

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on December 16, 2004, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Timothy L. Anderson for the purpose of discussing budget goals and objectives.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Ms. Lynne Woods, Assembly District No. 1
Ms. Mary Kvalheim, Assembly District No. 4
Ms. Jody Simpson, Assembly District No. 5
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District 6 (*Deputy Mayor*)
Ms. Betty Vehrs, Assembly District No. 7

Assembly members absent and excused were:

Mr. Bill Allen, Assembly District No. 2
Mr. Talis J. Colberg, Assembly District No. 3

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Michelle M. McGehee, CMC, Borough Clerk
Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager
Ms. Teresa S. Williams, Borough Attorney
Ms. Janice A. Case, Deputy Borough Clerk
Mr. Murph O'Brien, Planning and Land Use Director
Mr. Dennis Brodigan, Emergency Services Director
Mr. Ron Swanson, Community Development Director

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Anderson 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 Rob Wells, a member of the School Board.

V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Budget Goals and Objectives

Mayor Anderson:

- referred to Governor Murkowski's 2006 proposed budget in the red folder;
- discussed some items concerning the Borough; and
- stated that the Governor is proposing to increase the education funding formula.

Mr. Duffy reviewed the 2006 proposed budget summary memorandum in the red folder.

Assemblymember Simpson stated that she would like to see a new record center included in the bond proposal list.

Assemblymember Woods stated that she was informed that an additional \$9 million would be needed to complete the Old Glenn Highway project.

Mr. Duffy:

- stated that the Governor has identified \$21 million for transportation projects in the Borough; and
- voiced concern regarding the \$6 million for an environmental study on the Palmer-Wasilla Highway without a commitment for \$80-\$90 million needed to upgrade the highway.

Discussion ensued regarding transportation projects in the Borough.

Mayor Anderson:

- noted that the budget summary memorandum stated that areawide revenues will increase by \$10 million; and
- inquired whether the additional revenues were from increased assessed values and a proposed 12.6 mill levy.

Mr. Duffy replied that some of the additional funds are from an increase in assessed values and the 12.6 mill levy.

Discussion ensued regarding the increased proposed mill levy.

Assemblymember Colver discussed working on the department budgets earlier this year.

Mr. Duffy:

- replied that it would be possible to start working on the department budgets earlier;
- commented that the road service area and fire service area board of supervisors have a schedule that they use to formulate a proposed mill levy; and
- stated that Administration could create a schedule addressing the departments first and then the road service and fire service areas later.

Discussion ensued regarding the timeline for the budget process.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colver moved to have the Manager prepare a proposed departmental budget summary once a week starting February 15, 2005.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

Mayor Anderson inquired when the Assembly would receive a proposed budget from the School District.

Mr. Duffy stated that the School District budget is usually prepared by the beginning of March.

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three minutes per person.)

(There was no audience participation.)

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Woods stated that she is considering different ways to generate revenue.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

TIMOTHY L. ANDERSON, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

MICHELLE M. MCGEHEE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: January 4, 2005