

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on May 6, 2004, at the Palmer High School Theater, 1170 West Arctic, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Timothy L. Anderson for the purpose of holding a public hearing on the budget.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. J. Bruce Bush, 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. Jody Simpson, Assembly District No. 5
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6 (*Deputy Mayor*)
Ms. Betty Vehrs, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Sandra A. Dillon, CMC, Borough Clerk
Ms. Michelle M. McGehee, CMC, Incoming Borough Clerk
Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director
Mr. Don Shiesl, Public Works Director
Mr. Dennis Brodigan, Emergency Services Director
Mr. Ron Swanson, Community Development Director
Ms. Susan Dickinson, Planning and Land Use Director

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

No changes were noted.

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

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Lucy Hope, a member of the audience.

V. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Ordinance Serial No. 04-004: 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, 2004, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2005.

The following person spoke in favor of reducing proposed salaries in the budget: Mr. Larry LaGrone.

The following person spoke in support of funding the School District to the state maximum: Kathy Unfried.

The following person spoke in opposition to increased tax assessments: Mr. Penny Nixon, President of the North Lakes Community Council.

The following person spoke in opposition to reduced library funding: Marci Schmidt.

The following persons spoke in support of funding the School District to the state maximum: Ms. Lucy Hope and Ms. Anne Kilkenny.

The following person spoke in opposition to increased tax assessments and in support of a school tax: Ms. Anne Kahn.

The following person spoke in opposition to increased tax assessments: Mr. Jerry Ondola.

The following person spoke in support of the proposed positions in the budget: Mr. Harry Banks, MSBEA.

The following person voiced concerns regarding the cost of emergency services and rescue: Mr. Ed McCain.

The following person spoke in support of the emergency services budget: Mr. Mahlon Greene.

The following persons spoke in opposition to increased tax assessments: Ms. Sherry Pinkley, Mr. Gordon Wood, and Mr. Alan Butts.

The following person spoke in opposition to reduced funding of the Mat-Su Youth Court: Ms. Nicole Brenton.

The following person spoke in support of funding the School District to the state maximum: Ms. Katie Mangelsdorf.

The following persons spoke in opposition to reduced funding of the Mat-Su Youth Court: Ms. Lisa Albert-Konecky, Ms. Sarah Jones, and Ms. Heather Sheldon.

The following person spoke in support of funding the School District to the state maximum: Ms. Kris Moore.

The following persons spoke in opposition to increased tax assessments: Mr. Richard Cline, Mr. Lonnie Stevens, Ms. Helen Barry, and Mr. Malcolm McCone.

The following person spoke in opposition to reduced funding for the libraries: Ms. Pat Kilmain.

The following person spoke in support of funding the School District to the state maximum and in support of funding emergency services: Ms. Konnie Shuey.

The following person spoke in opposition to increased tax assessments: Ms. Kathy McCone.

The following person spoke in support of combined school busing and other school issues and expressed concerns regarding increased tax assessments: Ms. Yvonne Sumner.

The following person spoke in support of fire service and diversification of revenues: Mr. Ken Slauson.

There being no others who wished to testify, the public hearing closed adjourned to be continued on May 11, 2004.

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke regarding inefficiencies in Borough appropriations: Mr. Penny Nixon, President of the North Lakes Community Council.

The following person spoke in support of a sales tax: Ms. Anne Kilkenny.

The following person cautioned regarding the implementation of a sales tax: Ms. Kathy McCone.

There being no others who wished to speak, Mayor Anderson closed audience participation.

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. Dillon:

- reminded members of the Assembly to submit any budget amendments to her by May 11, 2004; and
- congratulated incoming Borough Clerk Michelle M. McGehee for officially receiving her Certified Municipal Clerk designation.

Mr. Duffy:

- provided members of the Assembly an update regarding coal bed methane regulation; and
- reported that the Alaska Railroad Corporation exemption has been eliminated.

Assemblymember Allen:

- thanked everyone for coming to speak; and
- noted his preference to have a level seating format for future public hearings on the budget,

Assemblymember Simpson:

- thanked the public for testifying; and
- commented that the Assembly has a difficult task before them when addressing the budget.

Assemblymember Bush:

- stated that he has changed his travel arrangements and will be in attendance for the May 13, 2004, Assembly meeting; and
- commented that he expects budget cuts to occur.

Assemblymember Vehrs queried Mr. Duffy regarding whether or not the appropriation to the city of Palmer for the ice arena project affected the Borough bond rating.

Mr. Duffy replied that the appropriation did not affect the bond rating as the appropriation was from the capital reserves.

Assemblymember Vehrs:

- thanked the public for testifying on the budget; and
- noted that the School District is not accountable to the Assembly.

Assemblymember Kvalheim:

- thanked everyone for attending the meeting; and
- also thanked everyone who has worked with the legislature regarding local funding.

Assemblymember Colver:

- spoke regarding the expectation of decreasing the potential mill levy; and
- noted his concerns regarding the solid waste enterprise fund and fees charged to borough residents.

Mayor Anderson:

- thanked the members of the public for their testimony;
- supported researching alternative revenue streams; and
- stated that the public hearing on the FY05 budget would continue on May 11, 2004.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

/s/

TIMOTHY L. ANDERSON, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/

SANDRA A. DILLON, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: May 18, 2004