

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on April 8, 2003, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Deputy Mayor Jim Colver, for the purpose of hearing public testimony on Ordinance Serial No. 03-003.

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. Kelly Ladere, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Sandra A. Dillon, CMC, Borough Clerk
Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager
Ms. Teresa Williams, Borough Attorney
Mr. David Germer, Assistant Borough Manager
Ms. Janice A. Case, Borough Clerk's Secretary
Mr. Jim Swing, Public Works Director
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director
Mr. Jack Krill, Emergency Services Director
Mr. Ron Swanson, Community Development Director
Ms. Susan Dickinson, Interim Planning Director

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Assemblymember Colver inquired if there were any changes to the agenda.

GENERAL CONSENT: The agenda was approved as presented.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Bonnie Quill, Executive Director of the Matanuska-Susitna Convention and Visitors Bureau.

V. SPECIAL ORDERS

A. PUBLIC HEARING (Three minutes per person.)

1. Ordinance Serial No. 03-003: 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, 2003, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2004.

Deputy Mayor Colver opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in favor of funding the Matanuska-Susitna Youth Court: Ms. Lisa Albert-Konecky, Ms. Suzanne Lassiter, and Ms. Contessa Gossett.

The following person spoke in support of the Matanuska-Susitna Convention and Visitors Bureau's budget request: Ms. Bonnie Quill.

The following persons spoke to the need for a 20-hour permanent part-time library aide at the Sutton Library: Ms. Claudia Dolfi, President of the Friends of Sutton Library.

The following persons spoke to the need for a 20-hour permanent part-time library aide at the Talkeetna Library: Mr. George Wagner and Ms. Pam Robinson, members of the Friends of Talkeetna Library.

The following persons spoke to how the youth court has benefited themselves and other teens: Ms. Jessica Chase, Ms. Jonna May, and Jesse Kinsland.

(The meeting recessed at 6:53 p.m. and reconvened at 7:05 p.m.)

There being no others who wished to present testimony, the public hearing closed and continued to May 13, 2003.

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

(There were no persons present who wished to testify.)

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Deputy Mayor Colver discussed Senate Bill No. 93(JUD) and asked the attorney to comment on it.

Ms. Williams:

- stated that the bill discusses the statute of limitations on actions to quiet title to, eject a person from, or recover real property or the possession of it;
- related to adverse possession; and
- noted that if a public utility has any of their equipment or has been using a piece of land for

ten years, it would become a public easement.

Assemblymember Allen:

- stated that he was impressed by the testimony of Ms. Chase, Ms. May, and Mr. Kinsland of the youth court; and
- believes the borough should use a portion of the bed tax money to help fund the additional borough librarian position in Talkeetna, since the increase in tourism is causing the increased use at the library.

Assemblymember Kvalheim:

- stated that she was also impressed with the youth court representatives; and
- asked the manager to research Senate Bill No. 93(JUD) and report back to the Assembly.

Assemblymember Bush:

- asked if the money for the visitors bureau could be used for the libraries; and
- asked the manager to look for additional funds for the Talkeetna and Sutton libraries.

Mr. Duffy reported that the bed tax cannot be used for the libraries, as the bed tax is collected on an areawide basis and library funds are collected non-areawide.

Assemblymember Ladere:

- stated that the borough has had difficulties in the past regarding utilities and easements; and
- informed that in the last several years the two hotels in the Upper Susitna Valley area have contributed more than 50 percent of the bed tax, impacting the surrounding community, such as the Talkeetna Library.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.