

MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY

Minutes for Regular Meeting of December 11, 2001

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was convened at 4:00 p.m. by Assembly Chairman Dick Traini in the Assembly Chambers, 3600 Denali, Anchorage, Alaska.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Dan Sullivan, Fay Von Gemmingen, Melinda Taylor, Doug Van Etten, Dick Traini, Anna Fairclough, Dan Kendall, Allan Tesche, Janice Shamberg, Dick Tremaine, Cheryl Clementson.

Absent: None.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The pledge was led by Mr. Sullivan.

(Clerk's Note: Ms. Clementson joined the meeting at 5:12 p.m. via telephone.)

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

A. Regular Meeting – July 10, 2001

Mr. Tesche moved,
seconded by Ms. Von Gemmingen
and it passed without
objection.

to approve the minutes of July 10, 2001
as written.

5. MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Wuerch noted that Anchorage Water Wastewater Utility (AWWU) received national recognition in a national competitive achievement award a few weeks ago. The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies presented AWWU with the gold award for significant accomplishments in competitive achievement honoring them for their internal competitive process called The Excellence Adventure. The Excellence Adventure was designed and driven by the employees of AWWU and establishes them as a world class utility with stabilized expenses, increased revenues, efficiency, customer service and quality. The following AWWU members introduced themselves: Mike Rutherford, Beverly Robotki, Jesse Reeves, and Kerry Cook. Mayor Wuerch saluted the AWWU team for their achievements. Mayor Wuerch unveiled the Anchorage 2020 Plan and gave a slide presentation. The final Anchorage 2020 Plan documents were distributed to the library for checkout. They are also available at City Hall for \$39.00 and on the Internet at no charge. He gave a brief overview of the Anchorage 2020 Plan. This was the first major revision of the land use code in 30 years. The negotiations for contracting with a national firm were still ongoing. We anticipate a three-year process with plenty of public involvement. There are seven town centers planned. The Muldoon town center plan was developed by the private sector. The Northway Mall area and Abbott Road area plans are currently out for contract and on tonight's agenda for approval. The retail design standards are a follow-on to the big box ordinance that was adopted by the Assembly earlier this year. The Planning Department's consultant contract has been approved. The sign code ordinance will be a big job and needs to be addressed. The off street-parking plan needs definition and flexibility. The parks and open space plan includes natural parks as well as parks with active recreational opportunities. We hope to receive federal dollars under the Coastal Impact Assistant Program. The City's webpage is muni.org and includes the Anchorage 2020 Anchorage Bowl Comp Plan and information on downloading the document. He recognized the members of Planning Department Director Sue Fison's staff who put this together, including Tom Nelson, Jerry Weaver, Fred Carpenter, and Dave Tremont.

6. ASSEMBLY CHAIR'S REPORT:

Chairman Traini introduced Tim McConnell of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Tim McConnell said he and Chris Livsey were representing the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. For more than two decades the Unitarian Universalists have given a gift to the people of Anchorage. This year it was a check in the amount of \$1,500. They call this gift their payment in lieu of taxes or the Pilot Program for short. Their annual payment was made as a symbolic protest against the exemption of religious organizations from taxation. They felt the exemption was a violation of the separation of church and state and that others paid for municipal services benefiting religious organizations. This year their protest gift was also a tribute to Americans and democracy in America. It was a faith-based initiative and an expression of faith in our democratic form of government and our certainty that we, the people, can craft a free and just society. This gift was intended to exemplify a reaching out beyond the boundaries of any particular religious citadel in order to embrace the greater good that is America at its best, our democracy

and our tax dollars in the service of liberty and justice for all. The Unitarian Universalists thanked the Assembly for their competence and devotion.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Ms. Clementson reported on the School Site Selection Committee. They unanimously agreed on parcel B, the western portion of the Alaska Village Mobile Home Park, as the new site for the Muldoon Middle School and Community Center. A public hearing between the Planning and Zoning Commission and the School Board will be held Thursday night at 7:00 p.m. at the School District building. They will then make a recommendation to the Assembly and request a public hearing before the Assembly on January 8, 2002.

Ms. Von Gemmingen noted that Cheryl Frasca and Jewel Jones were both nominated as YWCA Women of Achievement and she offered her congratulations to them.

Mr. Sullivan announced that Anchorage CHAR was hosting a benefit for the American Red Cross featuring the world famous Oak Ridge Boys on December 28, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. at the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts and included a pre-concert reception. One hundred percent of the net proceeds of this event would go to the Southcentral Alaska American Red Cross. The cost of the tickets would be tax deductible.

Ms. Taylor requested clarification in memo form from the Administration regarding the funding of two positions for the Youth Offender Program. The Assembly approved \$47,000. She questioned if additional money would be coming forth and if both positions were being funded.

8. ADDENDUM TO AGENDA:

Mr. Sullivan moved, to amend the agenda to include the
seconded by Ms. Fairclough, addendum items.
and it passed without
objection,

9. CONSENT AGENDA:

Mr. Tesche moved, to approve all items on the consent agenda
seconded by Ms. Fairclough, as amended.

A. RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION - PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS

1. Resolution No. AR 2001-350, a resolution of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly recognizing the 60th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, and remembering and honoring the patriotic service performed by the heroic Pearl Harbor veterans, Assemblymembers Fairclough, Clementson, Kendall, Shamberg, Sullivan, Taylor, Tesche, Tremaine, Traini, Van Etten, and Von Gemmingen.

Ms. Fairclough requested this item be considered on the Regular Agenda. See item 10.A.

2. Resolution No. AR 2001-351 a resolution of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly recognizing the 55th Anniversary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union 1547, Assemblymembers Fairclough, and Traini, Clementson, Kendall, Shamberg, Sullivan, Taylor, Tesche, Tremaine, Van Etten, and Von Gemmingen.

Ms. Fairclough requested this item be considered on the Regular Agenda. See item 10.A.

B. RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION - OTHER

1. Resolution No. AR 2001-342, a resolution adopting the 2002 Legislative Program for the Municipality of Anchorage, Office of Management and Budget.
 - a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 985-2001.

Ms. Fairclough requested this item be considered on the Regular Agenda. See item 10.B.

2. Resolution No. AR 2001-345, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage appropriating the sum of \$300 from the State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health to the State Categorical Grants Fund (231), Anchorage Police Department, for a Tobacco Sales Enforcement Program.
 - a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 946-2001.
3. Resolution No. AR 2001-346, a resolution of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly appropriating the sum of \$511.30 from the interest accrued on the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (241-4653G) to the Federal Categorical Grants Fund (241) for the purpose of funding police programs and activities, Anchorage Police Department.
 - a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 947-2001.

4. Resolution No. AR 2001-347, a resolution of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly appropriating the sum of \$984.40 from the interest accrued on the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (241-4658G) to the Federal Categorical Grants Fund (241) for the purpose of funding police programs and activities, Anchorage Police Department.
 - a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 948-2001.
5. Resolution No. AR 2001-348, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage appropriating the sum of \$52,897.50 from the State of Alaska, Department of Public Safety, Division of State Troopers and \$17,632.50 as a contribution from the 2001 Anchorage Metropolitan Police Service Area Operating Budget (Fund 151), to the State Categorical Grants Fund (231), Anchorage Police Department, for the **Methamphetamine Enforcement Program**.
 - a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 949-2001.
6. Resolution No. AR 2001-349, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage appropriating the \$12,500 donated by Phillips Alaska, Inc. to the Miscellaneous Operational Grants Fund (261), Cultural and Recreational Services Department for the purpose of supporting the **Westchester Lagoon Saturday Family Skate**, Cultural and Recreational Services.
 - a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 950-2001.

Mr. Sullivan requested this item be considered on the Regular Agenda. See item 10.B.

7. Resolution No. AR 2001-352, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage appropriating \$30,000 of Fund Balance from Glen Alps Road Service Area Fund (105) to the Glen Alps Road Service Area BY2001 General Operating Budget for **BY2001 winter road maintenance activities**, Street Maintenance Department.
 - a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 972-2001.
8. Resolution No. AR 2001-353, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage appropriating \$40,000 of Fund Balance from the Girdwood Valley Service Area Fund (106) to the Girdwood Valley Service Area BY2001 General Operating Budget for **BY2001 winter road maintenance activities**, Street Maintenance Department.
 - a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 973-2001.
9. Resolution No. AR 2001-356, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage appropriating \$85,263 of proceeds received from the Golf Course Surcharge Revenue to the Areawide Capital Improvement Fund (401) for the **2001 payment of the golf course loan**, Cultural and Recreational Services.

Mr. Tremaine requested this item be considered on the Regular Agenda. See item 10.B.

- a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 979-2001.
10. Resolution No. AR 2001-357, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage revising AR No. 98-28 **eliminating the site condition from the YMCA's CDBG grant**, Planning Department.
 - a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 980-2001.

Ms. Clementson requested this item be considered on the Regular Agenda. See item 10.B.

11. Resolution No. AR 2001-358, a resolution of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly directing the Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility to seek approval of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) to amend the Utility's tariffs to **allow a one-time, special balloting and assessment procedure for the proposed Scimitar Water Improvement District, Harold Loop Water Improvement District and Sewer Later Improvement District, and Monastery Darby Water Improvement District and Sewer Lateral Improvement District**, Assemblymember Fairclough.

Ms. Clementson requested this item be considered on the Regular Agenda. See item 10.B.

C. BID AWARDS

1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 951-2001, recommendation of award to Consolidated Contracting & Engineering for **Museum chiller replacement** for the Municipality of Anchorage, Department of Facility & Fleet Management (ITB 21-C060) (\$422,222), Purchasing.
2. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 952-2001, recommendation of award to Construction Unlimited, Inc. for **B-4AB Sewer Trunk Upgrade** for the Municipality of Anchorage, Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility (ITB 21-C059) (\$1,514,933), Purchasing.
3. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 953-2001, recommendation of award to Service Oil & Gas, Inc. and Inlet Petroleum Company for furnishing **Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants (POL) products** on an "as needed" basis for the Municipality of Anchorage, Purchasing Department (ITB 21-B097) (\$2,600,000), Purchasing.

4. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 975-2001, recommendation of award to Carlos Tree Service, Inc. for providing **tree trimming services** on an “as needed” basis for the Municipality of Anchorage, Municipal Light and Power (ITB 21-B095) (\$350,000), Purchasing.
- D. **NEW BUSINESS**
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 965-2001, 2002/2003 Liquor License Renewals: **Flight Deck Bar/Arctic Inn Motel (#402)-Beverage Dispensary-Tourism, American Legion Post 1 (#51)- Club, and Villa Italia (#4005) – Restaurant/Eating Place (Spenard, Taku/Campbell and Eagle River Community Councils), Clerk’s Office.**
 2. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 966-2001, 2002/2003 Liquor License Renewals: **Mom & Pop’s Grocery & Liquor (#3219) – Package Store and Loyal Order of the Moose #1534 (#750) - Club (Spenard Community Council), Clerk’s Office.**
 3. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 967-2001, 2002/2003 Liquor License Renewal: **Avenue Bar (#1184) – Beverage Dispensary (Downtown Community Council), Clerk’s Office.**
 4. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 968-2001, 2002/2003 Liquor License Renewals: **Darwin’s Theory (#987), Ralf’s Sports Bar (#1811), The Setter (#561) – Beverage Dispensary; Anchorage Glacier Pilots (#1314) – Recreational Site; Shoppers Cache (#2535) – Package Store; VFW Post 1685 (#1841) – Club (Downtown, Mt. View, Fairview, Spenard and Chugiak Community Councils), Clerk’s Office.**
 5. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 969-2001, 2002/2003 Liquor License Renewals: **515 Club (#398) & Gaslight Lounge (#437) –Beverage Dispensary (Downtown Community Council), Clerk’s Office.**
 6. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 970-2001, 2002/2003 Liquor License Renewals: **AMF East 40 Bowl/Gold Room Lounge (#2289) – Beverage Dispensary (Northeast Community Council), Clerk’s Office.**
 7. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 971-2001, **Oaken Keg Spirit Shop #1810 (License No. 798) – Transfer of Ownership, Location and Name Change for a Package Store Liquor License (Abbott Loop Community Council), Clerk’s Office.**

Ms. Fairclough requested this item be considered on the Regular Agenda. See item 10.D.

8. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 954-2001, proprietary purchase with Siemens Building Technologies, Inc. for **maintenance and repair services for the automated heating systems** for the Municipality of Anchorage, Facility & Fleet Management (\$37,401), Purchasing.
9. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 955-2001, recommendation of award to Comtec Business Systems, Inc. (CBSI) for **telecommunications cabling** for the Municipality of Anchorage, Management Information Systems Department (\$53,503), Purchasing.
10. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 956-2001, change order No. 1 to purchase order 214227 with Robertson, Monagle & Eastaugh for **lobbying services** for the Municipality of Anchorage, Municipal Light and Power (\$20,000), Purchasing.
11. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 957-2001, proprietary services contract to Bond Logistix, LLC for providing **arbitrage consulting services** for the Municipality of Anchorage, Municipal Light and Power (\$40,000), Purchasing.
12. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 958-2001, recommendation of award to EES Consulting Inc. for providing **independent consulting engineering services** for the Municipality of Anchorage, Municipal Light and Power (RFP 21-P045) (\$350,000), Purchasing.
13. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 959-2001, proprietary purchase of **rubber speed humps** from Recycled Technology, Inc. for the Municipality of Anchorage, Traffic Department (\$83,314), and Purchasing.

Mr. Van Etten requested this item be considered on the Regular Agenda. See item 10.D.

14. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 960-2001, cooperative purchase for a **Caterpillar 160H motor grader** from NC Machinery for the Municipality of Anchorage, Solid Waste Services (\$173,270), Purchasing.
15. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 961-2001, proprietary purchase of **software license and maintenance/support** from Oracle Corporation for the Municipality of Anchorage, Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility (AWWU) (\$80,726.10), Purchasing.
16. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 962-2001, approval for municipal contracts with Catholic Social Services and Abused Women’s Aid in Crisis, Inc. for **homeless case management services** under the LINK Homeless Assistance Project (\$431,426), Health and Human Services.
17. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 963-2001, amendment No. 4 to the contract for professional services with CH2M Hill, Inc. for performing a **Disinfection**

Alternatives Evaluation Study for the Municipality of Anchorage, Water and Wastewater Utility, in the amount of \$17,000.

18. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 964-2001, recommendation of award to Lennertz Coyle & Associates LLC for providing consultant services to develop two town center plans for the Municipality of Anchorage, Planning Department (RFP 21-P041) (\$175,000), Purchasing.

Mr. Van Etten requested this item be considered on the Regular Agenda. See item 10.D.

19. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 976-2001, recommendation of award to various firms for providing architectural/engineering services for seven roadway, drainage, water quality, and structural projects as listed (Project A-100th Ave. Extension; Project D-Northwood Drive Upgrade-Spenard Rd. to International Airport Rd.; Project F-Campbell Creek at Minnesota Drive Water Quality Enhancements) for the Municipality of Anchorage, Office of Planning, Development, and Public Works/Project Management & Engineering (RFP 21-P021) (\$1,008,718), Purchasing.
20. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 982-2001, proprietary purchase with H&R Management, Inc. for miscellaneous repairs at City Hall for the Municipality of Anchorage, Heritage Land Bank/Real Estate Services Division (\$150,000), Purchasing.

Ms. Fairclough requested this item be considered on the Regular Agenda. See item 10.D.

21. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 984-2001, change order No. 1 to purchase order 212615 with Noodlum Equities for leased office space for the Muldoon/Alaska Job Center for the Municipality of Anchorage, Planning Department (\$127,500), Purchasing. (Addendum)

E. INFORMATION AND REPORTS

1. Information Memorandum No. AIM 119-2001, Health and Human Services Matching Grant process upcoming.
2. Information Memorandum No. AIM 120-2001, Internal Audit Report 2001-8 – Change Orders, Purchasing/Internal Audit.

F. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION

1. Ordinance No. AO 2001-165, an ordinance of the Municipality of Anchorage approving and adopting the 2002 Plan Year Anchorage Police and Fire Retirement System Operating Budget, Police and Fire Retirement System. P.H. 1-8-02.
- a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 795-2001.
2. Resolution No. AR 2001-340, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage appropriating \$1,003,214 as a grant to the State Categorical Grants Fund (231), Department of Health and Human Services, from the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services to fund Community Health Nursing Services, Health and Human Services. P.H. 12-18-01.
- a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 798-2001.
3. Resolution No. AR 2001-341, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska, accepting and appropriating a State of Alaska Drinking Water Fund loan offer increase in the amount of \$2,535,050 for financing a portion of the costs of Service Reservoir No. 6 project, Water and Wastewater Utility. P.H. 1-8-02.
- a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 945-2001.
4. Resolution No. AR 2001-354, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage appropriating \$240,000 of ~~Intra-Governmental Charge (IGC) Revenue~~ anticipated charges to grants to Areawide Fund (101) to provide funding for four projects (Overhaul Grant Financial and Program Reporting Practices and Procedures; Design and Develop a Grants Management Database System for Muniverse Accessible by Agencies and Departments to Manage Grants; Research and Reconcile Grants; Compliance with GASB 33) associated with improving municipal-wide grants management and reporting activities, Finance. P.H. 12-18-01.
- a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 977-2001.

Administration requested this item be considered on the Regular Agenda. See item 10.F.

5. Resolution No. AR 2001-355, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage appropriating \$55,000 of anticipated ~~IGC Revenue~~ charges to grants to the Finance Department (101) and \$275,000 as a contribution from various sources to the Information Technology Fund (608) for capital costs associated with implementing GASB 34, Finance. P.H. 12-18-01.
- a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 978-2001.

Ms. Fairclough requested this item be considered on the Regular Agenda. See item 10.F.

6. **Resolution No. AR 2001-359**, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage appropriating \$1,722,917 to the State Categorical Grants Fund (231) from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development for the **FY 2002/PY 2001 State Training and Employment Program (STEP)** within the Planning Department. P.H. 12-18-01. (addendum)
 - a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 983-2001.
7. **Resolution No. AR 2001-361**, a resolution appropriating \$450,000 from the Anchorage Metropolitan Police Service Area Fund Balance (151) and \$800,000 from the Areawide General Fund Balance (101) as a contribution to the Anchorage Metropolitan Police Department 2001 Operating Budget (151), for **police overtime, current employee and retirement medical costs, and contractual services**, Anchorage Police Department. P.H. 12-18-01. (addendum)
 - a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 996-2001.

Question was called on the motion to approve the remaining items on the consent agenda and it passed:

AYES: Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Fairclough, Kendall, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine, Clementson.

NAYS: None.

10. **REGULAR AGENDA:**

A. **RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION - PROCLAMATIONS AND RECOGNITIONS:**

1. **Resolution No. AR 2001-350**, a resolution of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly recognizing the 60th Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, and remembering and honoring the patriotic service performed by the heroic Pearl Harbor veterans, Assemblymembers Fairclough, Clementson, Kendall, Shamberg, Sullivan, Taylor, Tesche, Tremaine, Traini, Van Etten, and Von Gemmingen.

Ms. Fairclough moved, to approve AR 2001-350.
seconded by Mr. Van Etten,
and it passed without
objection,

Mr. Tesche read the resolution.

2. **Resolution No. AR 2001-351** a resolution of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly recognizing the 55th Anniversary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local Union 1547, Assemblymembers Fairclough, and Traini, Clementson, Kendall, Shamberg, Sullivan, Taylor, Tesche, Tremaine, Van Etten, and Von Gemmingen.

Ms. Fairclough moved, to approve AR 2001-351.
seconded by Mr. Tesche,
and it passed without
objection,

Mr. Tesche read the resolution.

Ms. Fairclough personally thanked the IBEW. When her son was in the second grade at Homestead Elementary School, the IBEW came together and made it possible for them to wire most of the Anchorage area schools with union workers to insure that they were up to code.

In response to Ms. Fairclough, Dan Repasky said November 28, 2001 was the 110th anniversary of the union on an international basis and the Governor was kind enough to issue a proclamation in that order. The IBEW was pleased to be able to offer its services to the community. He thanked the Assembly and said the IBEW was proud of the fact that they were being recognized.

B. **RESOLUTIONS FOR ACTION - OTHER:**

1. **Resolution No. AR 2001-342**, a resolution adopting the **2002 Legislative Program** for the Municipality of Anchorage, Office of Management and Budget.
 - b. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 985-2001.

Ms. Fairclough moved, to approve AR 2001-342.
seconded by Mr. Trenches,

In response to Ms. Fairclough, Chairman Traini said this issue would be taken up later in the meeting at 10:00 o'clock and there were no objections.

2. **Resolution No. AR 2001-349**, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage appropriating the \$12,500 donated by Phillips Alaska, Inc. to the Miscellaneous

Operational Grants Fund (261), Cultural and Recreational Services Department for the purpose of supporting the **Westchester Lagoon Saturday Family Skate**, Cultural and Recreational Services.

b. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 950-2001.

Mr. Sullivan moved,
seconded by Mr. Kendall,

to approve AR 2001-349.

Mr. Sullivan noted that this program was in its second year and has been extremely successful for Anchorage's winter recreation. He thanked Phillips Alaska for their support and Mr. Posey for initially approaching them about this idea. It was his understanding that Phillips Alaska was going to expand their work in this area and it would be part of their continuing effort to support community projects.

In response to Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Posey said it was his understanding that they would be skating at Westchester Lagoon starting this weekend and they would hold a kick-off party on Saturday.

Mr. Van Etten thanked the Parks Department and Phillips Alaska for a great partnership that was very beneficial to the community. He talked with a representative from Phillips Alaska this morning and he said they were happy and enthusiastic about this program.

Mr. Tesche thanked the Parks Department and Phillips Alaska for their support of this program. He noted that the Street Maintenance Division was also a municipal partner in the program by preparing the ice and the facility for this event. He thanked the Street Maintenance Division for their work.

Question was called on the motion to approve AR 2001-349 and it passed without objections.

3. **Resolution No. AR 2001-356**, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage appropriating \$85,263 of proceeds received from the Golf Course Surcharge Revenue to the Areawide Capital Improvement Fund (401) for the **2001 payment of the golf course loan**, Cultural and Recreational Services.
 - a. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 979-2001.

Mr. Tremaine moved,
seconded by Mr. Tesche,

to approve AR 2001-356.

Mr. Tremaine noted that about 28,421 18-hole rounds had been played this year on the golf course at \$3.00 per round.

In response to Mr. Tremaine, Cultural and Recreational Services Director Jim Posey said it was his understanding that this was the entire payment. The remaining balance was \$408,690 and after this appropriation it would be \$345,690.

Question was called on the motion to approve AR 2001-356 and it passed without objections.

4. **Resolution No. AR 2001-357**, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage revising AR No. 98-28 **eliminating the site condition from the YMCA's CDBG grant**, Planning Department.
 - b. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 980-2001.

Ms. Clementson moved,
seconded by Ms. Fairclough,

to approve AR 2001-357.

In response to Ms. Clementson, Planning Department Director Sue Fison said she believed that the HAND Commission had approved this, but she could find out and let Ms. Clementson know for sure.

Ms. Clementson said advisory boards and commissions were supposed to advise the Assembly and forward their recommendations and resolutions to the Assembly. She felt they should have a copy of their recommendations for the record.

Ms. Clementson moved,
seconded by Ms. Taylor,
and it passed without
objections,

to delay the action on item
until later in the meeting at 9:50 p.m.
to allow Ms. Fison time to get an answer to
her question.

5. **Resolution No. AR 2001-358**, a resolution of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly directing the Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility to seek approval of the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) to amend the Utility's tariffs to allow a one-time, special balloting and assessment procedure for the proposed Scimitar Water Improvement District, Harold Loop Water Improvement District and Sewer Later Improvement District, and Monastery Darby Water Improvement District and Sewer Lateral Improvement District, Assemblymember Fairclough.

Ms. Clementson moved, to approve AR 2001-358.
seconded by Ms. Fairclough,

In response to Ms. Clementson, Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility General Manager Mark Premo said they supported the methodology of using exceptions on a case-by-case basis rather than changing their tariff in total. This was the result of a long and involved public process held in the northern communities where they had approximately \$6,800,000 in federal and ratepayer matching funds to construct \$10,000,000 of projects. They felt this was a good methodology to prioritize where to spend the money and which local communities and areas desired improvement districts. In March or April of 2002 when the process was over, they would report back to the Assembly on the process and hold another round of public hearings in the northern communities to define where the \$6,800,000 would be spent.

Mr. Kendall said he owned two parcels within one of the assessment districts.

Chairman Traini ruled that Mr. Kendall had a conflict of interest and directed him not to vote

Ms. Fairclough pointed out that this was addressed at several meetings and people inside the boundaries had signed a petition asking her and Mr. Kendall to bring this forward.

Mr. Tremaine said typically when water improvements were put in, the property owners paid by the square footage of the frontage of their property. This was a request to go on a one-share per lot basis. He was happy that the utility was willing to accept this and put it forward on a case-by-case basis. He felt that type of latitude and flexibility was very good and he thanked AWWU.

Ms. Von Gemmingen suggested deleting the word "and" after the word "established" in the first whereas.

They were using the word "established" to mean a "long-standing" practice and he felt the wording was correct.

In response to Mayor Wuerch, the word "established" was an adjective and not a verb. He felt the wording was acceptable.

In response to Ms. Fairclough, on line 36 of section 1, the word "accept" meant to "set aside" and that would be the correct wording.

In response to Ms. Clementson, Mr. Premo said they did not know the range of the value between the proposed "one lot, one vote" methodology versus the traditional pro rata share. They have not done a preliminary assessment roll. Assuming this was approved and they were directed to move forward to the RCA, they would be notifying the property owners and the RCA would conduct their own review of the matter, which might or might not include a public process based upon their desires. They would have a preliminary roll developed, but they could provide an alternative roll to the Assembly if they desired. They were proposing to use the recommended path of "one lot, one vote".

In response to Ms. Clementson, Ms. Von Gemmingen said AWWU held a meeting at Chugiak High School. Over 50 people attended the meeting to talk about water service and sewer hook-ups. The neighborhood was aware and supports trying to configure a price so they could vote on this. The RCA process would take three to six months to get a variance to be able to ballot in this form. They have been discussing this process for close to a year with all the community councils in the area. Part of the offset on this project was that they received some federal money from Senator Stevens to help supplement some of these projects.

In response to Ms. Clementson, Mr. Premo said the federal funds would not be used in the improvement district itself, but in the backbone infrastructure. It would not only affect these locations, but the entire area, which needed more backbone infrastructure. This would reduce their assessment only in the fact that there would be an extension in the backbone infrastructure, which does not currently exist.

Question was called on the motion to approve AR 2001-358 and it passed without objection.

C. BID AWARDS: None.

D. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 971-2001, Oaken Keg Spirit Shop #1810 (License No. 798) – Transfer of Ownership, Location and Name Change for a Package Store Liquor License (Abbott Loop Community Council), Clerk's Office.

Ms. Fairclough moved,
seconded by Ms. Von Gemmingen,
and it passed without
objection,

to take up AM 971-2001 with
with item 14.M, AR 2001-344
later in the meeting.

2. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 959-2001, proprietary purchase of rubber speed humps from Recycled Technology, Inc. for the Municipality of Anchorage, Traffic Department (\$83,314), Purchasing.

Mr. Van Etten moved, to approve AM 959-2001.
seconded by Ms. Fairclough,

In response to Mr. Van Etten, Lance Wilber of Community Planning and Development displayed a picture of the speed humps. The Speed Hump Program was started in 1999. They received funding for 15 speed humps from the Assembly, as well as additional funding from the Legislature. They currently have 15 speed humps and that will increase to 30 speed humps with the additional funding. The program is a volunteer effort. We seek nominations from members of the neighborhoods based on a petition. We create the petition form, but the neighborhood has to do the petition. The program has been very successful and has grown. In 1999 we had six speed humps, last year we had 15 speed humps and requests for an additional 20. Any questions on the program can be directed to our office at 343-8406.

Question was called on the motion to approve AM 959-2001 and it passed without objection.

3. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 964-2001, recommendation of award to Lennertz Coyle & Associates LLC for providing consultant services to develop two town center plans for the Municipality of Anchorage, Planning Department (RFP 21-P041) (\$175,000), Purchasing.

Mr. Van Etten moved, to approve AM 964-2001.
seconded by Mr. Tremaine,

Mr. Van Etten said the Abbott Loop and Northway town centers were to be worked on by the Planning Department this year.

In response to Mr. Van Etten, Planning Department Director Sue Fison said the Northwood town center would be the week of the January 18, 2002 and would be a four-day design process. The Abbott Loop town center would be the week of March 18, 2002. There would be extensive public processes. The Planning Department has already provided maps of these areas in the request for proposal. They will be bringing in a team of people, but will also have local participation. All the stakeholders will be invited to participate, as well as community councils and neighborhoods. Everything that is done with this will be open to the public. There will also be a website that will contain all the information.

In response to Ms. Clementson, Ms. Fison said they had a team within the Municipality that was working on Muldoon town center plan. The school site selection was going to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the School Board this week. They are working very hard to insure that the vision becomes a reality. The design for the Muldoon town center plan was done by the private sector.

Chairman Traini asked Ms. Fison to send Ms. Clementson a memo outlining the time line for the Muldoon town center plan.

In response to Mr. Tremaine, Ms. Fison said the Glenn Highway major investment study would be discussed as part of this. The other thing that would be discussed was the acquisition of land by CIRI in the area. One of the key objectives of the Northway town center was providing better connections from Mt. View into the area. Their goal was to do one town center a year and they did not anticipate doing any more in 2002.

Ms. Von Gemmingen said there was concern on the west side regarding that plan and the Planning and Zoning Commission has recognized the need for that to go forward as soon as possible, which she and Mr. Sullivan would be sponsoring.

In response to Ms. Von Gemmingen, Ms. Fison said they anticipated spending some of their contract money on the west side plan. They have verbal suggestions from the airport, but nothing in writing that they would help participate in the funding of that plan with an understanding that it would be an independent study. They intend to use some of their 2002 contract money for the west side plan. She did not know if it would be finished in 2002, but it would be started in 2002.

Question was called on the motion to approve AM 964-2001 and it passed without objection.

4. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 982-2001, proprietary purchase with H&R Management, Inc. for miscellaneous repairs at City Hall for the Municipality of Anchorage, Heritage Land Bank/Real Estate Services Division (\$150,000), Purchasing.

Ms. Fairclough moved, to approve AM 982-2001.
seconded by Ms. Taylor,
and it passed without
objection.

E. INFORMATION AND REPORTS: None.

F. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION:

1. Resolution No. AR 2001-354, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage appropriating \$240,000 of ~~Intra-Governmental Charge (IGC) Revenue~~ anticipated charges to grants to Areawide Fund (101) to provide funding for four projects (Overhaul Grant Financial and Program Reporting Practices and Procedures; Design and Develop a Grants Management Database System for Muniverse Accessible by Agencies and Departments to Manage Grants; Research and Reconcile Grants; Compliance with GASB 33) associated with improving municipal-wide grants management and reporting activities, Finance. P.H. 12-18-01.
 - b. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 977-2001.

Ms. Fairclough moved, to approve AR 2001-354.
seconded by Ms. Von Gemmingen,

Chief Fiscal Officer Kate Giard said the title should be changed from “of Intra Governmental Charge (IGC) Revenue” to “anticipated charges to grants.”

Ms Fairclough, Mr. Van Etten and Mr. Kendall joined in introducing AR 2001-354 with the amended title. The public hearing was scheduled for December 18, 2001.

2. Resolution No. AR 2001-355, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage appropriating \$55,000 of anticipated ~~IGC Revenue~~ charges to grants to the Finance Department (101) and \$275,000 as a contribution from various sources to the Information Technology Fund (608) for capital costs associated with implementing GASB 34, Finance. P.H. 12-18-01.
 - b. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 978-2001.

Ms. Fairclough, Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Kendall joined in introducing AR 2001-355. The public hearing was scheduled for December 18, 2001.

Ms. Fairclough questioned if they had submitted a letter of protest to the Board on this issue. Her concern was that they were in a budget crunch. She questioned what would happen if they started pushing money over into a depreciation account as was being requested. She thought they were creating a reserve account to stabilize their bond rating. She wondered if they had tried to meet those conditions or if they felt comfortable that current municipal services would not be negatively impacted in 2002 as they implement this and start depreciating roads for replacement values as well as other capital expenditures that the Municipality owns.

In response to Ms. Fairclough, Ms. Giard said there were two ways to manage infrastructure under GASB 34. You could come up with a depreciation methodology and take the depreciation expense into your PNL, which comes through and reflects in the fund balance. The other way was to go through a program where you identify the method and manner by which you are going to keep the roads at a specific agreed upon service level. The roads would be graded and then we would determine at what level we would maintain that particular road. Every three years the Municipality does an estimate and determines if the roads were maintained at that level. She felt that would be the best way for the Municipality to go forward. As we get further into GASB 34, we may decide to go to the depreciation method. It would seem more logical to use the alternative method, because of the amount of infrastructure improvements that we do on an ongoing basis. We would implement it effective 2002 and beyond.

Chairman Traini asked any Assemblymembers who had questions to send them to Ms. Giard in writing.

Ms. Shamberg, moved, to change the title of AR 2001-355
seconded by Mr. Tesche, from “IGC Revenue” to “anticipated
thirded by Mr. Kendall, charges to grants.”
and it passed without
objection,

11. **OLD BUSINESS AND UNFINISHED ACTION ON PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS:**
 - A. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 936-2001, amendment No. 1 to contract with Resource Data, Inc. for professional services for software application support for AWWU (\$350,000), Water and Wastewater Utility.
(POSTPONED FROM 11-20-01)

Chairman Traini gave the history of AM 936-2001 and noted no motion was on the floor.

Mr. Tremaine moved, to approve AM 936-2001.
seconded by Ms. Von Gemmingen,

Mr. Tremaine said there was, or would be, attached a different cost benefit analysis.

Question was called on the motion to approve AM 936-2001 and it passed:

AYES: Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Fairclough, Kendall, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine, Clementson, Sullivan.

NAYS: None.

- B. Ordinance No. AO 2001-145(S-1) As Amended, an omnibus ordinance amending Anchorage Municipal Code and Anchorage Municipal Code of Regulations to modify existing, and include additional, fees, fines and penalties, Office of Management and Budget.
(AMENDED AND APPROVED 11-13-01 EXCEPT FOR BIFURCATED SECTIONS 15 & 16; RECONSIDERED AND POSTPONED FROM 11-20-01)

Chairman Traini gave the history of AO 2001-145 (S-1) and noted this was amended and approved on November 13, 2001 except for bifurcating sections 15 and 16; reconsidered and postponed from November 20, 2001.

Mr. Tesche moved, to approve AO 2001-145 (S-1)

Ms. Fairclough moved, a substitute motion to postpone until later in the evening at 10:30 p.m.

Mayor Wuerch said they intended to move to table indefinitely the one pertaining to the fire fee.

Ms. Fairclough withdrew her motion to substitute motion to postpone.

Ms. Fairclough moved, to approve AO 2001-145 (S-1).
seconded by Ms. Von Gemmingen,

Question was called on the motion to approve AO 2001-145 (S-1) as amended and it passed:

AYES: Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Fairclough, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine, Clementson, Sullivan, Von Gemmingen.

NAYS: Kendall.

Question was called on the motion to table indefinitely section 16 of AO 2001-145 (S-1) and it passed without objection.

Ms. Clementson moved, immediate reconsideration of tabling indefinitely section 16 of AO 2001-145 (S-1).
seconded by Ms. Shamberg,

Ms. Clementson urged a no vote.

Question was called on the motion for immediate reconsideration of AO 2001-145 (S-1), section 16 and it failed:

AYES: None.

NAYS: Van Etten, Traini, Fairclough, Kendall, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine, Clementson, Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Taylor.

Chairman Traini distributed a memo dealing with the ambulance fees. He read page 30, line 46 as amended.

Mr. Sullivan moved, to approve the amendment to AR 2001-145 (S-1), section 15, as read.
seconded by Mr. Tesche,

Chairman Traini accepted Mr. Tremaine's friendly amendment to change the first line to January 1, 2002.

Question was called on the motion to amend AR 2001-145 (S-1), section 15, as read and it passed:

AYES: Kendall, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine, Clementson, Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini.

NAYS: Fairclough.

12. APPEARANCE REQUESTS (SHALL BEGIN NO EARLIER THAN 6:00 P.M. AND NO LATER THAN 7:00 P.M.):

- A. Nancy Harbour, President-Alaska Center for the Performing Arts: Announcement of status of Voth Rehearsal Hall funding.

NANCY HARBOUR introduced Robert Klein, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts. In September of 2000 the Assembly worked to develop the priority list of the Capitol Matching Grant Program and moved the rehearsal hall completion up the priority list. Many Assemblymembers set aside personal priorities so that the project could go up the list within the funding

process. Through the Legislative process and work by Tim Rogers and the Performing Art Center's constituents it ended up being approved and funded at the level of \$525,000, which was 70 percent of the cost of completing the project. Former Assemblymember Charles Wohlforth encouraged us to find the 30 percent project match in the private sector. We were invited to apply for the 30 percent match through the Rasmusson Foundation. We learned last week that we have received the full 30 percent match. We will receive a grant of \$225,000 to match the Legislative appropriation to finish the rehearsal hall. She thanked the Assembly for their support.

Robert Klein said the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts, Inc. was a private non-profit corporation that existed solely for the purpose of running the center for the city. Their unique position allowed them to help lobby the state to get that portion of the funding, as well as allowing them as a non-profit to go before the Rasmusson Foundation for the additional funding. He thanked the Assembly for putting them on the Capitol Projects. He thanked the State for granting the funding. He thanked the Board and the staff of the Rasmusson Foundation for their incredible generosity.

13. CONTINUED PUBLIC HEARINGS (SHALL BEGIN NO EARLIER THAN 6:00 P.M. AND NO LATER THAN 7:00 P.M.)

- A. Resolution No. AR 2001-330, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage authorizing up to \$2,200,000 as a loan from the Areawide General Fund (101) General Cash Pool to the Anchorage Senior Center for the Anchorage Senior Center Expansion Project; approximately \$2,200,000 of loan proceeds to the Areawide Capital Improvement Fund (401), Project Management and Engineering Department, to construct the expansion project; and re-appropriating \$348,500 from the 2001 General Government Operating Budget of the Department of Health and Human Services, Fund 101, as a contribution to the Areawide Capital Improvement Fund (401), Project Management and Engineering Department, to provide the first repayment of the expansion loan, Project Management and Engineering.

1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 921-2001.
(CONTINUED FROM 11-20-01)

Chairman Traini opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak. There was no one, and he closed the public hearing.

Mr. Sullivan moved,
seconded by Ms. Shamborg,

to approve AR 2001-330.

Mr. Sullivan urged approval of AR 2001-330. He pointed out that the Senior Center was a Municipal facility in need of expansion. He felt the loan methodology was a good way to get the expansion done. The Senior Center and their management have proven themselves as extremely capable. The people who participate in those programs and use the facilities are delighted by what has happened over the last decade and we need to continue that success story.

In response to Mr. Tremaine, Mr. Holtan said this would not be expenditure from the fund balance, but a loan within the general cash pool. It would not affect bond ratings or the fund balance. Any time the Municipality has an extensive amount of money from task collections, much of that money has already been appropriated and waiting to be spent. In this case, all the different funds of the Municipality have money in the general cash pool and they loan it as needed within the Municipality. We never go to zero cash in the Municipality between tax periods. This would not affect the fund balance and it had nothing to do with building our fund balance for bond rating purposes. It was simply a loan. The Municipality will start projects without doing the bonds and we loan money to projects that have been approved by the taxpayers. We had not considered getting an outside loan. If we were to do that, it would cost additional interest, but it would not generate anything for the Municipality. They need the full appropriation to begin the project, because of the project size.

In response to Mr. Tremaine, Mr. Holtan said it would be less than \$800,000 maximum cash drawn from the general cash pool.

Question was called on the motion to approve AR 2001-330 and it passed:

AYES: Tesche, Shamborg, Tremaine, Clementson, Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Fairclough.
NAYS: None.

(Clerk's Note: Mr. Kendall was out of the room at the time of the vote.)

Mr. Tesche moved,
seconded by Ms. Fairclough,
and it passed without
objection,

to change the order of the day to
address item 14.G, AR 2001-335.

Resolution No. AR 2001-335, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage appropriating \$2,134,325 from the fund balances of the four major operating funds to cover the costs associated with debt service on the March 2001 Tax Anticipation Notes, Finance.

1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 930-2001.

Chairman Traini opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak. There was no one, and he closed the public hearing.

Ms. Von Gemmingen moved, to approve AR 2001-335.
seconded by Mr. Tremaine,

Mr. Price said there were changes to be made to AR 2001-335. Line 9 should be changed from \$1,877,335 to \$1,577,335.

Mr. Tesche moved, to amend AR 2001-335, line 9, from
seconded by Ms. Fairclough, \$1,877,335 to \$1,577,335.
and it passed without
objection,

Mr. Price said line 14 should be changed from \$98,179 to \$83,987.

Mr. Tesche moved, to amend AR 2001-335, line 14, from
seconded by Ms. Von Gemmingen, \$98,179 to \$83,987.
and it passed without
objection,

Mr. Price said line 17 should be changed from \$160,075 to \$136,921.

Mr. Tesche moved, to amend AR 2001-335, line 17, from
seconded by Ms. Von Gemmingen, \$160,075 to \$136,921.
and it passed without
objection,

Mr. Price said line 18 should be changed from Fund 131 to Fund 141.

Mr. Tesche moved, to amend AR 2001-335, line 18, from
seconded by Ms. Von Gemmingen, Fund 131 to Fund 141.
and it passed without
objection,

Mr. Price said line 21 should be changed from \$32,016 to \$27,383.

Mr. Tesche moved, to amend AR 2001-335, line 21, from
seconded by Ms. Von Gemmingen, \$32,016 to \$27,383.
and it passed without
objection,

Mr. Price said line 22 should be changed from Fund 131 to Fund 151.

Mr. Tesche moved, to amend AR 2001-335, line 22, from
seconded by Ms. Von Gemmingen, Fund 131 to Fund 151.
and it passed without
objection,

Mr. Price said line 38 should be changed from \$1,844,055 to \$1,577,335.

Mr. Tesche moved, to amend AR 2001-335, line 38, from
seconded by Ms. Von Gemmingen, \$1,844,055 to \$1,577,335.
and it passed without
objection,

Mr. Price said line 39 should be changed from \$98,000 to \$83,987. Line 40 should be changed from \$160,000 to \$136,921. Line 41 should be changed from \$32,000 to \$27,383.

Mr. Tesche moved, to amend AR 2001-335, lines 39, from
seconded by Ms. Von Gemmingen, \$98,000 to \$83,987; line 40 from
and it passed without \$160,000 to \$136,921 and line 41
objection, from \$32,000 to \$27,383.

Ms. Clementson said next time it would be nice to introduce an S version of the resolution instead of making all the changes, because they were dealing with large sums of money.

Question was called on the motion to approve AR 2001-335 as amended and it passed:

AYES: Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine, Clementson, Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten,
Traini, Fairclough, Kendall.

NAYS: None.

The meeting recessed at 6:41 p.m. and reconvened at 7:05 p.m.

Ms. Fairclough moved,
seconded by Mr. Tremaine,
and it passed without
objection,

to change the order of the day to address
AR 2001-278.

Resolution No. AR 2001-278, a resolution of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly approving withdrawal from the Heritage Land Bank of land located in the NW 1/4 of Section 25 of T15 N, R2W, S.M., Alaska to permit management thereof by the Department of Cultural and Recreational Services, Assemblymember Fairclough.

1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 986-2001.

Chairman Traini opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak.

JANET BRAND said she was Chair of the Chugiak/Eagle River Board of Supervisors. She spoke in favor of AR 2001-278. She read the Chugiak/Eagle River Board of Supervisors' motion. Their Board unanimously requests that the Heritage Land Bank transfer the management authority of the northwest quarter of section 25 to Cultural and Recreational Services, Eagle River Parks and Recreational Division. The Board also requests that the transfer language indicate the agreement of the Cultural and Recreational Services and HLB to work cooperatively in addressing community issues and property management. Beach Lake Park and section 25 are one of the most heavily used recreational areas in Chugiak/Eagle River. Parks and Recreation feels that the highest and best use of section 25 was for parks and recreational facilities. They have hosted events such as the Arctic Winter Games in section 25 and they would be able to expand the ski trail facility in order to be able to hold higher caliber international and national ski events. The increased residential development and population growth in their area increases demands on present facilities and creates demands for new facilities of which this can fill that void. The relocation of the trailhead would eliminate conflicts with the high school as far as parking and would increase use of trails and the other facilities by allowing day use. Chugiak/Eagle River Parks and Recreation has a long history of dealing with different groups, both public and private, and coming to terms on how to best develop the Eagle River facilities. The community should be able to determine how and when to develop those facilities. They have already voted to tax themselves to build recreational facilities in this area and they should be able to voice their opinion on how that proceeds.

DENNIS CORRAL said he was representing the Eagle River Nordic Ski Club as past president and current board advisor. The Eagle River Ski Club considers the most beneficial use of the northwest quarter of section 25 would be to add the entire area to the adjacent Beach Lake Park. Every year more skiers are using the Beach Lake trails. Trail use by runners, walkers and bikers has increased in the summertime from 50 to over 120 as evidenced by the increase in the Junior Nordic Program. As the population grows and more land is developed, the remaining small areas of parkland become increasingly valuable. This land would provide space for approximately 7 kilometers of additional ski trails, a 40 percent increase over the present 18-kilometer trail system. In addition to more space for more skiers, section 25 parcels also provide other features that are limited on the existing ski trail system. The Beach Lake Nordic ski trail system is located adjacent to the northwest quarter of section 25. It is dominated by hills, but do not meet the needs of two types of skiers at opposite ends of the spectrum and ski levels. The hills are not challenging enough for the elite cross-country skiers and are too daunting for the beginners. The northwest quarter of section 25 can meet the needs of both groups of skiers. The southeast corner of the parcel has a major hill that can meet the standards of the International Ski Federation for national and international ski races. In addition, there is a large expanse of flat to relatively easy terrain ideal for beginners and intermediate cross-country skiers. This land overlies gravel planned by the state for future extraction, however ski trails and gravel extractions are not necessarily incompatible, especially if no extractions are done in the wintertime. After gravel extraction is complete, the state has a history of replanting and recontouring gravel sites as evidenced by Kincaid Park. He urged the Assembly to transfer all of the northwest quarter of section 25 to the Eagle River Parks and Recreation management as a regional park.

KIM RICE said she was representing the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. She was their chief right-of-way agent for this region. She gave a brief history. In 1966 the Department of Natural Resources issued a gravel extraction permit to the Department of Transportation, which was an open-ended free use permit. In 1968 this land was transferred to the Municipality for their management, however that transfer was subject to the gravel extraction permit. The preambles on this resolution recognize that. Over the past year they have been working with the Planning Department and other agencies and there has been a question as to whether they had a right to extract gravel. The conclusion of the attorney's opinions was if the Municipality did not recognize the department's right to extract material from the 114-acre site, it might adversely impact the highway projects in the area that the Department of Transportation was currently planning. Such action by the Municipality may also constitute an inverse taking of property interest owned by the state for which the Municipality would have to pay us compensation. The Department of Transportation would like to amicably resolve the conflicts related to their use of the material site. Just as the Municipality must recognize the Department of Transportation's long-term need for this source, the state recognizes the legitimate planning interests of the Municipality and the increasing urbanization of the area. If the Municipality were willing to negotiate an agreement with the Department of Transportation, the state would make a good faith effort to achieve resolution. Negotiation of agreement implies the willingness by both sides to compromise. Both the Department of Transportation and the Municipality exist to serve the public. This is a matter best resolved by the parties between themselves. She felt this was a good resolution. At the end of the resolution there was a preamble acknowledging their gravel extraction, but the resolution itself does not recognize it. She requested that the resolution recognize their existing rights. She would like the Assembly to make a statement encouraging the administration and the State of

Alaska, DOT/PF, to work cooperatively to develop a land use and mineral extraction plan that was to the mutual benefits and meets the needs of both parties. She said as a skier, it was very possible to allow both skiing and mineral extraction on this site.

In response to Mr. Tesche, Ms. Rice said she was suggesting an amendment to the resolution. If the resolution acknowledges the gravel extraction, the passage would not affect the state's rights of resource extraction. She felt it was necessary to reference the mineral rights in terms of what their federal regulations require for them, as well as answering any open-ended questions as to the Assembly's intent. The Department of Transportation believes they have the long-term legal right to take the gravel, however a section of the federal regulations acknowledges the fact that if you have a park then you cannot convert its use for transportation purposes. Someone could believe that when the Assembly switched it to a park, they negated the Department of Transportation's ability to use the gravel extraction for transportation purposes.

Mr. Tesche said the resolution suggested that the land would only be used for interim park purposes and further studies would take place on a number of issues, such as rights-of-ways, a school site reserve and gravel extractions.

In response to Mr. Tesche, Ms. Rice said gravel was not being extracted from the site at this time, but it was their long-term plan to extract gravel. Their old gravel extraction site was the current landfill. Currently they are bringing gravel in from the Valley. They would like to reserve the right to open up a gravel pit on this property. She did not know if the state would be willing to obtain a conditional use permit from the Planning and Zoning Commission for the gravel pit.

In response to Ms. Clementson, Ms. Rice said the gravel extraction permit was for the entire section.

HEATHER ALT said she was a past member of the Chugiak/Eagle River Parks and Recreation Board. This issue had come up many times. She agreed with Mr. Brand and Mr. Corral. If the Department of Transportation had not used the gravel extraction permits since they were granted in 1966, it would appear that they did not have a great need for the gravel. The development of ski trails would not preclude the use of the gravel extraction permit. She asked the Assembly to support the resolution.

Chairman Traini asked if anyone else wished to speak. There was no one, and he closed the public hearing.

Ms. Fairclough moved,
seconded by Mr. Tesche,

to approve AR 2001-278.

Ms. Fairclough provided a set of documents from the public hearing that was conducted at the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Heritage Land Bank. The administration was not accepting this as a recommendation. She provided the information to the Assembly only as reference material in case someone who testified referenced it. In no way was this to be misconstrued that the documents were being accepted tonight with this ordinance. They are encouraging the Municipality and the State Department of Public Facilities and Transportation to work with gravel extraction on this lot. Some of the problems that the administration would like to work out with the Department of Transportation were restoration of the site and the size of the footprint. The State believes they have the right to extract on the entire parcel, but the City may not agree. A phasing of the extractions could be discussed. In the AMATS process, the State came forward with an actual dollar calculation on gravel that could be used in the Chugiak/Eagle River area for the improvement on the Eagle River Loop Road, as well as the project for the Old Glenn Highway renovation. She encouraged the administration to negotiate an agreement. Moving this into Cultural and Recreation only helps to insure that the park is protected and that the restoration plans, as well as the phasing and the gravel extraction, cohabitant cohesively with the community. There are recommendations from the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Heritage Land Bank in the document. The community has been waiting 20 years to hear a recommendation from the Anchorage Assembly and the administration. This is a first step in stating the intention of the administration to eventually move this into a parkland dedication status. She did not feel they needed to modify the resolution, because she did not want to preclude any rights the Municipality may want to negotiate. She read into the record and recognized that she encouraged the Municipality of Anchorage to work diligently to serve the public's interests best, which was the interest of the State as well as the interest of the Municipality. If there was any problem with that, she would be happy to sit down at the table to help solve that problem. She urged a yes vote.

Ms. Clementson said the Planning Department was in the middle of this study and it has not been concluded. Line 27 acknowledges that the study was a draft and it was premature to adopt or approve the study at this time. However, we feel that it is appropriate to withdraw a portion of what the Planning Department was studying and transfer it to another department. We do not have a copy of the plans before us to read and everything is taken out of context. She felt they needed to take this just like they would take any other land use plan and have a plan from the Planning Department in front of them and take it all at one time rather than piece-mealing it out. This resolution is the only thing that we have to go on as to what the Planning Department has said may be needed here. We are talking about gravel extraction and a potential school site. She felt it was very ill advised to take this up before the process was complete.

Ms. Fairclough said the citizens of Chugiak/Eagle River did not think that 20 years was rushing it. They have not precluded any rights. They distributed documents, but since Ms. Clementson was attending the meeting via telephone she had not seen them. She and the Mayor have discussed this. She wanted to bring forward the land use study and recommendations for the Assembly and this was a compromise. They were not bringing it forward and taking extensive public testimony on this issue. There are people at the meeting from the Chugiak/Eagle River area who are not testifying on this matter so that the Assembly could

designate Cultural and Recreation as the leader in negotiating the settlement. The administration, the Heritage Land Bank and the Planning and Zoning Commission are in concurrence with the recommendations. This was not out of context. It is recognized that there is a site designation in there for a school site, conceptual right-of-way and the gravel extraction in the document. The administration feels like we cannot go forward with accepting and formally adopting the study, because they need to sit down with the State and they want the Cultural and Recreation Department to be the leaders in that discussion.

Ms. Clementson said she had talked to the Planning Department about where they were in this study and concern had been expressed to her that they were taking this one piece at a time. When the parcel of land that had Yosemite Drive on it was developed, the Municipality attempted to piecemeal that and the Assembly stopped that and said they needed to have an overall land use plan from the Planning Department because it was a large parcel. We did not take any actions until they finished that land use plan. She felt this was a similar situation. This is a large parcel and the Planning Department needed to finish their work. She pointed out that the document was supplied to the Assembly at 5:00 o'clock and the Assemblymembers had not had the opportunity to read it. Either we believe in a good planning process and we endorse it or we think that we know better than the Planning Department.

Mr. Tesche said he was concerned that this had come up with a number of undecided issues. The land use study that they had been given had not been approved at a policy level by any group within the Municipality.

In response to Mr. Tesche, Ms. Fairclough said this had been formally adopted by those groups. The administration was choosing not to go forward with the Assembly adopting this, because they did not want to preclude any rights to gravel or any other extractions. The Heritage Land Bank contracted with the Planning Department. The document has been passed by both the Heritage Land Bank and the Planning and Zoning Commission with public hearings and public notice. The administration, as the contractor for the study, was asking the Assembly to designate this as a park, but there are some remedial aspects that needed to be worked out. In good faith they wanted to go forward and let the community know that they understood that this had been in limbo for 20 years and that there was a previous land use study that never came forward to the Assembly for adoption. They are trying to support Ms. Fairclough in a goodwill effort to say they understand there are great expectations here and their intention was to turn it into a park. There was not another similar use of the majority of this property, with the gravel extraction rights that exist. This document has not recommended residential development. It has been recommended as different kinds of parks with an allocation for a road right-of-way and a nine-acre school site. Those things all needed to be talked about, but the study could not be completed for another six months to a year as they work through the process with the state.

In response to Mr. Tesche, Ms. Fairclough said the point was to encourage the resolution. With the transfer and the dedication, it was her understanding that they would be providing gravel in a phased manner. This was a tool to help implement the process at the state level so they would have something to discuss and they would know that they were moving towards a resolution. She did not feel they needed an amendment to the resolution to address the gravel extraction. She felt that was a very good move on the state's part to do that. She did not want to preclude any of the Municipality's rights. If they recognized the state's gravel rights within the document then they would not have a legal position to fight for what the Municipality may consider to be their rights in the process. The Municipality may have a different view than the State as to what extent those rights exist. This was not a formal dedication of this area as parkland. It was a gauge to show the community the direction that the Municipality was moving.

In response to Mr. Tesche, Municipal Manager Harry Kieling said the report was a draft and had not been formally submitted by the Mayor. The administration supports the resolution, because it incorporates the thoughts of both the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Heritage Land Bank. He did not feel an amendment to the resolution was necessary. The idea was covered in the resolution and we would work together with the State on the best possible solution for the general public's good.

Mr. Tesche said he has had some experience with gravel pits and he recommended that the city take a strong position in those negotiations and that the provisions of the Municipal Code in Title 21 be respected by the State. He suggested that any gravel or resource extraction operations be done under a permitted process through the Planning and Zoning Commission, as any other private developer would have to do. He felt that would be the best protection that could be given to the public in this regard. He felt a responsible developer, including the State, would agree with that position.

In response to Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Fairclough said neither of the sections that spoke to conservation subdivisions had been supported by the Heritage Land Bank or the Planning and Zoning Commission. They have a recommendation from the Heritage Land Bank and the Planning and Zoning Commission consistent with non-residential development, because of the phasing on the gravel extraction and the time frame of that extraction, which would be a 50 to 60 year process due to the amount of gravel in the basin.

Ms. Fairclough said it was the administration's idea not to bring the draft report forward. She wanted to put the draft report in the packet on Friday, but the administration felt like this was a resolution and not an ordinance. It was not a designation of parkland. They felt the resolution was consistent and could be passed without the document. She was not opposed to delaying the issue for one week to allow the Assemblymembers to read the draft document. The community has been waiting for 20 years on this issue and this was the first time they had the administration's support. It would be non-binding in any manner and would allow them to go to the table right away with the Department of Transportation with a resolution so they could start solving the problem.

Mr. Sullivan moved,
seconded by Ms. Fairclough,
and it passed without
objection,

to postpone AR 2001-278 until
December 18, 2001.

- B. Ordinance No. AO 2001-174, an ordinance amending the **Updated Far North Bicentennial Park Master Plan** to allow development of active recreation sports fields at the designed community park site located in the southwest corner of Far North Bicentennial Park, Project Management and Engineering Department.
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 874-2001.
- (CONTINUED FROM 11-20-01)

Chairman Traini opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak.

CURTIS KEMP said he was 12 years old. He has been playing for the Simonian Little League for four years. He would like the Simonian Little League to have ball fields in Bicentennial Park. He felt that Bicentennial Park should be for everyone and not just a few.

GEORGE WINTER said he was 11 years old. He has been playing for the Simonian Little League for two years and would like to continue playing for them.

RICHARD GEIGER said he was a lifelong Anchorage resident and presently lives in Midtown Anchorage. Over the years he has used Bicentennial Park for cross-country skiing, downhill skiing, mountain biking and hiking. He urged the Assembly to support the amendment to the Bicentennial Park master plan to help the youth of Anchorage. The proposal calls for playgrounds, picnic areas, a soccer field and ball fields. He supported the proposal site for the following reasons. The proposed site was adjacent to Abbott Loop Road and Zodiac Manner Subdivision in the southwest corner of Bicentennial Park and was owned by the Municipality of Anchorage. It would have the least cash outlay for the Municipality of Anchorage. The rest of the proposed sites would require the Municipality to purchase land and would increase the cost of the proposed park. This site would likely have the lowest cost to the Anchorage taxpayers. The proposed site is the only plan that would fit the time requirements for the new ball field for the Simonian Little League. The rest of the plans would likely disrupt at least one year of the Little League playing season. The plan site selection has been going on for two and a half years and the Planning and Zoning Commission has overwhelmingly approved the site. Just 25 acres of 4,300 acres in Bicentennial Park and the BLM tract would be used for playgrounds, picnic areas, a soccer field and ball fields. The park would provide his neighbors with better access to the Bicentennial Park trail system. He urged the Assembly to support the amendment to the Bicentennial Park master plan.

PAT WORDLAW said she lived in Zodiac Manner Subdivision. She had nothing against children, but she questioned when her recreational needs would become as important as the children's would. We are only children for a short time in our lives and for the rest of our lives we are dealing with other issues. The children who are now 9 to 12 years old will eventually need someplace to participate in less strenuous activities. With the previous resolution, you are starting the process to create more parkland. She questioned why they could not do the same thing here. The Assembly was given an opportunity at the last meeting that most people would cling to like a life raft. Mr. Simonian offered 18 to 22 acres of land. We would have to buy it, but if the Simonian had realized that eventually they would have to buy some place and set aside some money, they could have participated in this in some manner other than saying I need this so supply it for me. They could have participated financially. She realized that the Little League did not allow people to incur debt to be followed through on a financial basis annually, but she did not feel any organization would deny them an opportunity to hope to participate in the solving of their needs. We need to give these kids a place to play. We need to plan ahead and buy more parkland.

PHIL GORDON said he believed that children were the most wonderful things that the human race had ever produced. He has spent 29 years teaching and coaching children. We need to provide places for children to learn about life and sports are a good avenue for them to do that. We need to find places for them to do those sports. However, the long-term reasons for the original designation of Bicentennial Park are still valid. There are many places for us to build ball fields in this city, but there is only one Far North Bicentennial Park. We have the opportunity to demonstrate what we stand for as a community. We can show that we are doing our best to be just like everywhere else by chopping up habitat and disrupting watersheds or we can vote to be a city that lives with wildlife and a community that respects our long-term planning. We can vote to respect our environment, habitat, wildlife and our uniqueness as Alaskans. Children are our most wonderful creations, however there are wonderful things that we cannot create and we can only destroy. He urged the Assembly to keep Bicentennial Park intact. He encouraged the Assembly to find other sites for ball fields.

VIVIAN MENDENHALL said she was an 18-year Anchorage resident and a wildlife biologist with a Ph.D. She has had 20 years of experience in planning for conservation and recreation. She was representing the Anchorage Audubon Society. Their mission was to promote the conservation of habitat for wildlife and nature oriented recreation in southcentral Alaska. She urged the Assembly to vote against the amendment to the updated Far North Bicentennial Park master plan. The plan specified that the southwest corner should be used only for a small community park and nature oriented recreation. We need to conserve these things even more now than when the plan was adopted, because we are continuing to lose natural land in our community. The Anchorage Audubon is entirely in favor of Little League ball fields, but not in that area. The Far North Bicentennial Park is especially valuable as wildlife habitat, because it is

so large. Continuous natural areas make far better habitats than a similar area of land that has been fragmented by development. This is one reason that clearing 25 acres would be a significant loss. She listed some additional considerations. The living with wildlife plan, which the Municipality has approved, says on page 64 that the overall goal was to avoid net losses in functional habitat types and abundance. By approving this plan, the Municipality committed itself to considering the needs of wildlife among other needs of the city. In this case we have good alternatives to destroying wildlife habitats and we should take them. Responsible planning should consider the cumulative effects of development. It is oversimplified to say that it is okay because no species will go extinct. If you develop one tract at a time without looking at the overall picture, you begin to lose a central habitat for species such as bears, coyotes and moose that need large areas. We are already seeing the effects of development on these species. Proponents of the ball fields have testified that the area's one designated trail would not be harmed. They admit that people use other trails in the woods which would be wiped out, but that is okay because they are just bootleg game trail. People use those little trails because they need them. She felt the trails should be upgraded, not obligated. Anchorage has not prepared an open space plan and we should wait until this plan is finished before we put away any more of our remaining open space. The proponents of the ball fields in the park assume that the land was virtually free and it is according to the value placed on the land by the Municipality. An economic study of the land's value for recreation would show it had a real dollar value to the park users in its present state. She asked the Assembly to find another solution to the Simonian Little League's problem that will benefit all of Anchorage.

GARY BOCARDE said he keeps hearing that the ball fields would only take a little bit of the park, just as Hilltop, the Police and the Guard took a little bit of the park. He did not believe there was 4,500 acres of undeveloped land still in the park. When there was five percent of undeveloped land left in the park, someone will want to use it as a golf course. He pointed out that they kept nibbling at the land and eventually it would be gone. He pointed out that children did other activities besides baseball. Most of the children that he knows like to hike, mountain bike and other unorganized activities. They do not need ball fields. They want the park to remain as it is, because they enjoy using the trails. He estimated that only a small percentage of the children in the area played baseball. Participation in baseball in the Lower '48 is on a decline and soccer is on an increase. If this were approved then next year the soccer people would come and say they needed soccer fields. He urged the Assembly to keep Bicentennial Park as it was.

JIM BURKHOLDER said he had been involved in Bicentennial Park for 30 years. He helped to put together documents in 1973, 1974, 1983 and the master plan in 1985. He helped put the previous park plan document together, as well as helping to carry out some of the recommendations for the park. As a person who was involved in drafting this document, the site chosen for this amendment was conceived as a community park, much like Rocket Park and not a Little League complex. Active recreation was looked at in the BLM area, because the soils there are better and it is flat. It has been identified that the Soccer Association was looking for 40 soccer fields in the Anchorage area with one site containing 16 of those fields. He felt this was just the tip of the iceberg. He felt the problem was that they had a paradox with BLM, because that was the site that was chosen for these types of ball fields. He read a portion of a plan from 1980. BLM considers the plan to be a commitment to the community, which it is obligated, as well as legally required, to honor in the conveyance of Campbell tract. He took exception to the administration's statement that these ball fields could not be placed at the entrance road of the BLM, both on PLI land and on the BLM tract in that area. He felt the ball fields should go on that land.

In response to Mr. Kendall, Mr. Burkholder said he could not put the blame on the Wuerch administration or the Mstrom administration or administration before that for not acquiring the BLM lands. These groups should have worked with BLM. He felt the Legal Department needed to look at this. He did not think that BLM could unilaterally withdraw. This park was transferred as a congressional mandate, including the BLM tract. They may hold and be able to control the 700 plus acres that they have, but that is immaterial. The question is should they allow active recreational on the land and he felt they should. He felt the City and the Assembly should pursue that to the fullest extent. He felt the quickest, cheapest and easiest site to build was the area next to Service High School. Paved parking, restroom facilities and other things already exist there. You could easily fit three Little League fields at the bottom east side of Service High School on a temporary basis with removable fences. This would be the best for the community.

In response to Mr. Van Etten, Mr. Burkholder said he would be willing to serve on a committee task force to work through this issue with BLM.

MICHAEL HEINRICH said he has used the area in question for the last 16 years. He lives on the upper Hillside. Often he will drive by the Hilltop and Service High trailheads to go to the Abbott Loop trailhead, because he enjoys the quietness and serenity of the trailhead and the fact that it was multi-use and he could take his dog. It is a great place to ski or hike. He saw many different user groups utilizing the trail. Although the parking lot is sometimes crowded, he has always been able to find a parking spot. He opposed clear-cutting this area for ball fields. He felt everyone agreed that the Simonian Little League needed ball fields. He played Little League baseball as a youngster and it was a wonderful experience. He felt the people associated with the Little League were fine, committed individuals. He felt they should find a site that was simply not expedient, but one that was the best for the community as a whole now and in the future. He would like to see a land swap or a bond proposal to acquire the land for the ball fields. He is a homeowner and pays his share of taxes, but he always votes for bond proposals concerning education and recreation. He would definitely vote yes for a proposal to acquire land for ball fields. His main concern was the precedent that this would set. If you allow the Little League to take 25 acres this year, then what would happen next year when the Soccer Association wants 30 acres. We need to put our foot down and say that Bicentennial Park is going to remain in its natural state. As Anchorage grows, our natural parks and open areas will become more and more valuable if we protect them now. Let's leave Bicentennial Park

for adults, children and wildlife to enjoy long into the future. He urged the Assembly to vote no on this proposal.

HANS ARNETT said he lived in the lower Rabbit Creek area in Municipal Assembly District 6. He is a long-time year round user of the Far North Bicentennial Park. He was strongly opposed to the ordinance to amend the park's master plan. He addressed a few of the statements made by supporters of the proposed ordinance. It has been argued by some that those who oppose the ordinance are refusing to share Far North Bicentennial Park with the children of the Simonian Little League and the children are excluded from use of the park unless this ordinance is passed. This park was created to preserve these lands in a natural state for the year round use and enjoyment of all current and future residents of Anchorage. There is nothing to prevent the children in the Simonian Little League from using Bicentennial Park. In fact considering how close these children live to the park, they are actually quite lucky in that they have better access to the park than most children in Anchorage have. To say that these children are excluded from using the park unless 25 acres of native forest is bulldozed and replaced with ball fields is absurd. A second issue raised by supporters of the proposed ordinance is that there is somehow an urgent need to construct ball fields immediately. They maintain that there will be some sort of crisis in 2004 if they do not have new, permanent, consolidated ball fields to use. He had no doubts that interim ball field sites could be found until an appropriate permanent site for the Simonian Little League was found. We are not talking about dissolution of the league if they do not have a permanent home in 2004. No one wants that. Essentially everyone is pro Simonian Little League. The crisis involves nothing more than some relatively short-term inconvenience to the Simonian Little League. The short-term inconvenience to a small segment of the community is unfortunate, but it is hardly a compelling reason for destroying 25 acres of native forest that was meant to be preserved as a resource and legacy for all residents of the community. An important point that has come out of this debate is that there actually is a real crisis facing Anchorage. This community needs additional parkland and we need to acquire the land soon. We should be moving ahead with acquisitions on new parklands for community parks near town centers. The only want to get this land will be to pay for it. He was a taxpayer and was willing to pay for parklands now so that we will have them in the future. We want to help the Simonian Little League, but we need to look beyond their needs and help out all of Anchorage by buying new parklands now.

TOM KENT said he was a Simonian Little League coach. He has coached the league for seven years. He was a Little Leaguer himself in the early 1970s. He had two sons that played for Simonian Little League. A lot of discussion has come up regarding using school fields or other locations. The school fields are doled out by permits. They are not targeted for any one group, but they are dispersed according to each sports group's needs. Simonian Little League has always tried to obtain permits for the coaches to use for practices. The school fields are not conducive to playing a competitive game of baseball. None of the fields have mounds, fences, baselines and they are not maintained. The coaches use those fields only to hold practices. The Little League plays two games a week and they try to practice three times a week. He did not see how they could get the schools up to par to use their fields. Another issue is the maintenance of those fields. The fields are school property and they would not allow us to do the maintenance on the fields. They would also be taking away from other groups that were using those fields for soccer and other activities. Having four fields in the same location is a plus for maintaining the fields. Four fields would be perfect for the Simonian Little League. They have parents that have to run their kids all over and being able to observe their children playing on different fields would be great. Most children have siblings that also play. There are a lot of children who do not have an issue if they know they are going to one field, because a lot of them have to get to the fields on their own. A lot of them ride their bikes to practices and games.

LISA JOHNSON said she was a small business owner, a mother of two and a volunteer soccer coach for four years. She has been an Anchorage resident for 26 years and she has lived in west Anchorage for 12 years. Mr. Sullivan and Ms. Von Gemmingen are her representatives. She was against the amendment to the Bicentennial Park plan for the following reasons. We are not gaining any parkland in an area that is in real need of it. She has been distributing fliers and getting a petition signed in the Independence Park area. In talking to the people in the neighborhood, she has seen firsthand how desperate they are for some green space. There are hundreds of families in this area raising children in an area with no neighborhood park. They are very angry with the Fred Meyer that just went in and they now have more large retail development to look forward to. An organized Little League ball field is not a community park. There was very specific reasons for disallowing the intense development associated with extensive sports fields. The public has a very strong interest in the retention of Anchorage natural settings and urban wildlife populations. Removing existing parkland that was specifically stated not to be used for this purpose is displaying a lack of sensitivity to all parkland user groups. This is creating a dichotomy in the community. No one except the people wanting to preserve the Bicentennial Park seem to be willing to pursue any of the various options brought to the table. Changing the park plan without aggressively pursuing other options is presenting a statement that our local government does not value the wishes and visions of our community as presented in the Anchorage Park, Greenbelt and Recreation Facility Plan. She emphasized how valuable was the process where they actively engaged our citizens in the planning, funding and development of our city's projects. This planning process allows us shared visions. It allows us to see the whole picture and to understand what it takes to develop the whole city. This provides a sense of collaboration and the feeling that we can do more by working together than apart. She felt that amending Anchorage's Park Plan for the needs of a relatively small user group, because it was expedient and cheap, was undermining the community's faith in our leaders' ability to actualize our shared vision.

AMY JOHNSON said a few of the people who have been involved with the Bicentennial Park began collecting signatures of the petition that she just turned in. This petition asks the Assembly to leave Bicentennial Park as it is and to consider other options for the Simonian ball fields. The petition represents

close to 1,200 people in the Anchorage area, most of which do not live in the area adjacent to Bicentennial Park. Many of the people who have signed the petition live in other areas within the Simonian's boundaries and would prefer to see a park of any kind located near them rather than what is being proposed here, because there are no parks in their area. The proposed fields, which have limited use for a very limited period of time each year, have repeatedly been confused with the idea of a community park, which could provide activities for people of many ages, especially children. The Simonian ball fields, if located in Bicentennial Park, would exist in an area with no bus service, which does not serve the less affluent members of this area as the leaders of the Little League state is their intention. She believed the city was ignoring the people who are lower income and may not have the means to get to the area off of Abbott Loop by considering this amendment. The Simonians have continued to state that this is the only realistic option, because it is fast and free. But hidden expenses have not been considered, such as the potential road improvements necessary to handle additional traffic and a bike path for access by children. We have been looking at this purely as an issue of relocating the Little League fields for the Simonians and ignoring the park's existing user community who value the open space and the natural setting. The love of the existence of open space is clearly addressed in the Anchorage Comprehensive Plan. The decision the Assembly makes will have a long-term effect on the way we view open space in Anchorage. We all hope that the choice the Assembly makes would keep the long-term vision of Anchorage in mind.

DAN BILLMAN said he represented the Arctic Orienteering Club. Orienteering is a sport that teaches map reading and navigation skills in woodlands and forests. Anchorage is extremely unique in the United States, because we are the only city of this size that has wildland orienteering within the city. Our woodlands are the best orienteering terrains available. Their club and sport cannot use open grasslands such as ball fields for their sport. Their club opposes amending the Bicentennial Park plan to allow sports fields in the southwest corner. He read a letter to the Editor from the President of the Arctic Orienteering Club. The Arctic Orienteering Club is one of the many user groups of Bicentennial Park. We created a definitive map of the area in 1992 with funding from many public and private sources. We make frequent use of the park, hosting 10 meets this year alone and possibly more if the military bases are closed and we have courses out there mapped. In 1994 we hosted the U.S. Orienteering National Competition for a week bringing more than \$200,000 in revenue to Anchorage. We propose to host another national meet in coming years. Our annual event for high schools at Far North Bicentennial Park draws more than 300 high school participants. Halloween orienteering held in the BLM tract and uses Bicentennial Park was attended by 400 primarily children and teenagers. Per capita, orienteering is a bigger sport in Anchorage than any other city in the United States. Our members do well when competing outside, because they have the unique opportunity to regularly compete in natural wilderness locally without driving. Most cities in the U.S., you drive an hour to an hour and a half or two hours to find an area like this, that's 10 minutes. It is also important to the School District, which we have partnered to create permanent courses and to host school events. We are proud of providing educational and fun activities for families in a highly competitive event for athletes. Our program relies on keeping the natural parks like Bicentennial Park undeveloped. But we support Simonian Little League with efforts for new ball fields. There are feasible alternatives that will allow this while preserving Bicentennial Park and it's setting. Development has reduced the usable area of the park that we can use for our sport. The Arctic Orienteering Club asked the Assembly not to amend the plan.

In response to Ms. Shambert, Mr. Billman said orienteering was a sport where you were finding a small feature in a large area for the competitive side. They run in and out of the subject area depending on the meet that is setup. That is a very nice area, because it is flat, dry, good running ground and has nice features defined on the map. The 25 acres parcel of land is dry, which makes it extremely good orienteering country.

TOBY WIDDICOMBE said he has been an Anchorage resident for 10 years. He did not envy the Assembly's job. It seemed that the Assembly had to choose between the needs of the Simonian Little League and the needs of the wider community. He felt such a choice was unnecessary, because there was another option that would allow everyone to be satisfied. The win-win strategy would be for the Assembly to vote against the ordinance and then have the Assembly and the Mayor pursue other alternative sites. The 14 acres at Dimond and 88th Street could be acquired through a land swap. Mayor Mystrom achieved a similar accomplishment a few years back when he acquired land for sports complexes. The current Mayor and Assembly could surely achieve the same. The site at Dimond and 88th Street is superior to the site in Bicentennial Park in every way including access, amenities, convenience and site preparation. It is also much closer than the Abbott Loop site to the homes of those who play in the Simonian Little League. With this win-win strategy, the Simonian Little League would still have its four fields by 2004 and the 1985 Far North Bicentennial Park updated master plan would remain unaltered. Bicentennial Park would continue to be what it current is and what it was always intended to be, which is a park in which nature is preserved for future generations to enjoy. Bicentennial Park is truly the jewel in this city's crown and is the envy of those who live in the Lower '48. It should be remembered that the Simonian Little League has to justify why it needs the FBNP land and only that land. The burden is on the Simonian Little League to prove its case to overturn the master plan. The Simonian Little League has said repeatedly that time was of the essence, but haste makes waste. There are interim solutions for the Simonian Little League in the unlikely event that it takes past 2004 to come up with the right solution. If the Assembly passes this ordinance then a dangerous precedent is set. How do you answer a request for more FBNP land from soccer teams or other recreational groups? One day the community will wake up to discover that FBNP has become just another run of the mill park. That would be an irreversible tragedy. This country and this community have come together in the wake of the tragic events of September 11, 2001. However, this ordinance is tearing a community apart. He implored the Assembly to reach a compromise.

JILL WIDDICOMBE said she was against amending the 1985 Far North Bicentennial Park updated master plan to allow for ball fields. We need more natural spaces in this increasingly built-up city. We should be able to reach a solution that provides families with the ballparks they need and enjoy, while at the same time preserving the wild areas that makes Anchorage the uniquely beautiful place that it is. She spent her childhood in the San Fernando Valley in California when it was a good place for children to grow up in. Now it is so built up that the quality of life for children has been seriously diminished. Once a natural space is cleared there is no going back. She is a homeowner and she would be willing to support recreational bonds for ball fields.

CAREY COSSENBOOM said he lived in south Anchorage. He was detached from this issue. His son plays baseball with Abbott O Rabbit Little League and he does not ski at Bicentennial Park. He felt that his detachment allowed him to look at the facts objectively. We need more ball fields in Anchorage. This is 25 acres out of 4,300 acres, which is very little. They are not talking about building a domed baseball park, but creating a wide-open space that would enhance the variety of activity that could occur at the park as well as the access to the area. As a homeowner in Anchorage, he was aware that we pay some of the highest property taxes in the country. We are able to overlook this, because we do not have to pay income taxes or sales taxes and we get the Permanent Fund Dividend. He felt the golden age of Anchorage was coming to an end and we are going to face taxes here pretty soon. He would be so willing to open up his checkbook for expensive bond propositions for parkland when we have low cost alternatives available. He said they were dealing with eco-terrorism that is blowing from the north coast of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge into our city. He felt the obvious choice was to build the ball fields in Bicentennial Park.

KRISTI ROSENBERG asked the Assembly not to amend the Far North Bicentennial Park plan. The public process that was carried out did not ask the Abbott Loop community neighborhood residents what they wanted in the park. There was no public process at all until after representatives of our Municipality had already offered the Little League the Bicentennial Park site. When the site evaluation study was done, alternative #2, Bicentennial Park, was described as expedient, not the best for the community. Alternative #1, acquiring land, was considered to be the best for the overall community. Even though it was considered to be the best option, the only alternative location that the Parks and Recreation Commission was allowed to vote on was the Bicentennial Park site. That vote was tied at five to five, which should not be construed as support for building ball fields in the park. We keep hearing that 25 acres is not much to ask for, but please note that the original parcel was 5,000 acres. We have already designated high impact usage for more than 20 percent of that acreage. We are seeing an increased need for parkland. All park planning documents for over 20 years have explicitly called for land acquisition and an increase in parkland inventory and this has not happened. We all agree that the Simonian's and many other groups need ball fields and there are many places in Anchorage where these would be appropriate. Dozens of communities nationwide, without our geological constraints, have found it necessary to tax themselves billions of dollars to acquire land because of poor land use choices that they made earlier when land was more available and less expensive. Our land will never be more available or less expensive. It is time to step up to the plate and do what is best for everyone, which is acquiring land.

In response to Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Rosenberg said she would vote for either a separate bond issue or a bond that was combined with the current park bonds. In 20 years she has voted for every park bond. It might have a better chance of passing if it was combined with other things so it is not one individual group coming forward and asking for a site. In the last five years, she has begun to resent the fact that when she votes for a bond that the real cost of land acquisition is not there. The truth is never represented in the proposition and she felt that needed to be addressed.

JOHN BEEBEE said he was opposed to the amendment. When he was a boy in Los Angeles there were Little League fields wherever they lived, but you had to drive for hours to find natural open land like that in Bicentennial Park. The natural open space in the Los Angeles County was amended away. This is an important decision, because of how it proposes to change the park plan. The plan calls for recreation compatible with natural open space. If the ball fields are developed, the amendment is in the direction of making natural open space secondary to the needs of whatever sports club wants space in the park. The way to balance these demands and preserve the lands and waters within the park is to stick with the park plan and use other resources to meet incompatible demands.

ANDY MELTZER said he was an Anchorage resident. He felt there were common solutions that could be met for all parties. They are not easy solutions or the obvious solutions for either side. The issues that keep coming up are time, money and the issue of a precedent. There are interim alternatives that are available for the baseball players, including the area near Service High School and the unfinished ball fields near the Tudor Police Station. Coordinated ball scheduling could be done better to make more use of the existing fields near Old Seward Highway and O'Malley and Lake Otis and O'Malley. School ball fields could be upgraded to allow for competitive baseball play and he did not feel that should be discounted so quickly. The time issue is not urgent, because there are interim solutions available. He said he would like Mr. Posey to show him the money. He has not seen a written budget for this project. There is extensive earthwork needed for this project. There has been a proposal to use the Associated General Contractors as a volunteer labor force and he questioned if that had been verified in writing. He questioned if they routinely proceeded on multi-million dollar projects without having detailed cost estimates and a statement of resources that would be used. He thanked the Associated General Contractors if they were willing to do that. He questioned if they would be willing to donate those services at other sites as well. The improvements to Abbott Loop Road are not scheduled and he questioned where the money would come from to fix that. He questioned where all the bond money would be coming from. If you look at an aerial map of the Anchorage area, you can see the consumption of land. It does not take a bunch of studies to

figure out that most of the land is gone. The land that is left in the park is one of the last large undeveloped areas in the city and it should be maintained as such, because there will never be another one.

DONNA ROBERTSON did not believe anyone was against baseball fields. She felt a lot of the people were concerned about amending the park plan. Her biggest concern was the cumulative impacts to the park. In the past couple of years, the Trailside Elementary School has been placed in the park. Hilltop ski area has received permission to use a small amount of the park. If the park plans was amended to allow the Simonian Little League ball fields in the park, who would come next? The Greater Little League has already identified that they would be looking for more baseball fields. She questioned if the soccer groups would be asking for lands next. This is currently a park that is used by many people year round. She was concerned about losing this dedicated parkland.

JANET REYES displayed items including a dog leash, a horse harness, a bike helmet, a ski boot, a frisbee, a horseshoe, a snowshoe and a baseball mitt. We have multi-use here and limited access. She has been in Anchorage since 1970. Her parents moved here from Washington D.C., because there was no recreational opportunities in Washington, D.C. The prospective changes in the Far North Bicentennial Park really scare her, because she sees the parkland being whittled away bit by bit. It is for the Simonian's today, but who will it be for tomorrow? Who are we going to give our valuable parkland to? This decision is dividing the community, because there are some very strong feelings. We live in Alaska, because recreational park opportunities are here. We have so many easy opportunities for recreation to get rid of our stress. We have limited amounts of road rage here, because there are so many places to let it out. Do you tell this community that it is important to the many, and not the few, what we do with our valuable resources or do you help continue to erode this park? Do you make it easier for the city to give away land in the future or do you make a decision that benefits a few instead of the many people who use the park year round? For the sanity of our city, she hoped the Assembly would not support the ordinance.

SANDRA TALT said she was in Ms. Clementson and Ms. Taylor's district and she votes. When she stands in Far North Bicentennial Park it is as close to silence as she can find anywhere in Anchorage. If you stand and listen, you can still hear faint road noise within the park. If you clear this area, road noise is going to have more access into the park. There has been a traffic study done in the Hillside area and it estimates that the traffic on Abbott Loop Road will be the same as what we have on Lake Otis. With that quantity of traffic going past the park, we need the land as a sound buffer. Many people have said it is a small part of the park, but it affects a much larger area of the park. She values the ability to find near silence in Anchorage. There is quite a bit of land on the north end of the park that is designated as PLI land and the city has developed ball fields there. She suggested finding more PLI land near the existing fields that could be developed for the Little League fields. There would be no acquisition cost and it is already designated for that use. Do not take parkland that is designated as wilderness when we already have areas that are designed the ball fields.

In response to Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Talt said she did not necessarily support the extension of Abbott Loop Road to Tudor Road, but she assumed it would go through.

CHRIS ZAFREN said some of Anchorage's most public, spirited and energetic citizens are in this room and have testified before the Assembly. We share many of the same values. We love children, recreation and our parks. We all want children to have opportunities for healthy recreation whether that are in ball fields or forests. We can have both if we are willing to pay the price to support more land acquisitions for parks. She believes that the community should do this. We should be doing this and united behind this rather than fighting over development within Far North Bicentennial Park. She urged the Assembly to take the difficult step in finding and funding creative ways to add new parks to our community. We cannot continue to chip away at Far North Bicentennial Park. This has to end if we are going to retain Bicentennial Park as a unique and precious resource for Anchorage now and in the future. With the Assembly's leadership, she believes that the divided parties in this room would be able to unite, roll up their sleeve and help these ball fields get on board in time for the 2004 season. This park needs to be located in a community park in an under-parked part of the area and not in a place that is already dedicated park area in a natural state. There will never be a better time than now to acquire parkland. It will only get more expensive and scare. She urged the Assembly to vote no on the amendment.

DAN ROSENBERG said he was representing the Friends of Far North Bicentennial Park, which is a group that represents hundreds of park users and voters. They would like to see the city honor and respect the objectives for which the park was established in 1974 and reaffirmed in the 1987 update. They oppose the amendment. He has been involved in this process for a long time. He felt everyone in the community supported the Little League ball fields. If the City, the Little League and Bicentennial Park supporters all cooperated in finding an alternate site, they would be planning construction now rather than debating over a location. We have known that the Little League would have to move from their current site since 1998. Unfortunately, we have not made good use of that time. Finding places for ball fields and protecting natural open spaces has already been debated in the public processes that went into the citywide planning efforts. The process to find a site for the Little League has pretty much ignored most of these plans. Now we are considering expediency, rather than the time and money we have invested into good planning. The 1982 Parks, Facility and Greenbelt Recreation Facility Plan identified the need for an additional 80 acres of community parkland in the Abbott Loop sub-area. Since that plan was published, no additional parkland has been acquired for community park use. The core of the Little League service boundary has almost no parkland. But rather than acquire parkland, this amendment proposes to transfer the use of parkland from a regional to a community park, thus from one activity to another, without providing any net gain in recreational land. Rather than creating a park, adding a park in a neighborhood without a park, buffering neighborhoods from industrial development, serving school and youth sports, reclaiming vacant lots or

providing more community activities, this amendment simply proposes to displace one set of park users at the expense of another. The Comp Plan, which should guide most of our land use decisions, identifies town centers, school proximity and population centers as a preferred location for community parks and it addresses the need to acquire additional parkland within town centers and recognizes the value of protecting natural, open space. Two of the preferred sites in the Land Design North recommendation report are located in town centers and these are currently available as alternatives. What seems like an abundance of open space today will be less than adequate in the future? We need a long-term vision. The growth of Anchorage will reduce natural open spaces while demands will increase. We should not be sacrificing open spaces for ball fields until we have exhausted other alternatives. Land will never be cheaper or more available than now.

Ms. Fairclough takes the chair.

JIM BARR said he has been actively involved in this issue for over a year and a half. He offered a possible solution through a set of steps that might be able to solve the issue. The first step would be to include funds for acquisition of land for a Simonian Little League community park in the April 2002 park bond as part of the total of that bond. The second step would be to make a clear commitment that if the bond does not pass and we are not able to do a land exchange then the Little League ball fields would be sited in Bicentennial Park as a last resort. If we had to do that then the proposed amendment needed to be modified in two crucial ways. The first amendment would be to clarify and limit the scope of that amendment to include some design criteria that are more in keeping with the overall nature of the park to retain some of the natural aspects. The second and most critical amendment would be to include some mitigation for the loss of that natural open space. An obvious way to do that would be to take the Heritage Land Bank property that current adjoins the park, which is land of equal ecological value but not so accessible for development, and move that into the park through rezoning. Fourth, they should continue to pursue land exchange as the first, fastest, least expensive way to do that. There are two proposals on the table for land exchanges that he was aware of. Art Simonian's property would be a very good candidate for the land exchange. We should probably proceed with the planning and design process for this park regardless of where it will be located. This approach could allow the Assembly to take some positive action and get control over what has been a very divisive issue. It considers the needs of the Little League. It could put the Little League and Friends of Far North Bicentennial Park working together to campaign for the passage of the park bond. It allows Bicentennial Park supporters a chance to influence the outcome by campaigning for the park bond. If the park bond were to fail, it does still recognize the importance of the integrity of the overall Far North Bicentennial Park by taking some mitigating action to preserve the overall ecology of the park.

Chairman Traini takes the chair.

In response to Mr. Tesche, Mr. Barr said the other possibility for a land exchange was the 88th Street Safeway property.

MARJORIE LINDER said she wanted to share with the Assembly the real field of dreams, which was the 5,000 acres of unspoiled parkland that meets the Chugach Foothills in the heart of Anchorage. Years ago city planners and concerned citizen groups had the vision to set aside this land. Set aside is a special term that needs to be honored. The Far North Bicentennial Park was meant to preserve a large green space and natural wilderness for all the people of Anchorage to use. They worried that Anchorage would become so developed that it would lose the very reason that people came to live here. But they did not envision a takeover attempt by a private organization for one use. They wanted this park for everyone. Now their vision is threatened by the agenda of a club. A group of well meaning and vocal parents are trying to take a whole section of Anchorage's equivalent to Central Park for baseball fields. This Little League club wants the Assembly to dedicate to them a part of this park that should be for all Anchorage citizens and visitors who tell us in surveys that they live here for proximity to wildlife and the outdoors. As a former Simonian Little League parent, she understands the importance of athletics in our children's lives and the good work that the Simonians do. But trading in something so precious as this forest for baseball fields that could be put on a flat lot just does not make any sense. She read a list of reasons against the amendment. Baseball fields and other sports fields hardly constitute a playing meadow described in the master plan with picnic tables and trails that could be enjoyed by all. This project involves destroying a virgin forest. It requires clear-cutting, leveling and filling sloping terrain. This development proposal involves hidden costs that are not priced in the Land North studies such as putting streetlights, turning lanes, bike trails and sidewalks to access the ball field off of Abbott Loop Road that has a 45 mile per hour speed limit. This \$1,500,000 figure is just the tip of the iceberg. This infrastructure likely cannot be completed by the Simonian's deadline and if it is not then the city was creating an attractive nuisance for little kids to cross Abbott Loop Road to access the ball fields. When you build a field, they will come. Traffic will increase even more, especially with the 200-car parking lot planned for this area. Responsible parents on the opposite side of Abbott Loop Road are worried about their children crossing this busy street, as they should be. She trusted that the Assembly would see the forest through the trees and resist bowing to the pressure of this very special interest group to develop this site when there are other logical alternatives.

BRIAN TRIMBAR said he and his family have been in Anchorage for approximately 10 years. They came from a large city that did not have the parks that Anchorage has. He remembered when he first arrived in Anchorage during a cold, snowy February how impressed he was with the miles of ski trails and open spaces so close to his home. He felt the community of Anchorage was both lucky and smart. He recently visited family in Portland and had the opportunity to enjoy their large open space park running through the center of their city. This area is designated as permanent open space. The occurrence for them of serendipity is a happy accident. Then he realized that Anchorage has not been so lucky. We have not permanently protected our valuable, usable open spaces leaving us the opportunity to slowly chip away at

them with one development need after another. The community of Anchorage has now created a new vision with the 2020 Comp Plan. It places an importance on open spaces and emphasized preferred development including community parks in town centers. He wished they would apply the Comp Plan to the ballparks that they need. He urged the Assembly to vote no on the amendment to amend the Bicentennial Park plan. We need to find a more appropriate place for these ball fields in an area that meets the needs of all community members in the town center. He answered some of the questions he heard a lot of people ask. A lot of people have asked about the next group of people who wanted land. He hoped everyone has noticed that the 25 acres was the only old growth upland forest in the park. If you plow that down, you would go downhill into wetlands. There is no more land there to put ball fields on, because it is all wetlands. He begged the Assembly to keep Bicentennial Park the way it is and not amend the plan.

Chairman Traini suspended public hearing on AR 2001-174 to allow the Assembly to address some other business.

14. **NEW PUBLIC HEARINGS (SHALL BEGIN NO EARLIER THAN 6:00 P.M. AND END NO LATER THAN 10:30 P.M.)**
- A. **Ordinance No. AO 2001-177**, an ordinance amending Anchorage Municipal Code Section 6.50.060 to establish a **Percent Of Market Value (POMV) payout methodology for future annual dividend payments from the MOA Trust Fund (Fund 730) and the MOA Trust Fund Reserve (Fund 731) to the General Government Operating Budget (Fund 101)**; and to appropriate any remaining balance in the MOA Trust Fund Reserve (Fund 731) as of December 31, 2002 to the 2002 General Government Operating Budget (Fund 101), Finance Department. **(TO BE SUBMITTED)**

Chairman Traini opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak. There was no one, and he closed the public hearing.

Ms. Fairclough moved, to postpone AO 2001-177 indefinitely.
seconded by Mr. Kendall,
and it passed without
objection,

- B. **Ordinance No. AO 2001-178**, an ordinance submitting to the qualified voters of the Municipality of Anchorage at the next regular election a ballot proposition to **amend Charter Section 13.11 to authorize the use of an endowment model to calculate future annual dividends from the MOA Trust Fund (Fund 730) to the General Government Operating Budget (Fund 101)**, Finance Department. **(TO BE SUBMITTED)**
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 885-2001.

Chairman Traini opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak. There was no one, and he closed the public hearing.

Ms. Fairclough moved, to postpone AO 2001-178 indefinitely.
seconded by Mr. Tremaine,
and it passed without
objection,

- C. **Ordinance No. AO 2001-186**, an ordinance of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly transferring management responsibility of HLB Parcels 1-009 to 1-033, 1-035 to 0-158, known as the NW 1/4 of Section 25, Birchwood from Heritage Land Bank to the Eagle River Parks and Recreation Board, and accepting the land use recommendations provided by the Heritage Land Bank Advisory Commission Resolution 2001-11, Assemblymember Fairclough. **(TO BE SUBMITTED)**

Chairman Traini opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak. There was no one, and he closed the public hearing.

Ms. Fairclough moved, to postpone AO 2001-186 indefinitely.
seconded by Mr. Tremaine,
and it passed without
objection,

- D. **Resolution No. AR 2001-278**, a resolution of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly approving **withdrawal from the Heritage Land Bank of land located in the NW 1/4 of Section 25 of T15 N, R2W, S.M., Alaska to permit management thereof by the Department of Cultural and Recreational Services**, Assemblymember Fairclough.
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 986-2001.

This item addressed earlier in the meeting. See item 13.

- E. **Ordinance No. AO 2001-185**, an ordinance approving submission by the Anchorage Water Utility a proposed tariff rate change to the Rate Schedule No. 1 – Fees and

**Special Charges-Non Recurring for the Anchorage Water Utility (AWU) to the
Regulatory Commission of Alaska, Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility.**

1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 922-2001.

Chairman Traini opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak. There was no one, and he closed the public hearing.

Ms. Fairclough moved, to approve AO 2001-185,
seconded by Ms. Taylor,

Ms. Fairclough urged a yes vote.

Question was called on the motion to approve AO 2001-185 and it passed:

AYES: Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Fairclough, Kendall, Tesche, Shamberg,
Tremaine.

NAYS: None.

(Clerk's Note: Ms. Clementson gone for the remainder of the meeting)

- F. Resolution No. AR 2001-323, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage appropriating \$614,748 from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to the Federal Categorical Grants Fund (241) for the Traffic Department, Transportation Planning Division, Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS), Traffic Department.

1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 638-2001.

Chairman Traini opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak. There was no one, and he closed the public hearing.

Mr. Sullivan moved, to approve AR 2001-323,
seconded by Ms. Fairclough,

Question was called on the motion to approve AR 2001-323 and it passed:

AYES: Fairclough, Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Kendall, Tesche, Shamberg,
Tremaine.

NAYS: None.

- G. Resolution No. AR 2001-335, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage appropriating \$2,134,325 from the fund balances of the four major operating funds to cover the costs associated with debt service on the March 2001 Tax Anticipation Notes, Finance.

1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 930-2001.

This item addressed earlier in the meeting. See item 13.

- H. Resolution No. AR 2001-332, a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage accepting \$2,490,882 from the State of Alaska for the Bank of America settlement and depositing \$2,352,882 to the MOA Trust Fund Reserve Fund (731) and \$138,000 to the Areawide General Fund (101), Finance.

1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 929-2001.
2. Resolution No. AR 2001-332(S), a resolution of the Municipality of Anchorage accepting \$2,490,882 from the State of Alaska for the Bank of America settlement and depositing \$2,352,882 to the MOA Trust Fund Reserve Fund (731) and \$138,000 to the Areawide General Fund (101), Office of Management and Budget. (addendum)
2. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 987-2001.

- I. Ordinance No. AO 2001-184, an ordinance of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly amending Anchorage Municipal Code Chapter 6.10 (Budget and Appropriations Generally) by enacting a new Section 6.10.045 relating to approved capital budgets and capital programs, Assemblymembers Tesche and Taylor.

1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 917-2001.
2. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 974-2001.

- J. Resolution No. AR 2001-329, a resolution confirming and levying assessments for the water special improvements within Levy Upon Connection (LUC) Roll 01-W-1, setting date of payment and providing for penalties and interest in the event of delinquency, Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility.

1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 912-2001.

Chairman Traini opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak. There was no one, and he closed the public hearing.

Ms. Fairclough moved, to approve AR 2001-329.
seconded by Ms. Shamberg,

Ms. Fairclough moved, to amend AR 2001-329, line 21, to insert
seconded by Ms. Shamberg, December 11, 2001.
and it passed without
objection,

Question was called on the motion to approve AR 2001-339 as amended and it passed:

AYES: Fairclough, Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Kendall, Tesche, Shamberg,
Tremaine.

NAYS: None.

Ms. Fairclough moved, to postpone AR 2001-357 until
seconded by Ms. Shamberg, next week.
and it passed without
objection,

Ms. Fairclough moved, to continue item 9.B.1, the 2002 Legislative
seconded by Mr. Tesche, Program until next week.
and it passed without
objection,

- K. Resolution No. AR 2001-331, a resolution appropriating annual entitlement grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the amount of \$2,344,000 for the **Community Development Block Grant**, \$1,072,000 for **Home Investment Partnership**, and \$80,000 for **Emergency Shelter Grants** and appropriating said funds to the Federal Categorical Grants Fund (241), Planning Department.
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 928-2001.

Chairman Traini opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak. There was no one, and he closed the public hearing.

Ms. Fairclough moved, to approve AR 2001-331.
seconded by Ms. Shamberg,

Question was called on the motion to approve AR 2001-331 and it passed:

AYES: Fairclough, Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Kendall, Tesche, Shamberg,
Tremaine.

NAYS: None.

- L. Resolution No. AR 2001-343, a resolution of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly approving a conditional use for an alcoholic beverages conditional use in the B-3 District for a new restaurant or eating place license per AMC 21.40.180.D.8., located on Calais Subdivision, Tract D-11G at the northwest corner of Denali Street and Calais Drive, site address being 3210 Denali Street (**Marah's Restaurant**) (Case 2001-201), Planning Department.
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 943-2001.

Chairman Traini said AR 2001-344 and AM 971-2001 would be taken together.

- M. Resolution No. AR 2001-344, a resolution of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly approving a conditional use for an alcoholic beverages conditional use in the I-2 District for a package store license per AMC 21.40.210.B., for Safeway, Inc., d/b/a **Oaken Keg**, located on Tract B-4, East Dimond Center Subdivision; generally located on the northeast corner of Abbott Road and East 88th Avenue (**Abbott Loop Community Council**) (Case 2001-202), Planning Department.
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 944-2001.

Assembly Memorandum No. AM 971-2001, **Oaken Keg Spirit Shop #1810** (License No. 798) – Transfer of Ownership, Location and Name Change for a Package Store Liquor License (**Abbott Loop Community Council**), Clerk's Office.

Chairman Traini opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak.

TIM POTTER said he was with Dowl Engineers and would be representing Safeway and the Oaken Keg. He referenced the summary folder of the Big Box Ordinance review that was done for this facility and approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission. The store is located at the intersection of 88th and Abbott Loop Road. The Assembly is reviewing their request to close the existing Oaken Keg in the Carrs Store at Dimond and Old Seward Highway and relocate the store and have a new license at the proposed store at 88th and Abbott. They have been to the community council on several occasions to keep them current as they develop the project. They have taken the input from the community council and included their comments in their design that went forward to the Planning Commission for approval. They intend to

continue to go forward. The manager of the store will be in regular attendance at the community council meetings. They have reviewed the recommendations and the proposed conditions and they have no disagreement with those. They are in full concurrence and request the approval of the Assembly.

In response to Mr. Tesche, Mr. Potter said the document had gone through the site plan review through the Big Box Ordinance. They were the first ones to go through the Big Box Ordinance and he felt it went well. The Municipal planning staff was good to work with. The most time intensive part of the process was to do the traffic impact analysis prior to the Planning Commission taking action and that took about 60 days. The Planning Commission was very cooperative. He felt the process would be fine-tuned as they went forward. Officially they will be going back to them to clarify a couple of minor issues as far as parking ratios. They have been working with the experts that the Municipality brought to Anchorage to talk about large retail establishments in relationship to other developments and storefronts. The process went well and was very much like the typical site plan review process that they had gone through before. They had a vote at a recent Abbott Loop Community Council meeting and it was 13 in support and 3 against.

In response to Mr. Tremaine, Mr. Potter said Carrs would be willing to discuss any offers on the land. There have been two viable options. One has been an interested party who has made an offer in the potential context of baseball field development and doing a trade with the Municipality for other interests. Secondly, there has been a strong interest from a viable residential developer in town that is interested in acquiring the property to build a multi-family residential development project with a mixture of multi densities. Looking at utilization of the industrial building it could be a community center or a light industrial facility that was compatible with both the store and any residential or other use.

In response to Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Potter said the building was originally built for the construction of ATCO trailer units and structures, which were assembled inside the building. There has been some interest to do a similar thing with modular housing and residential units to allow winter construction within a heated building.

In response to Ms. Shamberg, Mr. Potter said if the land were split into the 12 acres that encompasses the Safeway/Carrs development and the out parcels associated with it, there would be 14 acres to the north and to the east.

In response to Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Potter said the building elevations show that the proposal was to have the Oaken Keg corporate logo on the building, but no indication of liquor or any advertisement of liquor on the outside of the building.

Chairman Traini asked if anyone else wished to speak. There was no one, and he closed the public hearing.

Mr. Van Etten moved,
seconded by Ms. Shamberg,

to approve AR 2001-344.

Mr. Van Etten moved,
seconded by Mr. Tremaine,

to amend AR 2001-344, section 3,
conditional use permit is approved subject to
the following conditions: no liquor signs,
advertisements on indications that liquor is
being sold visible from outside the building.

Mr. Kendall said he would be voting against the amendment, because it was a pecking away of freedom of speech and the freedom of people to conduct business. He felt people had rights to advertise as part of the freedom speech. He felt placing prohibitions on normal business practices was trampling on freedom of speech.

Mr. Van Etten said the community council had approved this, because they agreed to the amendment.

Mr. Potter said they had discussed the amendment and did not have a problem with it. The corporate logo of Oaken Keg was the key component of the notification. He noted that their attorney, Mr. Coffey, had pointed out that on the front of the Carrs store is said food and drugs.

Mr. Sullivan agreed with Mr. Kendall's opinion on the prohibition of the signing being an issue of freedom of speech, but he would support it since all parties had agreed to it.

In response to Ms. Shamberg, Mr. Potter said the existing Carrs store at the corner of Old Seward Highway and Dimond would fall into the property department of Safeway for sale and/or lease. It was already being sought after by a variety of parties. He anticipated that a destination type commercial facility would be located there.

Question was called on the motion to amend AR 2001-334 and it passed with Mr. Kendall objecting.

Question was called on the motion to approve AR 2001-334 as amended and it passed:

AYES: Fairclough, Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Kendall, Tesche, Shamberg,
Tremaine.

NAYS: None.

Ms. Shamberg moved, to approve AM 971-2001.
seconded by Ms. Von Gemmingen,

Question was called on the motion to approve AM 971-2001 and it passed:

AYES: Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Fairclough, Kendall, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine.

NAYS: None.

The meeting recessed at 9:35 p.m. and reconvened at 9:45 p.m.

- N. Ordinance No. AO 2001-179, an ordinance amending the zoning map and providing for the rezoning of approximately 9.98 acres from R-1A (Single Family Residential District) to PLI (Public Lands and Institutions District) for **Tract B-1, Pioneer Square Subdivision**, generally located on the southwest corner of Klatt Road and Juniper Street (Bayshore-Klatt Community Council) (Planning and Zoning Commission Case 2001-089), Planning Department.
1. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 886-2001.

Chairman Traini opened the public hearing and asked if anyone wished to speak. There was no one, and he closed the public hearing.

Ms. Fairclough moved, to approve AO 2001-179.
seconded by Ms. Shamberg,

Ms. Fairclough urged a yes vote. This was a standardized change that changes the property into PLI, which is its appropriate designation.

Question was called on the motion to approve AO 2001-179 and it passed:

AYES: Fairclough, Sullivan, Von Gemmingen, Taylor, Van Etten, Traini, Kendall, Tesche, Shamberg, Tremaine.

NAYS: None.

- O. Ordinance No. AO 2001-180, an ordinance amending Anchorage Municipal Code Subsection 6.20.020.A. by **repealing the requirement of dual majority vote for issuance of general obligation bonds in services areas**, Assemblymember Traini.
- P. Ordinance No. AO 2001-181, an ordinance amending Anchorage Municipal Code Subsection 28.40.010.D. and repealing Anchorage Municipal Code Section 28.40.040 to **clarify and simplify ballot language and content to facilitate the use of new electronic voting machines**, Assemblymember Traini.

Chairman Traini reopened the public testimony on AO 2001-174.

JULIE TRUSKOWSKI said she has lived in Alaska for 14 years and in Anchorage for 4 years. She and her family utilize Far North Bicentennial Park for running, walking, biking and skiing. She grew up in Bellevue, Washington and it looked a lot like Anchorage back then. There were large wooded areas, areas of generous housing lots and plenty of untouched wild spaces. Bellevue used to be a place where people would move to escape the city. That land is now gone and replaced with mazes of roads and freeways, cluster housing developments and tiny manicured parks. Not one inch of undeveloped land remains on Lake Washington. It is houses, businesses, lawns and manufactured parkland. Putting ball fields in Bicentennial Park is the continuation down a slippery slope of development, just like in Bellevue. Cluster housing continues its relentless growth in the Anchorage bowl. Trailside Elementary, Saholi Subdivision, Benny Benson School, Botanical Gardens, the State Troopers, APD, Hilltop Ski Area, the proposed waterline and Abbott Loop extension all have or will carve out sections of the original Campbell tract in Far North Bicentennial Park. As other people have said, what is next? Soccer fields, a golf course, condominiums? Anchorage is not a pretty city. It has a myriad of strip malls, sprawling cluster housing, box stores and rather unique zoning practices. But Anchorage has its crown jewels, one of which is Bicentennial Park. It is less than 20 minutes from most places in town. Very few, if any, cities in the United States can make that claim. Bellevue used to be able to, but now it's at least 45 minutes, if not more, to any kind of undeveloped land. There is nothing wrong with leaving undeveloped land untouched. It is one of the things that make Anchorage a great place to live. The park, as it is today, restricts no one. Anyone can simply walk on the trails and enjoy the beauty, quiet and solitude. Ball fields inherently restrict use. If my family or I do not play baseball or soccer or have a dog that fetches balls, I effectively have been restricted from using that section of the park. A ball field is a ball field no matter where its location. Natural parkland is unique and irreplaceable. The Assembly has a chance to steer Anchorage in a positive direction away from the rampant developmental sprawl of recent years to beautifying Anchorage by placing the Simonian fields in a place that will enhance the esthetic value of this city. That does not happen by cutting trees, but by using preexisting lots. She was not against ball fields being built. Her five-year-old may play Little League some day. She urged the Assembly not to go with the fastest and cheapest alternative, which has nothing to do with making Anchorage a better place to live. Travel the high road and use land that is better suited for ball field construction. This creates a win-win solution for both park users and Simonian ballplayers. Do not let Anchorage become another Bellevue. Save undeveloped land for future generations to use and enjoy.

MARY BANNESAK said she lived in the vicinity of Far North Bicentennial Park for five years. She now lives in a different part of town. While she was living near the park, she taught school children at Campbell Creek Science Center as a volunteer. She led various outdoor activities at Campbell Creek Science Center such as hiking, snowshoeing, nature walks and first aid sessions. She has also cross-country skied, hiked and bicycled both in Campbell tract and Bicentennial Park. She strongly opposed amending the 1985-updated master plan. The plan shows foresight. One of the intentions of the plan was to preserve the streambeds, watershed areas and wildlife habitat of the area in as pristine a condition as possible, allowing for a compatible use of the area for nature appreciation by the public. It saddens and sickens her that we would hastily destroy this natural area, removing trees and flattening natural contours. The poorly planned sprawl of Anchorage that began in the 1970s is finally starting to be addressed. Some of the recent plans that were discussed were town centers, more concentrated housing with a town center, and areas surrounded by green ways instead of having more pavement, strip malls and urban sprawl. We should be preserving and adding to open space in Anchorage. We should not be taking away from the already intact ecosystem of Bicentennial Park. Various groups have already used parts of the park and future proposals would chip away at the park. Just because the area is big, that does not mean that it can sustain this chipping away and still retain its integrity. The park is big compared to other cities, but it is not big compared to what we had in Anchorage just a short while ago. We should add parcels of land in other parts of this city. We can put ball fields in other parts of the city. She encouraged the Assembly not to throw Bicentennial Park away and to build the ball fields elsewhere.

PATRICK MURPHY said he was a frequent user of Bicentennial Park and an 18-year resident of Anchorage. He opposed the development of ball fields inside the park. This issue has divided our community when the creation of parks for our children should unite us. He is not against children or ball fields, but he opposes where Simonian Little League wishes to build the ball fields. He felt the alternative sites were more viable alternatives. Building the ball fields in Bicentennial Park would not result in more parkland for the City of Anchorage, but only to destroy existing natural spaces for the summer use of a very limited user group. By building the ball fields in another location, such as the land made available by Art Simonian, the City would gain valuable parklands and neighborhood ball fields for our children. During the last meeting he listened to the testimony from Little League parents who argued that the Little League was growing and they needed space for their children. This is not the only group of children who are growing and in need of space. It was his understanding that the children in Little Leagues represented less than five percent of the children in Anchorage. Other programs, like Anchorage Junior Nordic and Anchorage Northstars, are in need of space as well. Bicentennial Park is a logical place to build ski trails for these kids. Ball fields can be built on any existing lot of appropriate size in the city, while the construction of viable ski trails cannot. While you can live in any city in the United States and play Little League ball, Anchorage is one of the only cities in the country that has a program as large and as good as the Anchorage Junior Nordic Program. Anchorage has produced some exceptional skiers like Nina Kempball, who represented us in international competitions like the Olympics. We need to give these kids a chance, too. While you can play baseball in Miami, you sure cannot learn to ski there. Simonian parents also talk about how they like to go skiing, hiking and biking at Bicentennial Park. They say the ball fields would not detract from the park and its appeal. If ball fields were such a great place to enjoy these types of activities, these people would be telling us how they enjoy skiing on their existing ball fields and how they use these ball fields during the summer for their walking and biking. But they don't, they go to the park. The reason they go to the park for these activities is because of its natural setting, not because there are ball fields there. His biggest concern in this issue was the changing of the Bicentennial Park master plan to include developments such as ball fields. He was afraid that this would open the door to more and more fields, which would mean less and less open, undeveloped space in the Anchorage bowl. If the master plan were changed, what would stop other user groups from pushing for more and more ball fields in the park next year? He was against changing the master plan of the Bicentennial Park to include the development of ball fields. He believes that building these fields on existing lots, such as those offered by Safeway and Art Simonian, are a more attractive and logical alternative. By utilizing these alternative sites, the City would be increasing its overall parklands, building parks in neighborhoods that need them and unifying our community in our common goal of more parks for the city and ball fields for our kids. He asked the Assembly not to change the Bicentennial Park master plan.

CLIFF AMES said he was with the Alaska Center for the Environment. Their organization greatly values children. Their Trailside Discovery Camp works with about 1,300 children every summer at the Campbell tract and Far North Bicentennial Park. He did not think that anyone would suggest that children who played Little League ball were more important than children who used the parkland for hiking, bicycling, skiing or nature appreciation. They would like to find a solution that would take care of all of the children and not just one group of them. He has been disappointed and frustrated by the administration's position on this issue. We really need their help to find not just the easiest solution, but also the best solution. We are recommending that you vote no on this amendment and you do not change the park plan. If you do vote no then that will be a very strong encouragement for the administration and the Simonian Little League to do the hard work that will be necessary to find an alternative location. A number of people have mentioned the fact that we are whittling away at the park acre by acre. Twenty-five acres sounds like a small amount, but it really is not, because it would not be the end of the losses that the park is likely to sustain. If the Center for the Environment supported the use of this 25 acres for Simonian Little Leagues could we be guaranteed that this will be the last piece of natural open space in this region that would be destroyed? We know the answer to that. The rest of the natural open space would continue to be at risk. We hope we will be able to find a solution to permanently protect more natural open space at the Campbell tract and the Bicentennial Park. We are the Center for the Environment and not the Center for Recreation. We also need to protect a large area for birds, wildflowers, moose, bear and other things, which would not continue to exist in their present numbers if we continue to reduce the area that we presently have. This

really is not a kid versus trees issue. Children love trees and we want to protect them for future generations.

CAMERON VIVIAN said he was a volunteer coach with the Simonian Little League and he has two sons who play baseball with the Simonians. He also lives near Bicentennial Park and enjoys many of the activities available there. He also serves as the field maintenance director for the Alaska Rugby Union. He is a volunteer coach in the Boy's and Girl's Club hockey. He has participated with ski racing programs and the Special Olympics. He was very impressed with his relationship with the Simonian Little League. He felt the Simonian Little League has served our community in a superior fashion. Many of the young people he has coached with the Simonian Little League have that as their only organized sport. The loss of Simonian Little League would come at a high cost to our community with no other summer outlets for aiding in the development of these young men and women. Alternative #2 fits well with the updated master plan of Bicentennial Park and would be an improvement for multiple user groups while having minimum impact on wilderness and beauty of this large park. There is ample space to share this area. The "anywhere but my back yard" mentality is very troubling. The current financial climate that we are experiencing in Anchorage makes alternative #2 most likely the only choice that can keep the Simonian Little League as an active organization in 2004. Land swaps, corporate gifting and bond issues are a time consuming and unlikely remedy. Dissolution is a real possibility. He would love someone to show him fields that they could use as a short-term solution. Every sports group in Anchorage cites shortages of fields and facilities. Anchorage is a growing community and must be willing to adapt to change. Change can be unsettling, but not all change is bad. Should these fields be built, you will still be able to participate in your favor outdoor activities. If they are not built, he was afraid his children would be done playing Little League. He asked the Assembly to support alternative #2 for his children and the other children and families of our area.

TOM MEACHAM said he had been involved in the Far North Bicentennial Park issue since 1974 when it was first proposed as a transfer from the federal government to the State of Alaska and then to the Municipality. He was vice chair of the 1984-updated Far North Bicentennial Park plan committee. They had a professional survey done as part of their work on that committee. The crucial questions that was asked of the residents who were surveyed in 1983 to 1984 was what do you see as the best use of land within the Campbell tract. Thirty-five percent of the respondents said low impact recreation such as hiking, birdwatching, picnicking and cross-country skiing were the most appropriate use of the park. Thirty-seven percent said general recreation such as family recreation, family outings and so forth was the most appropriate use. Only seven percent said that high impact uses such as ball fields, golf and alpine skiing were appropriate uses of the park. He ventured to say that if a similar survey were taken today even more people would be appreciating the natural values of the park. BLM was allowed by federal law to select up to 1,000 acres to keep out of the transfer from the federal government to the State and then to the Municipality in the 1976 Cook Inlet land exchange legislation. They selected about 780 acres. They have title to that land and they have renewed their withdrawal for another 25 years. When the plan was drawn up, the proposed ball fields were put on the developed portions of the airstrip and the roads, because that was an area that would allow developed recreation without detracting from the undeveloped character of the rest of the park. There was no expression that if those lands were not available that developed ball fields should go elsewhere in the park. The Mayor may have played his cards too close to his vest when he tried to persuade BLM last year not to renew their renewal of their withdrawal, because if the Municipality had been assured that the land would be designated as part of Bicentennial Park rather than for some other use, there might have been more public support for the transfer of those lands to the Municipality. BLM has expressed a desire to cooperate where they can with the existing park plan, but they do not have a legal obligation to devote their airstrip and road lands to ball fields, even though that might be the most appropriate place for them. He opposed the amendment to the existing Bicentennial Park plan.

In response to Mr. Tesche, Mr. Meacham said he did not believe there was a legal impediment in this situation. If the proposal to develop this corner conflicted with the Generalized Land Use Plan in the 1974 Far North Bicentennial Park Plan then there might be a legal impediment, because that condition still governs the transfer from the federal government to the State and to the Municipality. He thought this portion of the park had a designation appropriate for ball fields, even though it was not planned for ball fields. He has been involved with identify alternative sites, so he was not comfortable saying which sites would be better than others.

GARY DIXON said he was a resident of the Abbott Loop area. He had not read the Comprehensive Plan until he started focusing on this issue. One thing he noted in the plan was that Anchorage's future development would depend increasingly on more efficient use of existing infrastructure. He has lived in several cities and Little League has developed facilities in some cities, but in other cities they simply use other facilities. He felt they needed to consider the different characteristics of the land. He can actually go and walk through the woods on this 25-acre parcel of land. If you go further down, you are up to your knees in mud in the summertime. If we want to view the wetlands as having a value that's greater than the high and dry land and we only develop the high and the dry land then all we will have left is the wetlands. There is obviously extremely high intangible value to maintaining the contiguous land. If we continue chipping away at the land then we can replace it with little pieces elsewhere, but we can never bring it back together. He opposed the amendment to the Far North Bicentennial Park Plan.

MELODY DAVIS said if this was a purely economic decision, what price should we put on the oxygen factory that we are going to pave over for a parking lot? Even non-park users benefit from the oxygen. We have an invisible carbon monoxide problem in our town. We are living in this bowl together. If dollars and cents were the only thing that matters, Central Park would be paved over. She loved Central Park and the manicured Japanese manicured gardens. She would not trade 1,000 of the Japanese manicured gardens

for our messy virgin wild forest. The wild forest is an open-air cathedral and a poor person's health club. It is a social club and a free mental health center. It is a wild sanctuary for birds and two-legged animals. She walks in this park every day. She felt it was crazy to keep the land wild in a city of a quarter of a million people and she hoped the Assembly was crazy enough to do it.

AMY McLEAN said Bicentennial Park is an asset to this city as it is and it makes Anchorage a desirable place to live.

KIM WELLS said she lived near Far North Bicentennial Park. She represented herself, as well as the feelings of eight or nine other user groups who opposed the senseless destruction of this forested parkland and wildlife. She hikes, bikes, skies and jog in this park. When she talks to people who live in other states, they tell her that we have something rare and special here. Their cities are completely developed and they must drive long distances to find and enjoy wild areas. She did not trust that this would end at 25 acres. There are alternate sites available and with some effort these could work and be within the Simonian Little League's boundaries. Just because this site seems to be the path of least resistance, it does not mean it is the right path. The Simonian Little League has known about this need for land for some time and it is not okay that their inaction has become our crisis and could result in the sad and permanent loss to so many other people. The Simonian parents talked about the concept of sharing. But it is not sharing when the ball fields are locked up eight to nine months of the year when they are not in use. The multiple other trail users who represent the majority and have no use for ball fields currently share these trails all year long. These ball fields do exclude anyone with any type of activity other than baseball. No one who skis, bikes, horse rides, hikes, jogs, walks, musher or orienteers wants to do these activities in treeless fenced circles. Please do not make this a sad and permanent mistake.

In response to Ms. Von Gemmingen, Ms. Wells said putting the ball fields in the Bicentennial Park seemed to be the cheapest and quickest way to solve the problem, but that did not mean it was the right solution.

Ms. Fairclough pointed out that the Simonian Little League has been actively searching for land for ball fields for at least two years.

RICK MILLER said he was an Abbott Loop area resident, a former coach and board member of Little League and currently he is a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission. He was speaking on his own behalf and not as a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission. He has been involved with the selection process for quite some time. They have been searching for a place to put the ball fields for two and a half years. He was in favor of the amendment. The parks and recreation bond package for next year is at \$8,300,000 and he did not see room for an additional \$2,000,000 to buy land for the ball fields. We have a demonstrated need and an urgency. Whatever is done needs to be done soon. Two and a half years is a long time to wait and that time could have been used to build the fields. We are running out of time and something needs to be done. As a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, he was in favor of more land acquisition for parks. We are in a financial crunch. We have to be realistic and fiscally responsible. It would be nice to have another site and not have to put this in Bicentennial Park, but the money and the time is not there. He supported the amendment.

In response to Mr. Tesche, Mr. Miller said he was not implying that the land in Bicentennial Park had no value. If he lived in other sections of Anchorage he might not support the additional \$2,000,000 for land acquisition, because we could use Bicentennial Park. There is undeveloped parkland in this area. We are talking about a portion of Bicentennial Park that is next to a street and subdivisions. We are not putting the ball fields in the middle of the park. He felt it was a reasonable selection and site. Other user groups could still use the park if the ball fields were put in. The ball fields will not be fenced in and locked up with eight to nine months of the year. The Simonian Little League is only looking for what other Little Leagues have had in this city for years. The Simonian Little League is getting penalized for existing on private land for 20 years. Every other Little League in Anchorage plays on public land and has fields that came from public land, with the exception of the Polar Mt. View Little League. He would not object to the Assembly considering another site. There are several good sites that have been identified, but the problems are time and money. The Heritage Land Bank has said they did not see a need to trade or use their land unless there was no city parkland available.

In response to Mr. Tremaine, Mr. Miller said he did not know where additional ball fields and soccer fields would go in Anchorage. They have been trying to get more money for land acquisition. He felt they got behind the eight ball a couple of administration ago, because the Mayor had no interest in parks and recreation and gutted the budget and we have been trying to play catch-up ever since. The land to build on around Anchorage is disappearing. The remaining land is very expensive and he expected the land would get more expensive as time goes on. The other sites that were suitable included 88th Street, but he was not if the amount of land they were willing to sell was sufficient. Art Simonian's land would probably be suitable depending on wetland concerns. He felt the area next to Whisper Faith Kovatch Park on Lore Road would be a good site also.

In response to Mr. Van Etten, Mr. Miller said there was a very large needs for all sorts of sports fields in Anchorage. At this point the Simonian Little League situation is the most pressing need. Everyone else has places to play, but the Simonians will not have a place to play. He felt it was more important to have the ball fields at Bicentennial Park than not have the ball fields.

AMY MILLER said she has lived in the Anchorage area for 26 years. She supports amending the master plan for the Bicentennial Park to allow for the Simonian ball fields. She is an Abbott Loop resident and a former Simonian Little League volunteer softball coach and board member. Both she and her husband

have spent countless hours over the last six years coaching their daughters' teams, as well as other children's teams. They worked with parents to have children picked up and taking them to softball. They really want to see the Simonian children have a home. The key word is a home. We have the pressing point of time and money. We need a place that is near the epicenter of the player population. Ninety percent of the players live in the Abbott Loop area. Abbott Loop Road is a busy road, but there will be some major changes made in future years. We anticipate 40 percent growth in Anchorage over the next few years and there will be a lot of changes. Not everyone likes change, but change is part of life. We need to protect the future. The kids are our future leaders. Playing softball, baseball and soccer are things that our daughter has done. We have enjoyed Bicentennial Park as a family. She supported the amendment to allow Simonian ball fields.

MICHELLE BRENDER said she was a lifelong voting Alaskan. She felt the city should not change the charter. She agreed that they needed ball fields, but the issue is not really about kids or trees and both are being used as pawns. The issue is whether to amend the charter, because certain people see it as an easy out. Where is the vision that was mentioned in the 2020 Plan about acquiring additional community parkland? They said that ballparks would take up only one percent of the park's land, but dismantling Bicentennial Park one percent of a time will not take long if you change the charter. It is like saying the city wants to institute a one- percent tax with a promise of never going any higher than that. We all know where that leads. The Little League supporters try to paint a picture of a large park. We all know that when the 20-year lease expires, the politicians will have grand designs for the BLM land. The state park is a state park and not a regional or a city park. The reason Bicentennial Park is unique is that it provides accessible, local recreational activities in line with the master plan, which is to preserve and provide for recreational use that is consistent with the primary objectives of nature conservation. The Bicentennial Park cannot afford to become any smaller. Do not take away from one user group to give to another. We are just playing with the figures and not working on the vision of the 2020 Plan. The multi user groups that use the park are growing, too. We do not need to be clear-cutting land when we can utilize other locations. She does want the Simonians to have their ball fields, but not at the expense of other groups or at the expense of the park itself. She did not think the park users were being selfish about keeping the park intact, but protecting it for the future of the city. This can be a win-win solution for all involved if we stick to the goals of the 2020 Plan and not just shift land around.

TRACY ELLSWORTH asked the Assembly not to amend bylaws of Far North Bicentennial Park. This is a grand city park and a very valuable jewel in its current state. She was not against finding solutions for the Simonian Little League, but she did not believe that was the issue they should be talking about. She felt the issue was whether or not we wanted to change the bylaws and ultimately change the face of a natural park that represents Anchorage. She asked the Assembly to consider the proposals talked about by Jim Barr before voting on this issue. When she moved to Alaska she had a choice of teaching in Kenai or in Anchorage. She drove around the city and looked at Kincaid Park and Bicentennial Park and that made her decision for her. She asked the Assembly to consider the future for our families and our children and not just this short-term issue. She encouraged the Assembly to consider all the options and vote no on the amendment.

BOB WOOLFETER said he had listened to a lot of strong testimony and exaggerations, which was not necessary, appropriate or accurate. No one has ever accused him of being a major tree hugger or an eco-terrorist. He has sold real estate in Anchorage for years. He was considered pro-development. He is a 25-year NRA member. He even voted for Mayor Wuerch. He has also spent most of the past 15 years as a scout master and cub master within the Boy Scouts of America in Anchorage, several years as a soccer coach and one year he even assisted in coaching a Simonian Little League Team. He likes working with children. He takes groups of scout into this area for nature hikes, overnight camping and various other activities. He felt Bicentennial Park had a great deal of value as it was. He asked the Assembly not to erase a part of the park that was irreplaceable. He noted that there were good trades available. We do not need to destroy something so unique. When tourists come to Anchorage they do not go away saying my gosh look at those ball fields, but when they see wildland and wild animals within the city, they remember that. That is part of what makes Anchorage unique. Don't Californicate Anchorage. We don't need it. Preserve this park and do not amend the charter. He pointed out that tonight they had 29 people and 3 groups that had testified against the amendment as opposed to eight, including non-voting children, in favor of the amendment.

PETER MIOS said he has been a physician in Alaska for nearly 30 years. He is a resident of Rogers Park. He hoped no one would accuse him of being anti-child. He served as president of the Anchorage Junior Nordic League for five years, during which time it became the largest training ground for Nordic skiers in America. During that time they succeeded in accomplishing four major projects worth approximately \$500,000, which were given to the City of Anchorage at no cost. One of the projects was the completion of a trail in Far North Bicentennial Park, which is available to all users 365 days a year. Additionally, he is vice chair of Take Heart Alaska, which is the state's cardiovascular prevention task force. He is chair of the Physical Activities Section and the Daily Physical Education Program, which recognizes the dismal levels of fitness in our children. As a Little Leaguer in Minnesota, he biked up hill both ways, usually in a blizzard, to attend ball games, every game of which was played in a ball field at a neighborhood school. Davenport fields, which is behind his house, has four fenced fields of different sizes. With the exception of an occasional dog leaving his mark in centerfield, the fields are unused for at least 10 months out of the year. When the fields are used, it is being used for one or two games, two or three hours a night. That is repeated citywide. This satisfies absolutely no known definition of efficiency. If baseball were meant to be played in a park, the Yankees would probably be playing in Central Park. However, they choose to play in Yankee Stadium with a focus on playing the game and hawking peanuts, beer and hot dogs. In this era of industrial Little League, the focus likewise is playing a game and hawking peanuts and hot dogs. In our

nationally recognized urban wilderness treasure, the Far North Bicentennial Park, which is the envy of North American cities, park dwellers might well disrupt many a game, distract fans and future Hall of Fame's. We are missing a great opportunity here, which is recognition of the community school. Over 60 percent of Alaskans are obese or overweight. President Clinton said that healthy cities is an economic imperative. He felt the Assembly should look at our under valued, under maintained resource, which is our community schools.

In response to Ms. Shamberg, Mr. Mjos said he did not want to diminish the value of playing baseball, but there was not great fitness enhancement there. There is no aerobic activity. It does develop coordination and proficiency in a number of skills, but as far as developing aerobic capacity and overall fitness, it is not that beneficial.

Mr. Sullivan pointed out that children who participated in baseball during the summertime probably participating in other activities throughout the year. He pointed out that Central Park, which was mentioned by several people, included ball fields and other play areas.

JOHN WELLINGTON said they currently had presents under their Christmas tree and he liked to shake the boxes to guess what is in them. He described a box for the Assembly. The box says on one side that it must be ready by 2004. On the other side it says must be 4 fields and if I shake it I hear it must be 20 or more acres. It says it must be in a restricted geographic area. It says it must cost \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000. The lid says if you do not like what is in here, you are anti-kid or an eco-terrorist. Only one thing will fit in this box when it's described like this and that's ball fields in Bicentennial Park. Before we toss out the box, let's take a look at some of these things. We are told that the fields must be ready by 2004. The Simonian Little League's failure to plan should not be our emergency. They have known since the early 1980s that they were on private property and that they would have to move at some point. There are many alternatives and the one he felt was viable was at Service High School. The School District already has plans to put ball fields there. Service High School is only two minutes from Bicentennial Park. He has also heard the Abbott O Rabbit has lost 700 players in the last three years. If that's the case then they could easily share some fields with the Simonian Little League until a community park could be built. It also says there must be four fields on 20 or more acres. Currently the Simonian Little League is on seven acres with three fields and they have been doing that successfully for decades. He questioned why they needed four fields on 20 acres. He felt they had a lot more options if they looked at replacing what they currently have. The geographic area is based on National Little League rules of population. If the rules do not work for Anchorage, he did not see why they should be restricted to that area. The price has been kicked around. (Chairman Traini ruled that the meeting was adjourned.)

15. **BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT/ASSEMBLY APPEALS**

- A. Appeal 2001-065, Conditional use for a convenience establishment – **McRae** Subdivision, Lot 6A, Clerk's Office.
- B. Assembly Memorandum No. AM 981-2001, Board of Adjustment Case No. S-10763, Ros Heights Subdivision, Legal Department.

16. **SPECIAL ORDERS:** None.

17. **UNFINISHED AGENDA:** None.

18. **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:** None.

19. **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS:** None.


20. **EXECUTIVE SESSIONS:** None.

21. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 p.m.


Chairman Dick Traini

ATTEST


Municipal Clerk

Date Minutes Approved : May 21, 2002.

GM/cmw

INDEX

Alaska Center For The Performing Arts.....	2, 12
Anchorage Bowl Comprehensive Plan	20
Anchorage Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS).....	15, 25
Appropriations	2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 25, 26
Architectural/Engineering Services	3, 4, 5
Ballot Propositions	24
Bond Issuance	26
Code Changes	11, 14, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29
Community Health Nursing Services	5
Computer Purchases, Maintenance Or Licensing	4, 11
Conditional Use For Sales Of Alcoholic Beverages.....	27
Conflict Of Interest	8
Far North Bicentennial Park Master Plan Pages 17 through 24 and Pages 29 through 34	
General Accounting Standards Board (GASB).....	5, 6, 10
General Government Operating Budget	12, 24, 25
Heritage Land Bank	5, 10, 14, 16, 17, 23, 25, 32
Internal Audit Report	5
Kincaid Park	33
Land Sale, Purchase, Lease, Conveyance Or Donation	18, 28, 32
Large Retail Establishments (Big Box)	27
Lateral Improvement Districts	3, 8
Legislative Program	2, 7
Levy Upon Connection (Luc) Roll	26
Liquor Licenses	4, 9, 27
Lobbying Services	4
MOA Trust Fund.....	24, 26
Planning And Zoning Commission.....	9, 16, 17, 27, 28
Police And Fire Retirement System	5
Police Department.....	2, 3, 6
RECOGNITION:.....	1, 2, 6
Rezoning.....	23, 28
Road Improvement Projects.....	5
Road Maintenance Services	3
Special Olympics 2001 World Winter Games Alaska.....	30
State Training And Employment Program	6
Tax Anticipation Notes	13, 26
Taxes -	1, 19, 21
Water Improvement Districts.....	3, 8

