all regions and modes. The Technical Committee would be made up of technical modal experts and planners. Neither the Policy Board nor the Technical Committee would be limited to employees of the State. Instead, non-state workers and citizens of the state would be encouraged to participate.

Long-term and short-term multi-modal transportation plans would be developed and updated at least every four years. Objective nomination and evaluation processes would also be developed to analyze all projects for approval into the AKTIP.

This program would aid the state now and into the future in developing a transparent and stable transportation planning process over all modes, regardless of funding source. A multi-modal program will ensure that the best mode is funded to satisfy an identified transportation deficiency.


10. Government-to-government annexations
Amendment to the annexation statutes that would allow a city within a second-class borough and that borough to agree, by ordinance, to expand city boundaries within the borough through an abbreviated process. Such amendment would allow the LBC to approve such boundary changes provided that no private lots are affected.

11. Enterprise Zones
Proposed last in 1995 through HB 50 of the 19th legislature, enterprise zones are like the newly created opportunity zones. An enterprise zone is a geographic area that has been granted special tax breaks, regulatory exemptions, or other public assistance in order to encourage private economic development and job creation. They are used most often to promote the revitalization of a city neighborhood.

Enterprise zones were introduced in the U.S. in the 1970s to reverse the flight of people and businesses from city centers to the suburbs. The programs may be used to encourage a private company to stay in a neighborhood, expand in it, or relocate to it. Enterprise zones are a part of the FNSB Comprehensive Plan.

(Concepts to be developed)
- Statewide Emergency Planning structure and delineation of duties: cities inside of Boroughs.
- PFAS PFOS
- Farm Exemption
- Religious Exemption
- Easement Dedication clarification
- Education Funding
- Land Grant, land swap (in the works)
2021 Policy and Position Statement Guidelines

The Alaska Municipal League “Policy and Position Statement” is developed in collaboration with AML members, which includes AML board members, legislative committee members, and appointed or elected officials from member municipalities who have expertise and a firm understanding of local government roles and responsibilities.

Please review the current Position Statement and consider recommending changes along the following guidelines:

• AML Principles – these inform AML’s overall strategy and are not adjusted annually
• AML Legislative Priorities – these will come in draft form from the August legislative conference
• AML Federal Priorities – these will come in draft form from the August legislative conference
• AML Policy Statements – these are general statements of support or opposition based on issues that affect local governments, and will come from the August legislative conference
• AML Legislative Position Statements – these will occur every two years in response to active legislation

For changes to the policy statements, consider their broad applicability and use:

• Are they consistent with our principles?
• Do they advance policy that is beneficial to local governments?
• Do they negatively impact any local government?
• Are they statewide or have statewide implications?
• Are they actionable?

For changes to the Draft 2021 Policy Statement to be considered during the AML Summer Legislative Conference, please send suggested changes to nils@akml.org no later than July 31, 2020. From there – and based on member input during the August legislative conference – the Legislative Committee will edit the document for brevity and applicability but ensure that changes reflect the intent.

The Legislative Committee will review all recommended changes by September 1, 2020 and the proposed draft 2021 Policy Statement will then be sent to all members in preparation for the AML Annual Meeting in November.

Any changes to that draft document must be submitted to AML by resolution, no later than October 4, 2020. Changes will not be accepted after this date.

The Legislative Committee shall debate and act upon suggested changes during the Legislative Committee on November 18, 2020, for final recommendations to the membership. If the Legislative Committee does not accept the change, the member’s governing body may bring it to the floor at the Business Meeting on November 20, 2020 for reconsideration.

Changes accepted by the Legislative Committee shall be shared with members during the General Session on November 19, 2020. The amended Policy Statement shall be voted on by the full membership at the AML Business Meeting to be held on the morning of November 20, 2020.

Please email your resolutions to: nils@akml.org; fax to: (907) 463-5480; or mail to: AML, One Sealaska Plaza Suite 200, Juneau, AK 99801
By: Marna Sanford  
Introduced: (Date of Meeting)

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH  
ORDINANCE NO. 2020 –  
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING FNSBC 3.24.030, LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES COMMITTEE  

WHEREAS, The Legislative Priorities Committee works with the Fairbanks North Star Borough (Borough) Administration to develop legislative strategy and priorities; and  

WHEREAS, Timely decisions are needed from the Legislative Priorities Committee to provide direction on statutory changes and to work with legislators and the Governor to enact such desired changes; and  

WHEREAS, The changes proposed in this ordinance establish codified deadlines for the committee to prepare and recommend in the form of committee sponsored resolutions suggested changes to statutes and capital and programmatic request; and  

WHEREAS, It is in the best interest of Borough residents that legislative priorities and requests be clearly articulated and shared in a timely fashion with state and federal elected officials; and  

WHEREAS, The timelines established in this ordinance allow for proper participation in statewide municipal gatherings; and  

WHEREAS, Changes to statute and supported statutory changes require time and resources and often span legislative sessions.

AMENDMENTS ARE SHOWN IN LEGISLATIVE FORMAT  
Text to be added is underlined  
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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Assembly of the Fairbanks North Star Borough:

Section 1. This ordinance is of a general and permanent nature and shall be codified.

Section 2. FNSBC 3.24.030, Legislative Priorities Committee, is hereby amended as follows:
   A. The legislative priorities committee shall consist of three members appointed by the presiding officer.
   B. The chair of the legislative priorities committee shall be selected by the presiding officer, and shall preside over all meetings of the legislative priorities committee, setting its agenda, and organizing such procedures as are necessary to meeting annual goals. These shall include but are not limited to:
      1. Coordinate legislative [PRIORITIES] strategy and priority requests with administration.
      2. [REVIEW THE CAPITAL PROJECTS LIST AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS AS APPROPRIATE FOR PRESENTATION TO THE ALASKA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND THE STATE LEGISLATURE.] Prepare recommended capital and programmatic requests in the form of a resolution to the assembly no later than the first meeting in November; capital requests shall include approved capital improvement program projects.
      3. Recommend changes in state or federal law in the form of a resolution to the assembly no later than the first meeting in August.
      4. Provide federal and state legislative and funding guidance in the form of a memorandum to the administration and assembly at any time during the year.
Section 3. **Effective Date.** This ordinance is effective at 5:00 p.m. on the first Borough business day following its adoption.


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Christopher Quist  
Presiding Officer

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April Trickey, CMC  
Borough Clerk

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Jill S. Dolan  
Borough Attorney

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**AMENDMENTS ARE SHOWN IN LEGISLATIVE FORMAT**

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