

City of Aniak
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Teleconference
Thursday, January 19, 2023 at 7:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

Virtual Meeting Information:

*To Participate please call 1-800-315-6338
Conference Code- 54481#*

- I. Call to Order** – Meeting called to order by Mayor N. Kameroff Jr @ 7:04pm
- II. Roll Call**- NK-P, DB-P, CE-P, CM-P (phone), AM-P (phone), AL-P (phone) Staff Present: LKiana, LKameroff, GHager, MSimeon, RHill- Ab
- III. Approval of Agenda** Motion made by C. Erik to approve agenda, motion 2nd by D. Bonanno. All approved agenda as presented.
- IV. Public Participation**- L.Kiana introduced Virginia McMichaels from the State Fire Marshalls Office- Ms. McMichaels was invited to attend by L. Kiana to discuss fire safety measures for our community. He also invited the State Troopers, as requested by Council C.Morgan, but they could not attend.
- Ms. McMichaels introduced herself, she was previously in Aniak for the Fire Training held in June 2022. She stated that this is a high year for fires in the state, up to 23-27 fire fatalities, several fire fatalities due to homicide, a lot of them had no working smoke alarms, no other fire escape. Mainly residential structure fires. Its been a trend where many have alcohol and drugs involved with smoking and/or cooking. Fire Safety should be a big issue. Especially with no working fire department or a non-functional fire department. Recommends all households have 2 ways out of each room, using fire alarms, making sure access or escape-ways are not blocked and fixing non-functional windows. Cleaning chimneys and the use of Fire Escape Plans. They've found that alcohol is also a factor in most fires, as well as careless smoking and cooking. Most fire departments don't have enough responders or volunteers, no working equipment or no close water source. Council C.Morgan asked where we can find fire equipment? Or what needs or can be upgraded? V.McMichaels replied that her office can help with current equipment and suggest what we can do with it. The Council thanked V.McMichaels for her time and report to the Council.
- Council C.Morgan requested to invite the State Troopers to our next meeting.
- V. Previous Meeting Minutes**- Mayor N.Kameroff Jr. wanted it noted that he asked to have the December meeting postponed and did a Poll-Vote (over the phone) with all other Council, and all agreed at the time and thought protocols were not followed and was dismayed the meeting still went through. Council A.Leary asked for the Council to have time to review his comments so that we have the right protocols in the future. Mayor N.Kameroff Jr. stated he would like to have an ALL COUNCIL ONLY WORKSESSION soon , possibly February or March to go over what our roles are as Council, as Mayor and the organizational chart, including proper procedures and protocols and requests all Council Members to attend. Council A.Leary and C.Morgan agreed.
- Motion to approve meeting minutes for November 17, 2022, and December 27th, 2022, made by A. Leary, 2nd by C. Morgan. All approved minutes as presented.
- A. 12/27/2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. 11/17/2022 Regular Meeting Minutes
- VI. Reports**
- A. Aniak Volunteer Fire Department - L. Kiana-No reports or no fire calls.
- B. Public Works - G. Hager-Everything is going quite well for the Aniak Public Works Department, Charlie and Francis kept all the bases covered when I was gone for almost a month. We continue

to have electrical feed issues with Aniak Light and Power, they repaired the problems on their power pole which allowed us to get it pumping again but needs to be reset almost daily. The city is spending a lot of money keeping the Fire Department warm, last month bill was close to 10 thousand dollars. N. Kameroff request to look for support with YKHC since the ambulance is part of the clinic, the City Manager was also asked to reach out to YKHC, Aniak Traditional Council, Napaimute, Association of Village Council Presidents, The Kuskokwim Corporation and Crowley for support contributions or help finding a solution for the Fire Station and keeping it heated. It's a 3-door fire station. 1 for the ambulance and the other 2 for the water and fire trucks. Another thing the city needs to look at is our Levee and it needs to be addressed by us, Army Corps. and the State. Especially down at the end of the runway where the Sewer Lagoon is. We can do dike repair, but we need to reach out to other entities to help get that portion of the dike fixed.

- C. Library - R. Hill was absent-M.Simeon read her written report out loud. As the new year is here we have a lot of transactions to be addressed within the library such as being the new librarian; I'm on the issue of finally updating from the former librarians information to my information. Zoom meetings are getting more useful for me since I have filled out my first grant a few months ago, in the process of filling for a new grant for disabled patrons, which will involve the managers approval. No running water at the library since November, I make sure to let the patrons know before arriving. There's been a few times that people dropped off donations of books/DVD's, I'd like to say thank you to them, but they don't give a name or leave a not, some are books that the library doesn't have that are yet in good condition, thanks to whomever.
- D. City Clerk- M. Simeon-I am the new City Clerk, I started working on January 10 last week. This week is my second week so far, I like it and excited to learn a lot. So far, I've filed 2022 in banker boxes, made new files for the new 2023 Year. Missy is doing a great job so far on training me on-the-job and I look forward to continuing my employment with the City of Aniak. Council welcomed her to our team.
- E. Bookkeeper/Financial Statement - L. Kameroff- L.Kameroff reported that the previous quarter tax reports and W-2's/W-3's have been submitted. Mayor N. Kameroff Jr. requests that the reports be enlarged and easier to read.

Motion to approve December 2022 Financial Report made by D. Bonanno 2nd by C. Erik.
Financial Report approved by all present council members.

- F. City Manager - L. Kiana-Last four months of 2022 were very busy months for me in this new position of City Manager. Attended two grant writing seminars and plan on more updates on grants as new classes are scheduled. The TKC 2023 Middle Kuskokwim Gathering will be February 28- March 2 this will be a good forum to bring up the needs of all of us working together to bring about needed changes or implementation of programs regarding our livelihood. As in new demographics for our area that all stakeholders can utilize for grants or programs funded by the state. Joint ventures in acquiring new heavy equipment to use in our community in building structures, road maintenance, snow removal, to mitigate Spring flooding potential, landfill management, sewer lagoon management, riverbank erosion abatement, city dock and boat launch ramp etc. MOU or MOA for joint projects to share costs for dry wood clearing, need chain saws to cut down dead trees or cut fallen trees for local firewood. This would Eliminate potential fire hazards including safety and health hazards. We have financial needs that we need to identify as special projects that we need to ask the State Legislature for special funding. The city needs to attend one or two days in Juneau during the Legislative session of 2023 in end of March or early April. We also need to prepare a list of Capital Improvement Projects for our community and get support letters to include, as we submit our list to the State Legislature. I have also been looking into grant funding for the Fire Department. To help with hiring a fire chief and possibly volunteers. We are also looking into an E-Rate for Star-link for the library. The Contract with GCI is a little high. But we should have the bids in next week. I have been in contact with Melissa Sage, regarding the sale of her 2-story property. Haven't had an appraisal to look at for a bid. Present council discussed property further and what interest we have in it and decided to Table looking into the property for a future purchase. I have also been contacted by an individual, regarding Gaming. They propose for us to get our Gaming License and they would like to sell

pull-tabs at their location for a 60/40 split with the City of Aniak. I will also be attending the Financial Management training being held in Anchorage in February. Both Fred Broerman and Nick Martinez our LGS's to see if they can come to Aniak to help with our FY24 Budget.

VII. Old Business

- A. Adopt An Elder Program- Moving forward with this program requested by A.Leary, M. Simeon city clerk will follow-up with Residents and Organizations that signed up. Council would like the program to move forward, don't give up yet. Suggested looking into YKHC programs to assist hiring or help keeping program moving forward. C Morgan suggested more of like shoveling snow, giving an elder a ride to the store/PO, dumping trash.
- B. CDBG Project Update-Library and Elder Center Grant will close March 2023 for the Design phase. Architects Alaska is close to 65% schematics. We've completed the Desk Monitor for the grant. So far, No Deficiencies reported. Hopeful to get our final draft from them next month. Grant was extended and will close March 2023, waiting on architects Alaska to finish what they need to finish and hopefully February we will have the final draft.
- C. 18-02 Animal Control Ordinance-Re-vise Ordinance for animal control-L Kameroff requested council to review ordinance to see if there's anything we can change because there is a lot of lose dogs and still a problem. C Erik request we raise the fines, the first would be a warning, 2nd would be \$150, 3rd would be \$200, 24 hours to hold the animal then have it dispatched. Council A Leary recommend the city manager look into grants to cover a dog catcher, place to hold animals, feed/water, dispatch. Council also will go over animal control ordinance during the work session in February.
- D. Amend Ordinance for Mayor Stipend/ Council Sewer Credit-Mayor N.Kameroff Jr. requested to be tabled for council work session in February to discuss. Stated that he does not agree with the Ordinance that stipends do not start until after the next regular election. **NO MOTION MADE TO TABLE.**

VIII. New Business

- A. Resolution 22-08 Update Bank Check Signers-A resolution to add Council Member A.Leary and City Manager L.Kiana to sign checks. Finance Director/City Clerk L.Kameroff read outload Resolution 22-08 and did a Roll Call vote. Present Council Approved by 5 Yes and 1 Abstain. Resolution 22-08 approved by majority.
- B. Resolution 22-09 Small Claims-A resolution approving the Mayor, Vice-Mayor and City Manager to sign all Small Claims documents for the City of Aniak. Resolution was read outload by Finance Director/City Clerk L.Kameroff and did a Roll Call vote. Present Council Approved by 6 Yes 0 No. Resolution 22-09 approved by majority.
- C. Streetlights-Council A.Leary requested for the City Manager look into types of streetlights, cost, where they are needed, etc. and if we can contact the Aniak Traditional Council, The Kuskokwim Corporation, and Aniak Light & Power for help with getting more streetlights. Council C.Morgan agreed with A.Leary, stating that they are badly needed in Housing Area.
- D. 2023 TKC Mid Kusko Gathering Feb 28- Mar 2-City Manager suggests that the council participates
- E. Executive Session-Personnel Matters-9:49pm out of ES , Request for employee Bonus 5 Full-time and 2 Part-time Employees. Council member request as well, they will discuss in work session.

IX. Time and Place of Next Meeting-

February 16, 2023 @ 7pm Regular Meeting

TBA Work Session with all council to review ordinances.

- X. **Adjourn-** C.Erik made a motion to adjourn the meeting, motion 2nd by A.Leary All in favor, meeting adjourned at 9:56pm.

Attested:

Mayor Nicholas H. Kameroff Jr. *Signed: Date*

City Manager Leon Kiana *Signed: Date*