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**Minutes of the Public Hearing
Denali Borough Planning Commission
Tri-Valley Community Center
July 16, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Presiding Officer Lee LIGHTFOOT called the Public Hearing to order at 6:06 PM.

ROLL CALL

Planning Commissioners present were: Lee LIGHTFOOT, Erik HAUGEN, Steve JONES and Susan BRAUN. Absent: Baxter MERCER, Robert SNYDER, Kesslyn TENCH, Mark MENKE and James Greg WILLIAMSON. Mayor Clay Walker was also present.

1. Land Management Plan - Draft

There was no public comment.

2. Community Transportation Project (CTP) Grant – Healy Area Pedestrian Bike Path

There was no public comment.

3. Resolution PC19-01


A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE ELIGIBILITY OF THE DENALI BOROUGH TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES (ADOT&PF) FOR THE COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM FOR THE HEALY AREA PEDESTRIAN PATH PROJECT IN DENALI BOROUGH AND AUTHORIZING CLAY WALKER, MAYOR, TO SIGN THE APPLICATION AND FUTURE PROJECT AGREEMENTS.

There was no public comment.

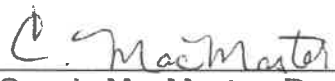
ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Presiding Officer Lee LIGHTFOOT adjourned the Public Hearing at 6:07 PM.

APPROVED: _____


Kesslyn Tench, Presiding Officer

ATTEST: _____


Connie MacMaster, Deputy Clerk

Date Approved: 8-21-19

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**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Denali Borough Planning Commission
Tri-Valley Community Center
July 16, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Presiding Officer Lee Lightfoot called the regular meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

ROLL CALL

Planning commissioners present were: Lee LIGHTFOOT, Steve JONES, Erik HAUGEN, Susan BRAUN and Baxter MERCER. Absent: Robert SNYDER, Mark MENKE, James WILLIAMSON and Kesslyn TENCH. Mayor Clay Walker was also present.

Lee LIGHTFOOT MOVED to excuse Robert SNYDER, Mark MENKE, James WILLIAMSON and Kesslyn TENCH. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no comment.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Erik HAUGEN MOVED to amend the agenda to start with New Business. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Steve JONES MOVED to approve the June 18, 2019 public hearing and regular meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

PLATS AND CONDITIONAL USES

There were no plats or conditional uses.

REPORTS

MAYOR

Mayor Clay Walker reviewed the attached written report and reported that the borough has partnered with the State Department of Transportation to submit a build grant requesting \$25 million for the Parks Highway Mile 231 Enhancement Project.

BOROUGH PLANNER

Denali Borough Planner Marsha Lambert reported the following:

- Addressing
 - The Assembly didn't have a quorum at their last meeting so couldn't take action on the addressing systems presented
 - The interns with MTA leave in the middle of August, so the need is to find out how to continue with mapping

- She is updating the street and road map for the borough and it will go to the public for input on road names
- Projected project phases: road names, numbering system for addresses, street signs, house number signs, funding proposals

PLANNING COMMISSIONER REPORT FROM THE ASSEMBLY MEETING

Lee LIGHTFOOT reported that there wasn't a quorum but that he was there for some of the discussion regarding the proposed tax on alcohol/marijuana.

Mayor Walker mentioned that a proposed ordinance to raise the overnight accommodation tax couldn't be introduced due to lack of a quorum, but that it will be part of the discussion for the next meeting. The mayor has a presentation regarding the declining funding from the state and the need to come up with other revenue. The information is available for anyone who would like to view it. It is available on the borough website, www.denaliborough.com, titled Revenue PowerPoint Presentation.

COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUEST

There was no communication or appearance request.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Denali Borough Municipal Land Management Plans – Draft
Baxter MERCER MOVED to introduce Denali Borough Municipal Land Management Plans – Draft. The MOTION was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

Steve JONES MOVED to postpone to the next meeting with a focus to cover the Panguingue, Healy, Otto Lake and Slate creek sections. The MOTION was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

- B. Community Transportation Project (CTP) Grant – Healy Area Pedestrian Bike Path
Trena Haugen reviewed a power point presentation regarding the details of the CTP Project and Grant Application.

Discussion followed regarding:

- Employee housing and a pedestrian path section on the Parks Highway
- Posting of signs
- Enforcement of pedestrian only walkway
- Motorized or non-motorized path
- How it will be maintained

1 C. Resolution PC19-01

2 A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE ELIGIBILITY OF THE DENALI BOROUGH TO SUBMIT
3 AN APPLICATION TO THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC
4 FACILITIES (ADOT&PF) FOR THE COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM FOR THE
5 HEALY AREA PEDESTRIAN PATH PROJECT IN DENALI BOROUGH AND AUTHORIZING
6 CLAY WALKER, MAYOR, TO SIGN THE APPLICATION AND FUTURE PROJECT
7 AGREEMENTS.

8
9 Erik HAUGEN MOVED to approve Resolution PC19-01. The MOTION was seconded.
10 The roll call VOTE passed unanimously.

11
12 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

13 There was no public comment

14
15 **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

16 Lee LIGHTFOOT thanked everyone for coming and noted that commissioners can RSVP to meetings
17 through the OnBoard application.

18
19 Erik HAUGEN Likes the plan to break down the management plan and pass it by section, but wants
20 to try to get it accomplished by next Spring.

21
22 Steve JONES proposed to add the subject of a regional airport in the Slate Creek area as New
23 Business for the next meeting.

24
25 Baxter MERCER commented that he agrees with bringing back the discussion of the airport.

26
27 **PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT TO THE ASSEMBLY**

28 Select Commissioner to provide the Planning Commission Report to the Assembly on Wednesday,
29 August 7th, 2019 at 6:00 PM at the Tri-Valley community center.

30
31 Erik HAUGEN offered to attend the Wednesday, August 7th, 2019 Denali Borough Assembly meeting
32 and provide the Planning Commission report.

33
34 **TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

35 The next regularly scheduled meeting time is Tuesday, August 20th, 2019: Public Hearing at
36 6:00 PM; Regular Meeting following the Public Hearing at the Tri-Valley Community Center.

37
38 Mayor Clay Walker made a recommendation to change the meetings to Wednesday evenings.

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40 Steve JONES MOVED to change the planning commission meetings to Wednesday evenings.

41 The MOTION was seconded.


42 The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

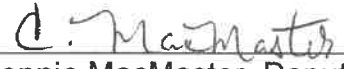
43
44 The next regularly scheduled meeting is Wednesday, August 21st, 2019: Public Hearing at 6:00 PM;
45 Regular Meeting following the Public Hearing, at the Tri-Valley Community Center.

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48 **ADJOURNMENT**

1 Deputy Presiding Officer Lee LIGHTFOOT adjourned the meeting at 7:51 PM.

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APPROVED: 
Kesslyn Tench, Presiding Officer

ATTEST: 
Connie MacMaster, Deputy Clerk

Date Approved: 8-21-19

DENALI BOROUGH

P.O. Box 480 • Healy, Alaska 99743

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Clay Walker, Mayor

July 2019 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly

This report speaks primarily to non-agenda items. Agenda items will be discussed in meeting.

Clear Air Force Station Change of Command Ceremony

- I attended the June 20 ceremony in which Lt. Col. Jeff Rutherford transferred command to Lt Col. Shawn Lee. Colonel Matthew Cantore, Commander of the 21st Operations Group, presided over the ceremony.
- This annual event is an excellent opportunity to build relationships with base personnel and others. Representatives from the City of Nenana, the Governor's Office and Senator Sullivan's Office were also in attendance.

Clear Air Force Station (CAFS) Expanded Special Use Airspace (SUA) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

- The request from the Missile Defense Agency (MDA) is for organizations, agencies, or individuals to provide comment which will help inform the preparation of a draft EIS for the proposed expansion of the restricted airspace around and up from the station.
- I attended the July 1 meeting of the City of Anderson Council, when the Council considered a response to the CAFS SUA EIS request. A letter of concern from statewide aviation groups was shared. City of Anderson Fire Chief Scott Thompson shared his concern to public safety should life flights would not be able to use the Clear Airport.
- The State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, owner and maintainer of the Clear Airport, believes that if the Special Use Airspace is expanded as proposed, the Clear Airport would be rendered unusable. As such, in their comments the State requested that the Missile Defense Agency, should the proposed expansion go forward, fund both a site selection study and the relocation of the existing airport.
- The borough, in reviewing all the information, did provide comment prior to the July 5, 2019 deadline. We stated that the Clear Airport, at over 4,000 feet in length, is the longest paved and lighted airport in the Denali Borough and its loss would adversely impact the health and welfare of the people of the borough, as well as the safety of civil aviation. The borough equally requested that if the airspace expansion shuts down the Clear Airport, that a relocation be planned and constructed.

Rex Pit Gravel Extraction Permit

- The Denali Borough has applied to the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources for a gravel extraction permit at the Rex Pit on the north side of the Rex Bridge. The borough has listed contractors associated with the Kobe Farm Community non-profit as potential operators in the pit. The intention is to support the planned public road improvement of Kobe Road through the provision of gravel resources.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Alaska Liquified Natural Gas Project (AKLNG) proposed by the Alaska Gasline Development Corporation (AGDC)

- On Friday June 28, FERC released the Draft EIS for the AKLNG project. With three volumes and multiple appendices, the document totals over 4,000 pages.
- I reviewed the document for relevant local descriptions and impacts. I will draft letter of comment and bring the draft to the Planning Commission, who has weighed in on alignments and related topics in the past. Later, I will bring the revised draft of comments to the Assembly.
- Comments are due by October 3, 2019. I understand that FERC intends to hold a public meeting in the borough to solicit comment, although no date or dates have been set at this time.
- The document, including the alignment maps and evaluation of alternative Denali Alignment, is available at : <https://www.ferc.gov/industries/gas/enviro/eis/2019/06-28-19-DEIS.asp>

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) meeting regarding ground water monitoring

- On June 19, I met with our regulators at DEC in Fairbanks. We discussed the groundwater monitoring plan, called a QAPP, potentially amending the plan, the need for quality data, and the requirement of DEC to oversee a monitoring plan which meets the goals of environmental protection, while also using site specific discretion.

DEC Annual Inspection at the Denali Borough Landfill is scheduled for Friday, July 12

Highway signs for Healy Transfer Station are installed (Thanks Scott and Buster!)

Letter of Support to the Alaska Railroad Corporation (AKRR) for Seward Dock Build grant

- In response to a request, I sent a letter of support to the Alaska Railroad as they seek to utilize a federal transportation grant program (BUILD) to expand the dock facility in Seward. The expanded dock facility could allow for additional cruise passengers and potentially additional raw material cargo.

8 Mile Lake Permafrost Research Tour

- On June 26, I attended a tour of three different research sites off of Stampede Road near Eight Mile Lake. Two sites are focused on permafrost research and the third is a monitoring station which is part of an open data ecological monitoring network, called NEON. The level, and potential value, of scientific exploration and monitoring was certainly impressive. Thanks to Dave Schirokauer at Denali NPS for organizing the event.

Healy Centennial / Fourth of July Celebration

- At this writing, I look forward to the celebration of our nation's birthday and our communities start. Thanks in advance to the Denali Chamber of Commerce and the Healy Lions Club for hosting and supporting the event. The borough is participating with a truck in the parade (Thanks for the decorating Connie!) and a welcome at the Otto Lake barbeque.

Legislative Update

- Line items of the Governor's vetoes which directly affect the Denali Borough include zeroing out Local Emergency Planning Committee funding (-\$10,400) and not capitalizing (or "backfilling") the Community Assistance Program Fund. If the vetoes hold, as expected, the borough should expect to receive one third less next fiscal year (or about \$110,000 less) in Community Assistance from the State of Alaska.

Happy July, happy fishing. As always, feel free to contact me or staff with any questions.

- Clay