

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on May 18, 2006, at the Central Mat-Su Public Safety Building, 101 W. Swanson Avenue, Wasilla, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Tim Anderson for the purpose of holding public hearings on Resolution Serial No. 06-054 regarding the Wasilla-Lakes fire code deferment and Ordinance Serial No. 06-006 regarding the fiscal year 2007 budget.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Ms. Lynne Woods, Assembly District No. 1
Mr. Bill Allen, Assembly District No. 2
Mr. Talis J. Colberg, Assembly District No. 3
Ms. Mary Kvalheim, Assembly District No. 4
Ms. Cindy Bettine, Assembly District No. 5
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District 6 (*Deputy Mayor*) (*arrived 6:27 p.m.*)
Ms. Betty Vehrs, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Michelle M. McGehee, CMC, Borough Clerk
Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager
Ms. Lonnie McKechnie, Executive Assistant to the Borough Clerk
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director
Ms. Cheyenne Heindel, Financial Analyst
Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Assistant Borough Attorney

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Anderson inquired if there were any changes to the agenda.

GENERAL CONSENT: The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Nancy Hereford, President of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Employees Association.

V. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Resolution Serial No. 06-054: A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AND APPROVING A FIRE CODE DEFERMENT FROM THE ALASKA STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE FOR THE WASILLA-LAKES FIRE SERVICE AREA NO. 130, INCLUDING THE ADDITION

OF TWO REGULAR FULL-TIME FIRE CODE OFFICIALS, FUNDED THROUGH THE
WASILLA-LAKES OPERATING BUDGET, FUND 250. (*Sponsor: Assemblymember Kvalheim*)

(1) IM No. 06-124

Mr. Brodigan and Chief Krill provided a staff report.

Assemblymember Woods queried the time frame it would take to meet the stipulation requirements.

Chief Krill:

- spoke regarding the stipulation requirements;
- stated that the fundamental part of the stipulations is getting the two new employees; and
- stated that everything should be fully on board by December.

Assemblymember Woods queried if there will be further expansion of the program.

Chief Krill:

- advised that there will be no expansion of the program in the first phase;
- stated that the Borough is taking over exactly what the State Fire Marshall's Office is performing presently; and
- spoke regarding evaluating and the possible further expansion of the program.

Assemblymember Colberg queried whether there will be an inspection time table scheduled for businesses on a regular basis.

Chief Krill:

- stated that ideally every occupancy that is required to have an inspection would get an inspection annually; and
- spoke regarding a priority list.

Assemblymember Colberg queried whether there will be annual mandatory inspections.

Chief Krill:

- stated that ideally there will be annual mandatory inspections; and
- advised that the State at this time only handles target hazards, and then others on a different rotation.

Assemblymember Colberg queried revenue projection.

Chief Krill stated that there are no charges for the annual inspection; just on the plan review process.

(Assemblymember Colver arrived at 6:27 p.m.)

Discussion ensued regarding:

- revenue projections and fees;
- the liability of the Borough;
- the responsibilities of the Fire Code Officials and staff resources;
- communities needs; and
- citation procedures.

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in support of Resolution Serial No. 06-054: Mr. Andrew Simasko, Mr. Ken Slauson, Mr. Greg Koskela, Ms. Taunnie Boothby, Ms. Dianne Woodruff, Mr. Jim Swanson, Mr. Dan Tucker, and Mr. Ernie Misewicz.

There being no others present who wished to testify, the public hearing closed and discussion moved to the Assembly.

MOTION: Assemblymember Kvalheim moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 06-054.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

B. Ordinance Serial No. 06-006: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING MONIES FROM THE CENTRAL TREASURY AND ESTABLISHING THE RATE OF LEVY FOR ALL BOROUGH FUNCTIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2006, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2007.

Ms. Clayton provided a staff report.

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke regarding the School District's finances and the School District laying off members of the Certified Employees Association: Mr. Carl Norman; Ms. Carrie Phillips; Mr. Robert Vroman; Mr. Ron Rucker, President of the Certified Employees Association;

The following person spoke in support of the Accounting Assistant I position: Ms. Debra Wetherhorn.

The following person spoke regarding the growth in government: Mr. Charlie Fannon.

The following person spoke in support of the Enhanced 911 and the bed tax: Mr. John Combs.

The following person spoke in support of the Water Safety Instructor position: Ms. Kristen Lein.

The following person spoke regarding concerns for the lack of space for the employees in the Dorothy Swanda Jones Administration Building: Ms. Nancy Hereford, President of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Employees Association.

(The special meeting recessed at 8:45 and reconvened at 8:53 p.m.)

The following person spoke regarding the School District's finances and the School District laying off members of the Certified Employees Association: Ms. Cindi Cabo-Carroll.

The following person spoke in support of funding the School District: Ms. Anne Kilkenny.

The following person spoke in favor of not funding the School District until an outside audit is performed: Ms. Annette Harpster.

The following person spoke regarding bond debt: Mr. Brian Morgan.

The following persons spoke in favor of the funding of the Mat-Su Youth Court: Ms. Lisa Albert-Konecky, Ms. Courtney Hand, and Mr. Jeremy Smith.

The following person spoke in support for the Emergency Services Coordinator position: Ms. Gene Wiseman.

The following person spoke in support of the Road Maintenance Technician position: Mr. Mike Garner.

Mayor Anderson advised that the Assembly would begin the deliberations of the budget on May 23, 2006.

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke regarding her daughter's disability not being recognized by the School District: Ms. Carilyn Walter.

The following person thanked the Assembly for holding the budget public hearings at the Central Mat-Su Public Safety Building: Ms. Anne Kilkenny.

The following person spoke regarding the School District's contract with NANA Corporation: Mr. Ron Rucker, President of the Certified Employees Association.

The following person spoke regarding Mr. Robert Doyle, Chief School Administrator for the School District: Ms. Barbara Bowe.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (for matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance, are required to be confidential; and matters, the immediate public knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the borough.)

A. Consideration of filing a lawsuit regarding Borough finances

Assemblymember Allen:

- spoke regarding the relationship between the School District and the Borough;
- stated that the Borough Attorney's Office has advised that the Borough does not have any legal recourse to stop the School District and the Chief School Administrator from restructuring the School District's work force;
- spoke regarding the reasons he would like to discuss this topic in open session rather than executive session; and
- stated that this issue is having a tremendous social and economic impact on the community.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colver moved for a vote of no confidence for the Chief School Administrator of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District.

Assemblymember Colver:

- stated that he has a lack of confidence in the Chief School Administrator;
- spoke regarding possible future liabilities; and
- spoke to the need for the Borough and School District to work together.

Discussion ensued regarding the motion of no confidence.

Assemblymember Colver spoke to his reason for making the motion for discussion.

WITHDRAW: Assemblymember Colver requested to withdraw the motion. There was no objection.

Mr. Spiropoulos:

- stated that it does not appear that the Borough can file a lawsuit against the School District and the Chief School Administrator from restructuring their work force; and
- spoke regarding how the Borough Attorney's Office formed their opinion.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- legal recourse against the School District;
- the possibility for an audit of the School District;
- the Borough managing the School District's facilities; and
- the School District's budget.

VIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Vehrs thanked Chief Allison for the job he did on an emergency situation in her area.

Mayor Anderson:

- thanked the audience for participating in the public hearing;
- stated that the budget is the only real tool that the Borough has to give the School District a message;
- noted that the Borough cannot tell the School District how to spend their funds;
- spoke to the need to keep the schools open for the month of July; and

- spoke regarding property tax relief.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

/S/

TIMOTHY L. ANDERSON, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

/S/

MICHELLE M. MCGEHEE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: 06/06/06