



Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor's Office

809 Pioneer Road PO Box 71267 Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-1267 (907)459-1300 FAX 459-1102

**FNSB Economic Development Commission
Tuesday, November 24, 2015, 3:30 p.m.
Mayor's Salcha Conference Room**

Minutes

This meeting was called to order at 3:35 pm.

Commissioners in Attendance:

Mayor Karl Kassel
Mayor John Eberhart
Van Lawrence
Fred Schlutt
Russell Talvi
Paul Robinson
Christopher Quist

Commissioners Excused:

Mayor Bryce Ward
Kelly Brooks

Commissioners Absent:

None

Citizens in Attendance:

Doug Svensson, Consultant, Applied Development Economics (telephone)

Staff Present:

Shellie Severa, Acting Special Assistant, Fairbanks North Star Borough

Roll Call: Seven Commissioners present. Quorum achieved.

Public Comment: None

Adoption of Consent Agenda: Mayor Kassel asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Moved by Fred Schlutt, seconded by Van Lawrence; no objections. Mayor Kassel asked for a motion to adopt the meeting minutes from September 29, 2015. Moved by Fred Schlutt and seconded by Russell Talvi; no objections. Mayor Kassel asked for a motion to adopt the meeting minutes from November 3, 2015. Moved by Fred Schlutt and seconded by Russell Talvi; no objections.

New Business: Resolution No. 2015-4; A RESOLUTION OF THE FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION AMENDING THE FNSB COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY AND RECOMMENDING ITS APPROVAL BY THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND ITS ADOPTION BY THE ASSEMBLY; Review, Discussion and Approve.

Old Business: Presentation by Doug Svensson, Consultant, Applied Development Economics, Inc.: The Fairbanks North Star Borough – Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy; Review, Discussion and Approve.

Mayor Kassel asked Mr. Svensson to give a presentation while Commissioners review Resolution.

Mr. Svensson: Major revision to the document added an analysis on housing market. Added an analysis on industry clusters in the Interior. Added sections in the back of the document, including a summary section that was requested by EDA which highlights key factors from the major analysis. Received copy of emergency management plan and hazardous mitigation document from David Gibbs. Developed a more substantial area for economic resilience. Discusses efforts to diversify the economy and economic cycles. Security measures and agencies are in place for natural disasters. EDA has recently added natural disasters and the CEDS now reflects that; therefore, we have complied with the requirement.

Biggest change in the document for Commissioners to review is in the Projects section. Prior version just had bulleted list of projects. The projects have been reorganized, reprioritized, and expanded with narrative details.

Military unmanned systems were discussed.

Per previous suggestions, assisting residents with converting to natural gas in their homes when it becomes available was added to the project list. Added a project for the City of North Pole to move forward with a centralized municipal water system. The projects section has been revised so the projects are ready for use in a grant application to EDA.

Mr. Robinson asked about Tesoro buying out of the assets of Flint Hills and wondered if it effects anything in the document.

Mr. Svensson said he can reference it; however, there is nothing specific about Flint Hills in the document.

Mr. Talvi specifically asked that the recycling center be mentioned in the document.

Ms. Severa asked where it would be put in the document.

Mr. Svensson suggested we put it in the infrastructure section. Did modify goals and objectives to account for projects that wouldn't otherwise be mentioned in the infrastructure section.

Mayor Kassel is getting Doug a contact at the Borough for the recycling center.

Mr. Svensson stated the key consideration would be if we were going to approach EDA to help fund the recycling center.

Mayor Eberhart remarked that the CEDS is a very good document; however, there are a lot of grammar issues and misspelled words.

Mr. Svensson replied that he would be more than happy to correct mistakes.

Ms. Severa inquired if, other than adding the recycling center and getting the grammar and spelling corrected, the Commission is happy with the CEDS document.

Mr. Robinson stated that this process has been a lot easier this time than it was for the previous CEDS document.

Ms. Severa stated that EDA has streamlined the process for the CEDS document to make it easier to complete. Everything that is in this document can be used to apply for grants with EDA and any other federal grant that is available. She informed the Commission that this is the final step for Fairbanks to be determined to be an Economic Development District.

Mr. Robinson is fine with the document and stated that it should be moved forward.

Mr. Lawrence moves to approve Resolution. Seconded by **Mr. Schlutt**. No objections.

Mayor Kassel, noted that the action on the Resolution is to approve Chapter 7 of the document.

Mr. Robinson asked why.

Mayor Kassel stated that the Assembly has taken the strategy that you do not get bogged down and you take the vital information to be able to move it forward. The goals and objectives is the functional part of the document as far as moving forward and meeting the needs for grants. Also allows you to change the goals and objectives without changing the entire document. The rest of the document can evolve. If the entire document is approved then nothing can be changed without going back to the Assembly. Just approving the goals and objectives allows the remaining document to be adjusted as things in the community change and evolve.

Mr. Talvi hopes that when we revise the document in four years that we find a company in Alaska to do the job.

Ms. Severa stated that an RFP was put out. Only one Alaska-based company applied and they did not qualify for the job.

Mr. Talvi said he appreciated the explanation.

Commissioner Comments:

Mayor Karl Kassel – None
Mayor John Eberhart – None
Van Lawrence – None
Fred Schlutt – None
Russell Talvi – None
Paul Robinson – None
Christopher Quist – None

Adjournment: The EDC adjourned at 4:04 pm. No objection.

Approved: _____
Chair Signature Date: