

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on August 8, 2000, at the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly Chambers, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Mayor Darcie K. Salmon for the purpose of public hearings for Ordinance Serial Nos. 00-125 and 126.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. Larry DeVilbiss, Assembly District No. 1 (entered the meeting at 6:20 p.m.)
Ms. Sara Jansen, Assembly District No. 2
Mr. James Colberg, Assembly District No. 3
Mr. Dan Kelly, Assembly District No. 4
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. Michael Gatti, Borough Attorney
Ms. Elizabeth Manfred, Borough Deputy Clerk
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director
Mr. Ron Swanson, Community Development Director
Mr. George Strothers, Engineering Division Manager

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Assemblymember Holmes.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Ordinance Serial No. 00-125: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING MSB 5.25.042, SERVICE AREA NO. 26, GREATER BUTTE ROAD SERVICE AREA, AND PLACING ON THE BALLOT OF THE OCTOBER 3, 2000, REGULAR ELECTION THE QUESTION OF ANNEXATION OF CERTAIN PROPERTIES IN THE JUSTIN ROAD AREA TO THE GREATER BUTTE ROAD SERVICE AREA NO. 26. IM No. 00-145

Mayor Salmon opened the public hearing.

The following spoke in favor of the ordinance as presented: Mr. Arthur Quaas and Mr. Mike Shields.

There being no one else wishing to be heard, the public hearing was closed and discussion moved to the assembly.

MOTION: Assemblymember Holmes moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 00-125.

Mr. Strothers:

- spoke to the issue of legal access to Justin road;
- stated the area is a subdivision created by waiver; and
- commented that the access road has been in existence for ten years.

Mr. Scott remarked that the borough will obtain right-of-way after area is annexed.

GENERAL CONSENT: The motion passed without objection.

- B. Ordinance Serial No. 00-126: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH TO ISSUE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$4,400,000 TO FINANCE THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, DEVELOPMENT, EQUIPPING AND UPGRADING OF BALLPARKS, INDOOR AND OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, TRAIL AND RELATED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BOROUGH, AND TO SUBMIT THE QUESTION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE BOROUGH AT THE OCTOBER 3, 2000, BOROUGH ELECTION.
IM No. 00-177

Mayor Salmon opened the public hearing.

The following spoke in favor of the ordinance as presented: Mr. Austin Helmers and Ms. Kelly Ladere.

There being no others wishing to be heard, the public hearing was closed and discussion moved to the assembly.

MOTION: Assemblymember Holmes moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 00-126.

Assemblymember Colberg commented on the need for permanent public restrooms at local play fields.

Assemblymember Kelly remarked upon the lack of recreational improvements in the Wasilla area.

Mr. Scott:

- stated that the assembly will approve scopes of work for each project listed prior to construction of the project; and
- reminded the assembly that the borough delegated parks powers to the city of Wasilla.

Assemblymember Holmes questioned the following:

- lack of bond repayment amount on ballot;
- lack of list of improvements on the ballot;
- if ballot language contains requirements of Title 29; and
- maintenance costs for constructed items.

Assemblymember Jansen stated that a majority of recreational maintenance activities are completed by volunteers.

Discussion continued on associated recreational maintenance expenses and the effects of the proposed tax cap initiative to the borough recreational budget.

Mr. Scott:

- explained that the ballot measure could not list all projects due to space requirements and referenced the project list attached to the legislative package.

Assemblymember Turner:

- spoke to two ways the bond issue may appear to voters; and
- stated that if tax cap passes there will be no more bond issues for schools.

Mr. Gatti:

- commented that Title 29 requires advertisement of the total bonded indebtedness for a bond;
- remarked that the future maintenance costs are a political question for the assembly to discuss; and
- suggested that the ordinance should include a statement that the city of Wasilla exercises limited parks powers.

Ms. Dillon explained that a complete copy of the ordinance is supplied at the polls on election day.

Mayor Salmon:

- pointed out several parks projects that need upgrades due to public safety issues; and
- remarked that many recreational facilities do not conform to ADA requirements.

Mr. Swanson:

- reported that a proposed trail from Wasilla to Big Lake is being studied;
- commented that required land acquisition for a Wasilla/Big Lake trail may be cost prohibitive;
- spoke to Smith ballfield being over a former landfill and may develop environmental issues; and
- relayed that the borough does not have ownership of Smith ballfield.

Discussion continued regarding the maintenance, environmental issues, and volunteer services of Smith ballfield.

Mr. Scott:

- suggested installing a holding tank above ground at Smith ballfield with water hauled to the tank; and
- stated that the borough will assist Wasilla in planning recreational development if requested.

Mr. Swanson advised that DEC grants are available for water and sewer improvements.

Mr. Scott:

- expects Smith ballfield to expand in the future;
- commented that DEC testing is required but will not stop the existence of Smith ballfield;
- remarked that the borough could join with the city of Wasilla in permanent facilities applications, in particular, water and sewer; and
- stated that if the voters approve this bond proposition, the bonds will be sold.

Assemblymember Colberg reiterated that the city of Wasilla should be contacted for any plans regarding Smith ballfield.

VOTE: The motion, to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 00-126, passed with Assemblymembers Holmes and DeVilbiss opposed.

MOTION: Assemblymember Jansen moved for immediate reconsideration of Ordinance Serial No. 00-126.

VOTE: The motion, to reconsider, failed with Assemblymembers Holmes and DeVilbiss in favor.

V. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Scott commented that advertising of bond propositions will begin immediately.

Assemblymember Holmes spoke to his attendance at the Republican National Convention.

Assemblymember DeVilbiss:

- reported winning a recent goat milking contest; and
- suggested scheduling an LID workshop after the election as an orientation for newly elected assembly members.

Assemblymember Jansen:

- spoke to attending a school funding adequacy training and volunteered to make a presentation at a later date;
- remarked that the state does not fully fund education standards as set; and
- shared that no changes to the current funding formula have been presented.

Assemblymember Turner commended the deputy clerk's handling of a disruptive audience participant at the last meeting.

Assemblymember Kelly:

- expressed disappointment that Smith ballfield was not included in the bond proposition project list; and
- stated DEC funds were available to address recreational sewer and water needs.

Assemblymember Colberg:

- asked administration for a status report of guard rail placement on Trunk Road overpass;
- spoke to the task force created in Anchorage to study the tax cap initiative; and
- appreciated the deputy clerk's recent actions in averting a potential disruptive situation.

Assemblymember Simpson:

- complimented the deputy clerk; and
- thanked the community for participation in a successful Clean-Up 2000.

Mayor Salmon applauded the assembly for the decisions reached this evening.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The regular assembly meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

ATTEST:


SANDRA A. DILLON, Borough Clerk


DARCIE K. SALMON, Borough Mayor

Minutes approved September 5, 2000.