

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on May 11, 2015, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Larry DeVilbiss for the purpose of deliberating Ordinance Serial No. 15-015.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

- Mr. Jim Sykes, Assembly District No. 1
- Mr. Matthew Beck, Assembly District No. 2
- Mr. Ronald Arvin, Assembly District No. 3 (*Deputy Mayor*)
- Mr. Steve Colligan, Assembly District No. 4
- Mr. Dan Mayfield, Assembly District No. 5
- Ms. Barbara J. Doty, Assembly District No. 6 (*arrived at 6:12 p.m.*)
- Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

- Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk
- Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager
- Mr. George Hays, Assistant Borough Manager
- Ms. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney
- Ms. Jamie Newman, Deputy Borough Clerk
- Mr. Mike Brown, Capital Projects Director
- Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director
- Mr. Terrance Dolan, Public Works Director
- Ms. Eileen Probasco, Planning and Land Use Director
- Mr. Bill Gamble, Emergency Services Director
- Ms. Patty Sullivan, Public Affairs Director
- Mr. Eric Phillips, Community Development Director
- Mr. Michael Brown, Capital Projects Director
- Mr. Eric Wyatt, Information Technology Director
- Ms. Sonya Content, Human Resources Manager
- Ms. Cheyenne Heindel, Financial Analyst

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor DeVilbiss:

- inquired if there were any changes to the agenda; and
- asked if there was any objection to moving the executive session before budget deliberations.

There was no objection noted.

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

#### **IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Dr. Deena Paramo, Superintendent of Borough schools.

#### **V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS**

A. Regular Assembly Meeting: 04/21/15

Mayor DeVilbiss inquired if there were any changes or corrections to the April 21, 2015, regular meeting minutes.

GENERAL CONSENT: The minutes were approved as presented without objection.

#### **VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

The following person thanked the Assembly for holding a budget public hearing in Willow, spoke to the mutual aide agreement between the Willow Fire Department and the Houston Fire Department, and encouraged the Assembly to pay credence to Assemblymember Halter during budget deliberations: Mr. Randall Kowalke.

The following person spoke to concerns about increasing the Willow Fire Service Area mill rate: Mr. Hermann Spegel.

The following person thanked the Assembly for holding an Assembly meeting in Willow and spoke in opposition to the proposed mill rate increase for the Willow Fire Service Area: Ms. Roberta Lewis.

The following persons thanked the Assembly for voting to direct the Manager to write a letter in support of Medicaid expansion in Alaska: Ms. Terry Snider, Alaska State President of the AARP; and Ms. Robin Minard of the Mat-Su Health Foundation.

The following persons spoke in support of funding the Sexual Assault Response Team: Ms. Heather Miller and Ms. Jeaninne Milne of Alaska Family Services.

The following person spoke in support of funding the Sexual Assault Response Team, the Palmer Library, and Mat-Su Youth Court, and spoke to potential bed tax partnerships: Mr. Joe Hannan, Palmer City Manager.

The following person spoke in support of electing people to serve on road and fire service area board supervisors: Mr. Ken Slauson.

The following person spoke to the history of the Borough's revenue cap and fiscal policies: Mr. Doyle Holmes.

The following person spoke to public process: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

**IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION** *(For Matters, Which The Immediate Public Knowledge Of Which Would Clearly Have An Adverse Effect Upon The Finances Of The Borough; And Matters Which By Law, Municipal Charter, Or Ordinance Are Required To Be Kept Confidential; And Matters Involving Consideration Of Government Records That By Law Are Not Subject To Public Disclosure In Particular To Discuss Litigation Strategies In The Following Cases.)*

A. Ritchey v. Matanuska-Susitna Borough

B. Evanston v. Matanuska-Susitna Borough

**MOTION:** Assemblymember Arvin moved to enter into executive session for matters, which the immediate public knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough; and matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be kept confidential; and matters involving consideration of government records that by law are not subject to public disclosure. In particular to discuss litigation strategies in the following cases:

- Ritchey v. Matanuska-Susitna Borough
- Evanston v. Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Those present in the executive session will be the Mayor, members of the Assembly, the Attorney, the Manager, the Clerk, the Human Resources Manager, the Emergency Services Director, the Finance Director, and Mr. Tom Daniel of Perkins Coie.

**VOTE:** The motion passed without objection and the Assembly entered into executive session at 6:37 p.m.

**MOTION:** Assemblymember Arvin moved to exit executive session.

**VOTE:** The motion passed without objection and the Assembly exited executive session at 7:35 p.m.

**VII. DELIBERATIONS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET**

**A. Ordinance Serial No. 15-015:** An Ordinance Appropriating Monies From The Central Treasury For The Borough Operating Funds, Enterprise Funds, Education Operating Fund, And Capital Funds; Establishing The Rate Of Levy For All Borough Functions For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2015, And Ending June 30, 2016, And Setting The Surcharge Rate For The Wireline And Wireless Enhanced 911 Systems For The Period Of July 1, 2015, Through June 30, 2016.

**PENDING MOTION:** Assemblymember Arvin moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 15-015.

MOTION: Assemblymember Beck moved to suspend the rules to provide an opportunity for Dr. Deena Paramo to address the Assembly.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

Dr. Paramo spoke to education funding.

### **Amendment No. 1**

**General Fund (100.000.000.445.220) (Tab B, page 16)**  
**Education Fund (204.000.000.367.110 & 406.100.) (Tab J, page 2-3)**

MOTION: Assemblymember Beck moved a primary amendment to the Areawide Fund, General Fund, and Education Fund, as follows:

- 100.000.000.445.220 and 204.000.000.367.110, by increasing these line items by \$1,538,752 to equal 52,830,472; and
- 204.000.000.406.100, by increasing this line item by \$1,538,752 to equal \$259,881,783.

MOTION: Assemblymember Sykes moved a secondary amendment by striking \$1,538,752 and inserting in its place \$1,388,752, for a decrease of \$150,000.

VOTE: The secondary amendment passed without objection.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed as amended without objection.

### **Amendment No. 2**

#### **Ordinance Serial No. 15-015**

MOTION: Assemblymember Halter moved a primary amendment to Ordinance Serial No. 15-015, Section 8, by striking \$26,436,108 and inserting in its place \$25,000,000, for a decrease of \$1,436,108.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed with Assemblymember Sykes opposed.

### **Amendment No. 3**

**Areawide - Capital Project/Grants/Pass Throughs (Tab O / Tab B page 16)**  
**(100.000.000.449.100, 200, 300)**

MOTION: Assemblymember Beck moved a primary amendment to Capital Projects by providing block grant to the cities as follows:

- City of Palmer - \$45,500;
- City of Wasilla - \$52,500; and
- City of Houston - \$21,000.

MOTION: Assemblymember Sykes moved a secondary amendment by striking “\$45,500” and inserting in its place “\$40,000”; by striking “\$52,500” and inserting in its place “\$45,000;” and by striking “\$21,000” and inserting in its place “\$15,000” to read:

- City of Palmer - \$40,000;
- City of Wasilla - \$45,000; and
- City of Houston - \$15,000.

MOTION: Assemblymember Halter moved to divide the question to take the block grant to the City of Houston separately.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

MOTION: First Segment: Assemblymember Sykes moved a secondary amendment by striking “\$45,500” and inserting in its place “\$40,000” and by striking “\$52,500” and inserting in its place “\$45,000” to read:

- City of Palmer - \$40,000; and
- City of Wasilla - \$45,000.

VOTE: The first segment passed without objection.

MOTION: Second Segment: Assemblymember Sykes moved a secondary amendment by striking “\$21,000” and inserting in its place “\$15,000” to read:

- City of Houston - \$15,000

VOTE: The second segment failed with Assemblymembers Doty, Mayfield, and Beck in support.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed as amended without objection.

*(The meeting recessed at 8:37 p.m. and reconvened at 8:45 p.m.)*

#### **Amendment No. 4**

#### **Areawide - Capital Project/Grants/Pass Throughs (Tab O / Tab B page 16) (100.000.000.449.205)**

MOTION: Assemblymember Beck moved a primary amendment to Capital Projects by inserting funding for Youth Court in the amount of \$50,000.

MOTION: Assemblymember Arvin moved a secondary amendment by striking “\$50,000” and inserting in its place “\$150,000.”

VOTE: The secondary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colligan moved a secondary amendment to identify the source of funding as tobacco tax revenue.

VOTE: The secondary amendment passed without objection.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed as amended without objection.

#### **Amendment No. 5**

##### **Willow Fire Service Area (Tab G pages 57 and 59)**

MOTION: Assemblymember Halter moved a primary amendment to the Willow Fire Service Area to add a principal payment for the revolving loan in the amount of \$100,000 for the 2016 budget cycle leaving a balance of \$100,000 in the revolving fund as of June 30, 2016.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

#### **Amendment No. 6**

##### **West Lakes Fire Service Areas - (249.000.000) (Tab G, page 16)**

MOTION: Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to the West Lakes Fire Service Area Fund, to increase the Permanent Wages and Benefits (249-000-000-411's and 412's) by \$226,920 to add 2 new permanent, full time Fire Service Area Assistants.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

#### **Amendment No. 7**

##### **Areawide – Assembly FY15**

##### **Areawide – Grants/Pass Throughs (Tab O, page 1)**

MOTION: Assemblymember Halter moved a primary amendment by using \$9,500 of the Assembly Reserves from fiscal year 2015 to create a block grant to the city of Houston in the amount of \$9,500.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

#### **Amendment No. 8**

##### **Areawide - Capital Project/Grants/Pass Throughs (Tab O / Tab B page 16) (100.000.000.449.205)**

MOTION: Assemblymember Beck moved a primary amendment to Capital Projects by inserting a planning grant to the City of Wasilla in the amount of \$90,000.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colligan moved a secondary amendment by striking “\$90,000” inserting in its place “\$150,000” and to identify the source of funding as tobacco tax revenue.

VOTE: The secondary amendment passed without objection.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed as amended without objection.

### **Amendment No. 9**

#### **Central Mat-Su Fire Service Areas - (250.000.000) (Tab G, page 24)**

MOTION: Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to the Central Mat-Su Fire Service Area, to increase the Permanent Wages and Benefits (250-000-000-411’s and 412’s) in the amount of \$86,503 by:

- adding two Firefighter/Engineer/Driver positions in the amount of \$210,182; and
- eliminating a Captain position in the amount of \$123,679.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

### **Amendment No. 10**

#### **Areawide – Emergency Services (Tab B, page 99) (100.160.334.411s and 412s)**

MOTION: Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to the Areawide Fund by increasing the Permanent Wages and Benefits (100.160.334 411’s and 412’s) by \$905,036 to add the following permanent full time positions:

- 3 Paramedics at \$122,687 each, totaling \$368,061;
- 2 EMT III at \$113,460 each, totaling \$226,920;
- 2 EMT II at \$105,907each, totaling \$211,814; and
- 1 EMT I at 98,241.

MOTION: Assemblymember Beck moved to postpone the primary amendment to a time certain of May 13, 2015.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Arvin moved to continue Ordinance Serial No. 15-015 to May 13, 2015, at 6 p.m. in Assembly Chambers.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

**VIII. VETO**

A. Motion To Override Any Possible Mayoral Veto On Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Items (Ordinance Serial No. 15-015)

*(There were no vetoes issued.)*

**X. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS**

Ms. McKechnie stated she received a request to reschedule the May 26, 2015, regular Assembly meeting to May 27, 2015.

There was no objection raised.

Ms. McKechnie requested budget amendments for the next Assembly meeting be sent to her no later than Wednesday morning.

Assemblymember Sykes:

- spoke in appreciation of staff, the Assembly, and members of the public for comments made; and
- spoke to concerns about funding the School District without a mill rate increase.

Assemblymember Mayfield:

- congratulated the Houston High School graduating class of 2015; and
- spoke to scholarships awarded by the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce.

Assemblymember Beck thanked Ms. Amy Bombach for her service as a volunteer firefighter.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The special meeting recessed at 9:52 p.m. to be reconvened on May 13, 2015, at 6 p.m.

  
 LARRY DEVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
 LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 06/16/15