I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on June 10, 2003, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m. by Deputy Mayor Jim Colver for the purpose discussing parks and recreation bonds.

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. Jody Simpson, Assembly District No. 5
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6 (Deputy Mayor)
Ms. Kelly Ladere, Assembly District No. 7

Assembly members absent were:

Ms. Mary Kvalheim, Assembly District No. 4

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Sandra A. Dillon, CMC, Borough Clerk
Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager
Mr. John Aschenbrenner, Assistant Borough Attorney
Mr. David Germer, Assistant Borough Manager
Ms. Janice Case, Borough Clerk's Secretary
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director
Mr. Jim Swing, Public Works Director
Mr. Ron Swanson, Community Development Director

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Deputy Mayor 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 Mr. David Germer.

V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Parks and Recreation Bonds

Mr. Duffy noted that Ms. Cynthia Cartledge of Wohlforth, Vassar, Johnson & Brecht, was available to answer questions regarding her legal opinion.

Assemblymember Simpson asked for a review of the legal opinions by both, Mr. Klinkner and Ms. Cartledge.

Ms. Clayton explained both legal opinions.

Mr. Swanson reported on the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board's recommendation.

Ms. Cartledge discussed her legal opinion.

Discussion ensued regarding:
- parks and recreation powers;
- the possibility of the borough purchasing property and drawing up an operations and maintenance agreement with the city of Wasilla; and
- the requirements necessary to bond.

Assemblymember Colberg asked if Ms. Cartledge reviewed the city of Palmer ice arena project.

Ms. Clayton stated that she asked Ms. Cartledge to issue the bond opinion on the city of Wasilla, as Mr. Klinkner is the bond counsel for both the borough and the city of Wasilla.

Wasilla City Mayor Diane Keller:
- recommended seeking a third legal opinion; and
- discussed alternatives, such as purchasing land around Wasilla Lake and Lake Lucille for parking and identifying additional land and trails for improvement.

Discussion ensued regarding:
- requests for bonding from the various cities; and
- the steps required to move forward with the bonds.

(The special meeting recessed at 3:45 p.m. and reconvened at 3:53 p.m.)

Assemblymember Colberg explained his request for the resurfacing of various high school tracks.

Assemblymember Allen queried if it would be possible to include the track maintenance with the school bonds.

Discussed ensued regarding the school bonds.

Assemblymember Simpson opined that the Assembly should uphold the strategic plans and goals that they have already mapped out, instead of bringing forward last minutes additions.

Assemblymember Colberg:

- agreed with Assemblymember Simpson regarding upholding current plans and goals; and
- withdrew his request for the track resurfacing.

MOTION: Assemblymember Allen moved to approve the proposed projects with following changes:

- to amend the "Wasilla sports facility" to read, "To be determined";
- to strike the park maintenance facility for $1,000,000;
- to strike the Palmer multipurpose trail system for $250,000;
- to add the Hatcher Pass Nordic ski trail for $400,000;
- to add a Palmer area skate board park for $135,000; and
- to strike the specific projects from the Wasilla trails and trailheads for $400,000.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colberg moved to divide the question and take each change separately.

VOTE: The motion to divide the question passed with Deputy Mayor Colver opposed.

MOTION: First segment of the motion: To amend the "Wasilla sports facility" to read, "To be determined".

Assemblymember Simpson spoke in opposition of the motion, as no projects have been named.

Deputy Mayor Colver spoke in favor of the motion.

VOTE: The first segment of the question, to amend the "Wasilla sports facility" to read, "To be determined," failed with Assemblymembers Bush, Colberg, and Simpson opposed and Assemblymembers Allen, Colver, and Ladere in favor. (Tie vote.)

MOTION: Second segment of the motion: To strike the park maintenance facility for $1,000,000.

Assemblymember Allen stated that he felt this money could be better spent elsewhere.

Assemblymember Simpson inquired as to the cost of maintaining the current parks maintenance facility.

Mr. Swanson explained the cost of maintaining the current parks maintenance facility and other problems associated with the location of the current facility.

VOTE: The second segment, to strike the park maintenance facility for $1,000,000, passed with Assemblymembers Bush and Simpson opposed.

MOTION: Third segment of the motion: To strike the palmer multipurpose trail system for $250,000.

Deputy Mayor Colver referred to a letter from the city of Palmer, which stated that if there is a need to reduce the amount of the bond, the borough could withdraw the Palmer multipurpose trail system.

Assemblymember Ladere asked for a description of the trails system.

MOTION: Assemblymember Allen called for the previous question (to stop debate).

VOTE: The motion to stop debate passed without objection.

VOTE: The third segment, to strike the Palmer multipurpose trails system for $250,000, passed with Assemblymembers Colberg and Ladere opposed.

MOTION: Forth segment of the motion: To strike the specific projects from the Wasilla trails and trailheads for $400,000.

VOTE: The fourth segment, to strike the specific projects from the Wasilla trails and trailheads, passed with Assemblymembers Simpson and Colberg opposed. *(Administration will work with the city of Wasilla to identify qualified projects.)*

MOTION: Fifth segment of the motion: To add Hatcher Pass Nordic ski trail for $400,000.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colberg moved a primary amendment strike $400,000 and insert $150,000.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed with Assemblymember Allen opposed.

VOTE: The fifth segment, to add Hatcher Pass Nordic ski trail for $150,000, passed as amended without objection.

MOTION: Sixth segment of the motion: To add a Palmer area skate board park for $135,000.

Assemblymember Simpson inquired as to the plans for the skate board park.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the possible location of the skate park;
- the construction of the skate park; and
- the liability of the borough regarding the skate park.

VOTE: The sixth segment, to add Palmer area skate board park for $135,000, failed with Assemblymembers Colver, Allen, and Bush in favor and Assemblymembers Colberg, Ladere, and Simpson opposed. (Tie vote.)

Assemblymember Ladere inquired as to the total amount of the parks and recreation bonds.

Ms. Clayton replied that it would be approximately $5.7 million.

VOTE: The main motion to approve the proposed park and recreating bond projects passed as amended without objection.

Project Description	Cost
Bogard softball complex	$400,000
Palmer ice arena	$1,500,000
Wasilla sports facility	$500,000
Alcantra Phase II	$350,000
Big Lake ball field improvements	$108,000
~~Park Maintenance facility~~	~~$1,000,000~~
Lake Lucille Park improvements	$263,000
Matanuska River Park improvements	$90,000
Little Susitna Park improvements	$210,000
Goose Creek Camp/Park improvements	$350,000
Christiansen Lake Park improvements	$75,000
Big Lake boat launch and day use area	$80,000
~~Palmer multipurpose trail system~~	~~$250,000~~
Wasilla trails and trailheads	$400,000
Regional trails	$450,000
Borough Parks improvements	$250,000
Benka Lake access	$15,000
Hatcher Pass Nordic Ski Trail	$150,000
~~Palmer Skate Board Park~~	~~$135,000~~
TOTAL	***$5.7 MILLION plus issuance costs***

Deputy Mayor Colver explained the process for introducing and approving the parks and recreation bonds. *(Administration will prepare the ordinance for introduction on June 24, 2003.)*

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

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

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Ladere stated that Assemblymembers Colberg and Simpson, the manager, and she will be taking a flight over Petersville on Friday.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

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JIM COLVER, Deputy Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

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MICHELLE M. MCGEHEE, Acting Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: July 15, 2003