

**WASILLA CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION MEMORANDUM**

**IM No. 99-87**

**SUBJECT: Airport Leasing, Code Change Requested**

REQUESTED BY: Airport Manager and Economic Developer

PREPARED BY: Ric Davidge

DATE: 8/27/99

FOR AGENDA OF: August 30, 1999

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**SUMMARY:**

The current code dealing with airport leasing is long, difficult to understand, does not clearly discriminate between small private, small commercial, public, and larger commercial uses. The code also requires all leases to be approved by the Council regardless of type, complexity, or scale. This has created a barrier to economic development and efficient airport management.

Recent negotiations with a number of parties interested in leasing land at the Wasilla Municipal Airport have been greatly frustrated by the present code. It is generally considered by the Airport Manager, the Economic Developer, and applicants, to be a barrier to reasonable and responsible leasing of airport lands for private, public, and small commercial uses because of its complexity and time delays.

The proposed change simplifies the code and will allow an Administrative Approval of small private and small commercial leases at the airport. Large commercial leases or leases the administration believes require Council attention, will be brought before the Council for review and approval. The Council will continue to be provided copies of all other leases negotiated and approved by the administration under "Communications" or the consent agenda as considered appropriate.

In addition to the proposed code amendments, the administration and City Attorney are also preparing a new lease document for airport leasing consistent with this code amendment and other appropriate management and economic development objectives such as airport lease competition.

Staff has a number of applications to lease land at the airport in various stages of development and negotiation. This change of the code will accelerate and facilitate these efforts generating income to the city and economic activity at the airport.

The Wasilla Municipal Airport is a critical facility in the economic growth and diversification of the City of Wasilla. Development of a master plan, which is planned for this winter, for the airport and proposed adjacent industrial park, will review leasing and development objectives for these critical areas and make appropriate recommendations.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**  No  Yes, will increase income to the General Fund

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Approval



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Reviewed by: SARAH PALIN, Mayor

Attachments: