

FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH
Economic Development Commission
August 24, 2021
2:32 p.m.

A regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission was held Tuesday, August 24, 2021, in the Mona Lisa Drexler Assembly Chambers of the Juanita Helms Administration Center, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks, Alaska.

ROLL CALL

There were present appearing telephonically and in person:

Mike Meeks	Abigail Riggs
Deb Hickok	Frank Tomaszewski
Matt Cooper	Mayor Bryce Ward, Chair

Comprising a quorum of the Commission, and

Alexis Fackeldey, Administrative Assistant III, Clerk
April Trickey, CMC, Borough Clerk
Brittany Smart, Special Assistant to the Mayor

Excused

Russell Talvi	Paul Robinson
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MESSAGES

1.a. Citizen's Comments on agenda items not scheduled for public hearing.

NONE

1.b. Citizen's Comments on items other than those appearing on the agenda.

NONE

2. Disclosure & Statement of Conflict of Interest

NONE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

HICKOK,
Seconded by COOPER

moved to approve the agenda and consent
agenda as read.

VOTE ON MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA AS READ.

Yeses: Meeks, Cooper, Riggs, Hickok,
Tomaszewski, Ward

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 6 Yeses, 0 Noes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. *Economic Development Commission Meeting minutes of May 25, 2021.

Without objection this measure was read by title and approved under the consent agenda.

REPORTS

1. Chair Report

NONE

2. Staff Report

Brittany Smart, Special Assistant to the Mayor, thanked the commissioners who attended the Alaska Defense Forum. Ms. Smart stated they were still working on the Interior Alaska Covid-19 Economic Impact and Recovery Plan. Ms. Smart stated that Shelly Wade with Agnew Beck will update the Regional Growth Plan regarding housing. It will be updated in two phases. Ms. Smart had a meeting with a grant manager and sought public input at the Tanana Valley State Fair as it relates to further economic investment in the interior of Alaska.

3. Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) Report

Ms. Smart stated that the Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) group is continuing to meet weekly and the group working with the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy report (CEDS) so that it can be in line with the regional CEDS. The state is requesting proposals regarding some additional funding they received.

REPORTS - continued

4. Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Report (CEDS) Update

Ms. Smart said significant outreach has been ongoing through community events such as the Tanana Valley State Fair and Golden Days events. Ms. Smart stated there were over 600 interactions tracked across these events.

Ms. Hickok asked how long the state's ARDOR was extended. Ms. Hickok stated other ARDOR's were run by not for profit organizations. Ms. Smart stated the ARDOR extension was granted for ten years. The North Slope Borough was used as an example of a different ARDOR set up.

Mayor Ward stated that if there is an organization interested in becoming an ARDOR then he is happy to have that conversation.

Ms. Smart stated the ARDOR boundaries were limited to the boundaries of the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

Ms. Hickok stated that the ARDOR should be a collaborative organization.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Review and make a recommendation to the assembly regarding community purpose tax exemption applications submitted by Yukon Quest International Ltd.

Mayor Ward gave the floor to April Trickey, Borough Clerk, to speak to her memorandum.

Mr. Meeks declared a conflict of interest as he works for the city and the city is renting the building to the Yukon Quest International Ltd. Mayor Ward asked if it would affect his decision making and Mr. Meeks felt that it would. Mayor Ward stated he had a conflict and was excused from the dais.

Clerk's Note: Mr. Meeks left the virtual dais.

Ms. Trickey stated that this type of matter has not come in front of the commission for several years. She explained the process of the request and how it would go before the assembly after the commission's recommendation. Ms. Riggs asked to clarify whether the applicant qualifies even though the applicant does not own the property they currently reside at. Ms. Trickey said that based upon what the assessor has given that they do. There is a list of businesses and organizations with exemptions within the Borough code. The list in code was read out.

NEW BUSINESS - continued

HICKOK,
Seconded by COOPER

moved to recommend to the assembly that the application for a community purpose tax exemption submittal by Yukon Quest International Ltd. be granted.

Ms. Hickok said she felt this was a bona fide community organization that has been around for a long time and it would be a nod to support them and their continued success in the community. Mr. Cooper echoed Ms. Hickok’s statements and if it meets the criteria and is consistent with other exemptions than it would be beneficial to recommend it.

VOTE ON MOTION TO RECOMMEND TO THE ASSEMBLY THAT THE APPLICATION FOR A COMMUNITY PURPOSE TAX EXEMPTION SUBMITTAL BY YUKON QUEST INTERNATIONAL LTD. BE GRANTED.

Yeses: Cooper, Riggs, Hickok, Tomaszewski, Ward

Noes: None

MOTION CARRIED 5 Yeses, 0 Noes

Clerk’s Note: Mr. Meeks returned to the virtual dais.

EXCUSE FUTURE ABSENCES

Ms. Hickok is resigning from the commission, and this was her last meeting.

COMMISSIONER’S COMMENTS/COMMUNICATIONS

NONE

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Economic Development Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

APPROVED: November 23, 2021