

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
ASSEMBLY**

**SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 4, 2000**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on May 4, 2000, at the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly Chambers, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Darcie K. Salmon.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. Larry DeVilbiss, Assembly District No. 1
Ms. Sara Jansen, Assembly District No. 2
Mr. James Colberg, Assembly District No. 3
Mr. Dan Kelly, Assembly District No. 4 (Excused)
Ms. Jody Simpson, Assembly District No. 5
Mr. Jim Turner, Assembly District No. 6
Mr. Doyle Holmes, Assembly District No. 7 (Deputy Mayor)

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Sandra Dillon, Borough Clerk
Mr. Michael J. Scott, Borough Manager
Mr. John Duffy, Assistant Manager
Mr. Michael Gatti, Borough Attorney (via teleconference)
Mr. Gary Lebowich, Human Resources Manager
Ms. Elizabeth Manfred, Borough Deputy Clerk
Mr. Jim Swing, Public Works Director
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director
Mr. Karl Borglum, Borough Assessor
Ms. Cindy Gilder, Planning Director
Mr. Ron Swanson, Community Development Director
Mr. Kevin Koechlein, Public Safety Director

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Assemblymember Turner.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (6 P.M. TO 7 P.M.)

A. REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2001 BUDGET

Mr. Swing:

- stated the mission of the public works department is to design, construct, and maintain borough projects in a cost-effective manner;

- remarked that a portion of the director's salary was allocated to road service areas;
- explained that the budget increase in facility maintenance reflects increase in gas prices, annual wage step increases, and additional public safety buildings;
- noted the project management budget requested additional overtime yet the overall budget remains the same as the past year;
- explained that the central landfill budget increases consist of salary raises, expenditures for testing required by DEC, a gate and security system, and increased volume of accepted waste;
- spoke to the transfer sites budget and that hazardous waste disposal requires new equipment and increased labor services;
- proposed an abandoned vehicle removal program;
- disclosed that the Houston septic treatment plant budget is for building maintenance only;
- advised that the road service area budgets reflect salary increases and equipment purchases;
- informed the assembly that road services with mill rate change requests are Fairview, Caswell Lakes, South Colony, Bogard, and Alpine;
- related that the Talkeetna Flood Control Service Area budget allows for dike improvements, and the Garden Terrace Estates Water System treatment facility will require upgrades;
- reported that FY00 was the first year the Talkeetna Water and Sewer project did not freeze; and
- addressed the study for access to Freedom Hills Subdivision.

The special assembly meeting recessed at 6:50 p.m. and reconvened at 7 p.m.

V. PUBLIC HEARING (Beginning at 7 P. M. - Three minutes per person.)

- A. Ordinance Serial No. 00-033: An Ordinance Appropriating Monies From All Central Treasury and Establishing the Rate of Levy for All Borough Functions for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2000, and Ending June 30, 2001.

Mayor Salmon opened the public hearing on Ordinance Serial No. 00-033.

Mr. Dennis Heike, Wasilla EMS Chief:

- supported the request for a new ambulance in Wasilla; and
- requested consideration of stand-by pay for EMS volunteers.

Mr. Bill Welch:

- thanked the assembly for supporting the Big Lake Library proposal; and
- requested continued support for the land exchange and construction phase.

Mr. Brian Taylor, Willow FSA Chief:

- explained the reserve account is planned to fund apparatus replacement, upgrade facilities, and purchase equipment;
- stated the Willow FSA is experiencing rapid population growth and emergency calls reflect that growth; and
- requested the borough continue to support emergency services.

Ms. Sheila Dickman, Classified Employees Association of the Mat-Su School District President:

- asked the assembly to fully fund the school district budget.

Ms. Barbara Gerard:

- requested the assembly fully fund the school district budget.

There being no one else wishing to be heard, the public hearing was closed for this evening. The public hearing will be continued on May 9, 2000.

VI. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Colberg:

- thanked the public for their comments regarding the budget process.

Assemblymember Jansen:

- expressed anticipation of budget deliberation and passage on May 9, 2000.

Assemblymember DeVilbiss:

- commented regarding the statement made that contracts have not reflected the cost of living inflation rates.

Assemblymember Holmes:

- stated that service area needs should be planned and budgeted and not rely on reserve funds.


Mayor Salmon:

- reminded the public that the public hearing will continue on Tuesday, May 9, 2000;
- requested that the assembly apply serious consideration to the school budget request; and
- anticipates rapid residential growth in the valley.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The special assembly meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

ATTEST:


DARCIE K. SALMON, Borough Mayor


SANDRA A. DILLON, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved June 6, 2000.