

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on December 1, 2015, at the Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. by Deputy Mayor Beck for the purpose of discussing strategic opportunities.

**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 (*Deputy Mayor*)  
Mr. George McKee, Assembly District No. 3  
Mr. Dan Mayfield, Assembly District No. 5  
Ms. Barbara J. Doty, Assembly District No. 6  
Mr. Randall Kowalke, Assembly District No. 7

Assembly Members absent and excused:

Mr. Steve Colligan, Assembly District No. 4

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, CMC, Borough Clerk  
Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager  
Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney  
Ms. Brenda J. Henry, Assistant Clerk  
Mr. George Hays, Assistant Borough Manager  
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director  
Mr. Bill Gamble, Emergency Services Director  
Mr. Ken Barkley, Deputy Emergency Services Director - Fire  
Mr. Jude Bilafer, Capital Projects Director  
Mr. Eric Phillips, Community Development Director  
Mr. Eric Wyatt, Information Technology Director

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Deputy Mayor Beck inquired if there were any changes to the agenda.

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

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager.

## V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

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

The following person spoke to concerns with the documents provided for the meeting: Ms. Patricia Rosnel.

The following person spoke to concerns that the public opted not to attend the meeting this evening: Ms. Cathy Hummel.

## VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

### A. Strategic Opportunities

Mr. Moosey:

- noted that the documents provided for the meeting are only a draft and are not yet finished;
- advised that the documents are made available to the public in the same draft form as provided to the Assembly, in order to be as transparent as possible; and
- summarized his intent for the meeting this evening.

Ms. Clayton provided a financial overview of revenue for the Borough.

Mr. Cesar Rodgers of Deep Tree, Inc. provided a presentation on the draft strategic opportunities portfolio.

Mr. Moosey suggested that the following seven items to be the priority list for strategic opportunities:

- completion of the rail spur;
- Seward - Meridian Parkway improvements - Phase II;
- radio and alerting system improvements;
- Palmer and Wasilla pools;
- examine long range plan for school financing;
- provide a foundation for a "smart community;" and
- septage and leachate treatment facility.

**MOTION:** Assemblymember Mayfield moved to approve the seven projects on the as laid out by the Manager as the top strategic opportunities and to address the remaining items on the spreadsheet at a planning session.

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

**VOTE:** The motion passed without objection.

**VOTE:** The main motion passed without objection.

## VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos noted that when a strategic plan is finalized, that it provides good direction for staff.

Ms. McKechnie queried if Assemblymember Mayfield's intent for the planning session was to use a facilitator as was done last year.

Assemblymember Mayfield affirmed the query.

Assemblymember Doty:

- recognized the amount of work it took to compile the list of 61 projects and then to narrow it down to the approved 7; and
- stated that she appreciates the effort of staff.

Assemblymember Mayfield thanked the body for the meeting.

Assemblymember Sykes:

- stated that he looks forward to a more rigorous risk assessment of the Borough's finances;
- spoke in support of the seven approved projects;
- stated that he supports putting the Borough's checkbook online; and
- thanked the body for the meeting.

Assemblymember McKee thanked Mr. Moosey for compiling the projects.

Deputy Mayor Beck:

- spoke in support of the projects list; and
- noted that there will be a surprise at 5:30 p.m. for the Assembly and the public and encouraged the public to be present at that time.

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

  
VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 01/12/16