

**MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE**  
**ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY**

**Assembly Conference Room,  
City Hall, Room 155**

**Minutes for Special Meeting of November 15, 2003**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was convened at 10:00 a.m. by Assembly Chairman Dick Traini at City Hall, 632 W. 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, in Room 155, the Assembly Conference Room, Anchorage, Alaska.

**2. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Allan Tesche, Brian Whittle, Anna Fairclough, Dick Traini, Fay Von Gemmingen, Doug Van Etten, Dick Tremaine and Dan Sullivan.  
ABSENT: Janice Shamberg, Melinda Taylor and Dan Kendall.

**3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Mr. Van Etten led the pledge.

**4. ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS FOR INTRODUCTION**

Chair Traini read both items the titles of both items on the Agenda. Mr. Tesche proposed to combine Public Hearing for both items on the Agenda, AO 2003-144 and AR 2003-351.

Mr. Tesche moved, to combine Pubic Hearing for items 4.A and 4.B,  
Mr. Whittle seconded, AO 2003-144 and AR 2003-351.  
and this motion was passed,

AYES: Sullivan, Tremaine, Van Etten, Fairclough, Traini, Von Gemmingen, Whittle and Tesche.  
NAYES: None.  
ABSENT: Shamberg, Taylor and Kendall.

Chair Traini opened Public Hearing of both items.

JOSEF RUSSEL testified. He and his wife had been Anchorage residents for many years. He thought the Assembly would be wise to reject this vote (*sic*). Ms. Von Gemmingen and Mr. Tremaine explained to Mr. Russel that water utility billings today included both water and sewer, explaining the two line charges for AWWU.

Chair Traini asked for additional public testimony. There being none, he closed Public Hearing and called for the first motion on item 4.A.

4.A Ordinance No. AO 2003-154, an ordinance of the Municipality of Anchorage **repealing AO 2003-144**, submitting a ballot proposition to qualified voters of the Municipality of Anchorage at a Special Election on November 25, 2003, authorizing levy of a special tax to provide fire hydrant maintenance and infrastructure on an areawide basis, Assemblymembers Tesche, Von Gemmingen and Fairclough.

Mr. Tesche moved, to approve AO 2003-154.  
Mr. Sullivan seconded,  
and this motion was passed,

AYES: Sullivan, Tremaine, Van Etten, Fairclough, Traini, Von Gemmingen, Whittle and Tesche.  
NAYES: None.  
ABSENT: Shamberg, Taylor and Kendall.

Mr. Tesche, Ms. Von Gemmingen and Ms. Fairclough joined in introducing the ordinance.

Mr. Tremaine stated that this was an item that Assemblymembers scheduled to be voted upon because they originally thought they had no choice, facing next year's budget crisis. The Assembly would be continually searching for alternate sources of revenue to be able to balance the 2004 budget. Mr. Tremaine stated he was sponsoring a proposed collection of bed taxes from Bed and Breakfast businesses. He stated that fire hydrant maintenance was critical, and they should be applying for RCA relief.

Ms. Fairclough thanked the Administration for their proposals of all possible cut backs and revenue sources for the budget.

Mr. Van Etten thanked the Mayor, and stated it was a very bold move to find ways to balance a very unbalance budget. He appreciated the Mayor and the Administration for finding ways to resolve the budget crisis without having to take this issue to a ballot in an areawide vote.

Mr. Whittle stated that this action did help resolve some of the budget crisis, but there were still concerns of a very tight budget. He felt it was important to try and protect the citizens from additional taxes, and they would be continuing to look at every possible way to reduce the budget gap, so they won't have to lay off firefighters. He said they would have a lot of tough choices to make in the next few weeks.

4.B Resolution No. AR 2003-351, a resolution of the Anchorage Municipal Assembly **repealing AR 2003 302**, calling a Special Election in and for the Municipality of Anchorage on November 25, 2003, for the purpose of voting on a ballot proposition authorizing fire hydrant maintenance and infrastructure on an areawide basis, Assemblymembers Tesche, Fairclough and Tremaine.

Mr. Tesche moved, to approve AR 2003-351.  
Mr. Sullivan seconded,  
and this motion was passed,

AYES: Sullivan, Tremaine, Van Etten, Fairclough, Traini, Von Gemmingen, Whittle and Tesche.  
NAYES: None.  
ABSENT: Shamberg, Taylor and Kendall.

Mr. Tesche explained the background of this resolution, for the record. He was one of the original sponsors of the legislation for the areawide vote. Since that time, the Mayor and the Administration had been very creative in identifying new options for sources of revenue to prevent the layoffs of the 22 firefighters. With the new options, he stated he was pleased to be a cosponsor to this legislation, repelling the ordinances and calling off the election. He thought it was important for the public to understand the concerns of the tax cap, with one of the critical provisions allowing the voters the option of raising or lowering the level of expenditures. He stated that it was very important for the public to understand that, with additional state and federal funding sources being reduced, it would be continually challenging to keep balance in the years to come.

Mr. Tremaine proposed a motion for immediate reconsideration and urged a NO-vote.

Mr. Tremaine moved, for immediate reconsideration of AR 2003-351  
Mr. Tesche seconded,  
and this motion failed,

AYES: None.  
NAYES: Sullivan, Tremaine, Van Etten, Fairclough, Traini, Von Gemmingen, Whittle and Tesche.  
ABSENT: Shamberg, Taylor and Kendall.

Chair Traini announced the failure of the reconsideration of this legislation before the Assembly.

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Tremaine moved, to adjourn the Special Meeting.  
Mr. Tesche seconded,  
and this motion was passed unanimously,

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DICK TRAINI, Assembly Chair

ATTEST:

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BARBARA GRUENSTEIN, Municipal Clerk  
Date Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_, 2004  
MC:BG