

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on May 20, 2015, 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
Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Brenda J. Henry, Assistant Clerk
Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager
Mr. George Hays, Assistant Borough Manager
Ms. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney
Mr. Brad Sworts, Acting 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
Mr. Ken Barkley, Deputy Director of Emergency Services
Ms. Patty Sullivan, Public Affairs Director
Mr. Eric Phillips, Community Development Director
Mr. Eric Wyatt, Information Technology Director
Ms. Cheyenne Heindel, Financial Analyst
Ms. Amy Bohmbach, Administrative Assistant I
Mr. Randy Jones, Enterprise System Administrator

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

GENERAL CONSENT: The agenda was approved without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Gene Stone, Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District Assistant Superintendent of Instruction.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke in opposition to a mill rate increase for the Willow Fire Service Area and provided a citizen petition to the Assembly in opposition to an increase: Mr. Hermann Spegel.

The following persons thanked the Assembly for including upgrades to the community park in the Knik Goose Bay area in the Fiscal Year 2016 budget: Ms. Olivia Holland, Ms. Hailey Holland, and Mr. Joel Armanderez.

The following persons spoke in support of Amendment No. 12, which allows the School District to retain 100 percent of their unassigned fund balance: Mr. Luke Fulp, Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District Assistant Superintendent; and Mr. Gene Stone, Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District Assistant Superintendent of Instruction.

The following person spoke in support of the public process that has been followed by the Manager regarding the Port Commission, the Assembly cancelling a meeting that was in conflict with a city meeting, and to concerns with the number of public hearings on upcoming legislation regarding mayoral runoff elections: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

The following person spoke in support of purchasing land for the wastewater and septage treatment facility: Ms. Helen Munoz.

The following person spoke in support of recycling within the Borough: Ms. Sammye Taylor.

The following persons spoke to concerns with the Willow Fire Service Area mill rate: Mr. Doyle Holmes, Ms. Roberta Lewis, Mr. Jim Huston, Mr. Jim Norcross, and Mr. Ed McCain.

The following person opined that the Assembly sets policy in accordance with the United States Constitution, State Statutes, and most importantly the will of the people: Ms. Patty Rosnel.

VI. DELIBERATIONS AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION 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.

Amendment No. 11

Areawide and Non-areawide

MOTION PENDING: Assemblymember Arvin a primary amendment to amend the revenue line items as noted in the 6 page attachment to raise fees and charges and add a new Section 16 to the ordinance to read: “Section 16. Rates, Fees, and Charges. Amendments to various fees and charges to begin in fiscal year 2016 are approved accordingly to the schedule attached and incorporated into this ordinance.

MOTION: Assemblymember Arvin moved a secondary amendment to Amendment No. 11, by striking in its entirety the 6 page attachment to raise fees and charges, and inserting in its place the 5 page attachment “Revised Fee Schedule – Prepared by Finance #4.”

VOTE: The secondary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Halter moved a secondary amendment to Amendment No. 11, by exempting the Iditarod and the Iron Dog from the special event permit requirements for 1,000 plus people.

VOTE: The secondary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Sykes moved to postpone Amendment No. 11 prior to taking up Amendment No. 12.

VOTE: The motion to postpone failed with Assemblymembers Doty, Sykes, and Beck in support.

MOTION: Assemblymember Mayfield moved a secondary amendment to Amendment No. 11, Brett Memorial Ice Arena, as follows:

- Hourly private ice rental/prime time (September 1 – March 31), by striking the proposed fee of “\$210” and inserting in its place “\$250;”
- Hourly private ice rental/nonprime time (April 1 – August 31), by striking the proposed fee of “\$160” and inserting in its place “\$200;”
- Hourly private ice rental/paid gate/prime time (September 1 – March 31), by striking the proposed fee of “\$225” and inserting in its “\$250;”
- Hourly private ice rental/paid gate/non-prime time (April 1 – August 31), by striking the proposed fee of “\$175” and inserting it its place “\$200;”
- Individual learn to skate – 15 minutes learn to skate/15 minutes instruction, by striking the proposed fee of “\$75” and inserting in its place “\$85;”
- Summer fun hockey Mites-Bantams package, by striking the proposed fee of “\$120” and inserting in its place “\$130;”
- Summer fun hockey U16-U18 package, by striking the proposed fee of “\$120” and inserting in its place “\$130;”
- Party package – includes 1 hour private locker room and 10 skaters, by

- striking the proposed fee of “\$80” and inserting in its place “\$100;” and
- Each additional skater, by striking “\$3” and inserting in its place “\$5.”

VOTE: The secondary amendment passed with Assemblymembers Doty and Colligan opposed.

MOTION: Assemblymember Arvin moved a secondary amendment to Amendment No. 11, Brett Memorial Ice Arena, as follows:

- Hourly private ice rental/paid gate/prime time (September 1 – March 31), by striking the fee of “\$250” and inserting in its “\$225;” and
- Hourly private ice rental/paid gate/non-prime time (April 1 – August 31), by striking the proposed fee of “\$200” and inserting it its place “\$180.”

VOTE: The secondary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Arvin moved a secondary amendment to Amendment No. 11, Solid Waste, Municipal waste disposal at Central Landfill per ton, by striking the proposed fee of “\$115.25” and inserting in its place “\$125.”

(The meeting recessed at 7:15 p.m. and reconvened at 7:20 p.m.)

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

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

VOTE: The secondary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Doty moved a secondary amendment to Amendment No. 11, Solid Waste, Municipal waste disposal at transfer sites per cubic yard or part thereof (currently termed three to six bags), as follows:

- Construction and demolition debris disposal fee/per ton, by striking the proposed fee of “\$87” and inserting in its place “\$100;” and
- Recycling disposal per bag, by striking the proposed fee of “\$2” and inserting “\$0” in its place.

VOTE: The secondary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Beck moved a secondary amendment to Amendment No. 11, Animal Care, as follows:

- Animal Care for Wasilla, by striking the proposed fee of “\$19,788” and inserting in its place “\$20,298;” and
- Animal Care for Palmer, by striking the proposed fee of “\$20,808” and inserting in its place “\$20,298.”

VOTE: The secondary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Sykes moved a secondary amendment to Amendment No. 11, Emergency Services as follows:

- Ambulance Rates/Basic Life Support (BLS), by striking the proposed fee of “\$820” and inserting in its place “\$840;
- Ambulance Rates/ALS, by striking the proposed fee of “\$920” and inserting in its place “\$940;” and
- Ambulance Rates/ALS Level 2, by striking the proposed fee of “\$975” and inserting in its place “\$1,000.”

VOTE: The secondary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Halter moved a secondary amendment to Amendment No. 11, Trail Use Permits, by striking the title “Trail Use Permits” and inserting it is place “Filming and Land Use Permits.”

(The meeting recessed at 7:50 p.m. and reconvened at 7:57 p.m.)

VOTE: The secondary amendment passed without objection.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed as amended without objection.

Amendment No. 15 – As Reconsidered

Areawide, Capital Projects (Tab O)

MOTION PENDING: Assemblymember Beck moved a primary amendment by striking “\$500,000” and inserting in its place “\$260,000” and by striking “Four” and inserting in its place “Two” to read:

- Areawide Fund, Capital Projects, by inserting \$260,000 for the Remount of Two Ambulances.

MOTION: Assemblymember Beck moved a secondary amendment to Amendment No. 15, Remount of two ambulances for \$260,000, as follows:

- by striking “\$260,000” and inserting in its place “\$474,400;” and
- by Striking “2 – Remount ambulances” and inserting in its place “12 – new ambulances.”

VOTE: The secondary amendment failed unanimously.

MOTION: Assemblymember Halter moved primary amendment to Areawide, Capital Projects, Tab O, by inserting “\$578,400” for “twelve” remount ambulances.

VOTE: The primary amendment failed with Assemblymembers Mayfield and Halter in support.

MOTION: Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to Areawide, Capital Projects, Tab O, by inserting “\$540,000” for four remount ambulances.”

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

Amendment No. 17

Areawide – Administration (Tab B, Page 45)

MOTION: Assemblymember Sykes moved a primary amendment to the General Fund, Administration, by inserting \$15,000 in computer software, 100.115.121.426.600, to establish and maintain the Borough checkbook online.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

Amendment No. 18

Port Enterprise Fund (Tab L, Page 7)

Areawide Fund (Tab B, Page 16)

Capital Projects (Tab O, Page 2)

MOTION: Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to the Port Enterprise Fund “other contractual” (520-100-112-429-900) increasing the line item by “\$160,000” for a new proposed total of “\$241,000” and increasing Transfer from Areawide Fund (520-000-000-367-110) by increasing the line item by \$160,000 for a new proposed total of \$860,000. Additionally amend the Areawide Fund, Transfer to Port Enterprise Fund (100-000-000445-300) by increasing the line item \$160,000 to \$860,000 and decreasing the Transfer to Capital Projects (100-000-000-446-400) by \$160,000 to \$4,303,160. The specific reduction is to the “Capital Projects Dorothy Swanda Jones Phase II roof top (RTU) connections, Fire proofing, and backup generator.”

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

Amendment No. 19

Capital Projects (Tab O, Page 2)

MOTION: Assemblymember Halter moved a primary amendment to Capital Projects Dorothy Swanda Jones, Phase II Roof Top (RTU) Connections, Fireproofing, and Backup Generator, by reducing it by \$150,000 and moving that \$150,000 to Tab O, Page 1 Grants Pass Through for Alaska Scholastic Clay Target Program for the purchase of non-Boroughowned land.

MOTION: Assemblymember Beck moved a secondary amendment as follows:

- by striking the words “for the purchase of non-Boroughowned land;” and
- by inserting in its place after the word “Program” the following words “for the sole use of the purchase of non-Boroughowned land that is specifically within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.”

VOTE: The secondary amendment passed with Assemblymember Sykes opposed.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed as amended with Assemblymember Sykes opposed.

Amendment No. 12

Ordinance Serial No. 15-015

MOTION PENDING: Assemblymember Beck moved a primary amendment to Ordinance Serial No. 15-015, by adding a new Section 10 and renumber the following sections as follows: “Section 10. Notwithstanding the 75 percent provisions of MSB 3.04.110(c) and provisions of Ordinance Serial No. 14-014, the School District may carry over 100 percent of their unassigned fund balance for fiscal year 2015 (ending June 30, 2015) not exceeding the amount allowed by AS 14.17.505. All other provisions of MSB 3.04.110(c) will remain in effect.”

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

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

Amendment No. 20

Solid Waste Enterprise Fund (Tab K)

MOTION: Assemblymember Sykes moved a primary amendment to Solid Waste, Recycling, Community Cleanup Coordinator, by taking it from a 1,000 hour temporary position to a full time position and to secure the remaining necessary funds from fund 510.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed with Assemblymember Colligan opposed.

Amendment No. 21

Capital Projects (Tab O, Page 2)

MOTION: Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to Capital Projects, Dorothy Swanda Jones Phase II Roof Top (RTU) Connections, Fireproofing, and Backup Generator, by reducing the project by “\$25,000” and moving it to Tab O, Grants Pass Through for the Big Lake Lions Community Center.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed with Assemblymember Beck opposed.

MOTION: Assemblymember Arvin moved to set the mill rates at 9.984 areawide and .517 non-areawide.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

VOTE: The main motion passed as amended without objection.

VII. 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.)

VIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos:

- advised the body that the Borough has been served with two new lawsuits within the last three days;
- noted that one of them was filed by owners of property near Kalispell Drive in Montana Creek regarding flooding issues;
- stated that the other one was filed by Clear Creek Cat Rescue, with the owner alleging a third party contract violation;
- advised that by state law, the Mayor has until the beginning of the next regular meeting to file any vetoes on the budget;
- noted that it takes a two-thirds vote to override vetoes; and
- related that the vetoes must be in writing but the reasons for the vetoes do not have to be robust.

Assemblymember Sykes:

- thanked staff for answering his questions regarding the budget;
- conveyed his dismay that all members of the Assembly did not participate in the wants and needs town hall meeting that was held;

- opined that the body needs to have a better grasp on the budget and convey their desires as a whole rather than as individuals;
- thanked the Assembly for supporting the check book online amendment; and
- thanked the public for attending.

Assemblymember Mayfield:

- noted this was his first budget cycle;
- thanked the body for supporting emergency services and education;
- opined that there needs to be a lot more focus on generating revenue;
- spoke to the need to provide good services to the public;
- thanked the public for their participation; and
- thanked the Assembly for their hard work.

Assemblymember Halter:

- thanked Borough staff for their hard work on the budget;
- expressed appreciation of Ms. Clayton for responding so quickly to questions that arise throughout budget meetings;
- noted how little the mill rate was raised this year compared to last year;
- stated that it was a difficult budget season, but that many things were accomplished;
- spoke to concerns with comments made by some members of the Willow Fire Service area regarding the mill rate;
- provided a history of the funding for the new Willow fire hall;
- spoke in support of the increased mill rate for the Willow Fire Service Area; and
- summarized the plan for paying off the loan in an accelerated manner.

MOTION: Assemblymember Halter moved to suspend the rules and extend the meeting past 10 p.m. and not to exceed 10:15 p.m.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

Assemblymember Beck:

- thanked staff and the public for their participation in the meeting;
- thanked the Assembly for supporting education, which was his highest priority;
- stated that he wished that more could have been done for emergency services;
- opined that with the resources available the body did a good job with the budget; and
- expressed appreciation for Ms. Clayton and Finance staff for their hard work.

Assemblymember Colligan:

- thanked staff and management for their participation in the budget;
- spoke to the award that the Finance Department received this year from the Alaska Government Finance Officers Association regarding the budget;
- opined that having an internal auditor has been very helpful;
- summarized past projects that have been funded but have yet to come to fruition;
- spoke to concerns with next year's budget; and
- spoke to the need to consolidate services when possible in order to be more efficient.

Assemblymember Doty:

- spoke to her appreciation of learning the budget process from the body;
- noted this is her first budget cycle;
- stated that she was particularly impressed that department directors and the Manager were able to bring forward a tight budget;
- related that the comments from her constituents were in support of keeping the mill rate low;
- spoke in support of education, recycling, port maintenance, and emergency services; and
- noted her appreciation for Ms. Clayton's hard work and responsiveness.

Assemblymember Arvin:

- thanked Borough staff, Ms. Clayton, and Mr. Moosey for the remarkable job they did during the budget cycle;
- noted that this was his sixth budget cycle;
- applauded Ms. Henry's attentiveness to detail in capturing amendments during the meeting;
- related that keeping past years budget books is beneficial for current budget cycles;
- spoke to his involvement in the port development;
- thanked Mr. VanDongen for his attention to the important needs at the port; and
- thanked the body for their support of the Alaska Scholastic Clay Target program.

Mayor DeVilbiss:

- thanked everyone who worked on the budget;
- advised the body that he will be bringing forward vetoes; and
- noted that there are some items that are of concern to him.

Ms. Clayton acknowledged Ms. Henidel and thanked her for her assistance through the budget cycle.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m. .


LARRY DEVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 06/16/15