

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on November 7, 2009, at the Sunset View Resort. The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Mayor Talis J. Colberg for the purpose of holding an Assembly Planning Session.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

- Ms. Lynne Woods, Assembly District No. 1 (*Deputy Mayor*)
- Mr. Pete Houston, Assembly District No. 2
- Mr. Ronald Arvin, Assembly District No. 3 (*arrived at 10:14 a.m.*)
- Mr. Mark Ewing, Assembly District No. 4
- Ms. Cindy L. Bettine, Assembly District No. 5 (*arrived at 10:14 a.m.*)
- Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7

Assemblymembers absent and excused were:

- Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6

Staff in attendance were:

- Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk
- Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager
- Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney
- Ms. Brenda J. Henry, Executive Assistant to the Borough Clerk

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Mr. Duffy requested to add discussion regarding press releases.

Mayor Colberg queried if there was any objection to adding a discussion on press releases as Item A under Items of Business.

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

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Nick Spiropoulos.

V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. PRESS RELEASES

Mr. Duffy:

- spoke to a request for a press releases concerning annexation by the city of Wasilla;
- queried how staff should handle individual requests for press releases from Assembly members; and
- noted his concerns with the Assembly providing staff with direction outside of Assembly meetings.

Mayor Colberg:

- suggested that the Assembly take time to consider this question; and
- further added that the Assembly could then discuss it at the next Assembly meeting.

Assemblymember Ewing asked that the request for the press release be distributed to all members prior to the next Assembly meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding press releases.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

1. Assembly goals and objectives – Review of Strategic Plan

MOTION: Assemblymember Woods moved to enter into the Committee of the Whole.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection and the Assembly moved into the Committee of the Whole at 10:24 a.m.

Ms. Karen Kirk facilitated a conversation regarding the Assembly goals and objectives and the strategic plan.

(The special meeting recessed at 12 p.m. and reconvened at 12:10 p.m.)

(The special meeting recessed at 12:55 p.m. and reconvened at 1:29 p.m.)

MOTION: Assemblymember Woods moved to exit the Committee of the Whole.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection and the Assembly exited the Committee of the Whole at 2:55 p.m.

MOTION: Assemblymember Woods moved that the Manager prepare a resolution for the Governor's budget identifying the top three Borough priorities, which are: road bonds, rail extension and natural gas pipeline, for the December 1, 2009, regular Assembly meeting.

VOTE: There was no objection noted.

MOTION: Assemblymember Halter moved that the Manager report to the Assembly two times a year regarding the strategic plan, outside the Assembly planning sessions.

VOTE: There was no objection noted.

I. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke to the need for the Assembly to stop and see Fish Creek Park while in Big Lake: Ms. Jay Nolfi.

II. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Halter stated that he enjoyed the meeting as it was very informative.

Assemblymember Ewing:

- opined that Ms. Kirk did a fine job as facilitator;
- thanked the public for their participation at the meeting; and
- stated that it was a good meeting.

Assemblymember Arvin stated that the meeting was very informative.

Assemblymember Bettine:

- stated that she would like the Assembly Members to travel south Big Lake road in order to experience firsthand how curvy the road is;
- spoke to her concerns with traffic safety on south Big Lake road; and
- opined that it was a good meeting.

Assemblymember Woods:

- stated that it was a good meeting;
- noted that she looked at Fish Creek Park as she drove by;
- spoke to concerns regarding infrastructure; and
- related her appreciation for the hard work the Assembly does.

Assemblymember Houston:

- spoke to his appreciation for planning sessions;
- noted that when he was a new member, the meetings provided him with good information; and
- spoke to concerns regarding infrastructure.

Mayor Colberg stated that it was a productive meeting.

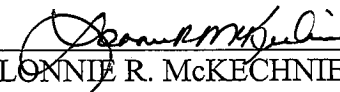
III. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.



TALIS J. COLBERG, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: 12/01/09