

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, March 22, 2016, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Vern Halter.

**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. Steve Colligan, Assembly District No. 4  
Mr. Dan Mayfield, Assembly District No. 5  
Ms. Barbara Doty, Assembly District No. 6  
Mr. Randall Kowalke, Assembly District No. 7

Planning Commissioners present and establishing a quorum were:

Ms. Mary Anderson, Seat 1  
Mr. Thomas Healy, Seat 2  
Mr. John Klapperich, Seat 3  
Ms. Colleen Vague, Seat 4  
Mr. Bill Kendig, Seat 5  
Mr. Tom Adams, Seat 6  
Mr. Vern Rauchenstein, Seat 7

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk  
Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager  
Mr. George Hays, Assistant Borough Manager  
Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney  
Mr. Jude Bilafer, Capital Projects Director  
Ms. Eileen Probasco, Planning and Land Use Director  
Ms. Lauren Driscoll, Chief of Planning  
Mr. James Wilson, Internal Auditor

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Halter 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. Brian Endel, a member of the audience.

#### **V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three minutes per person.)**

The following person spoke in support of postponing Ordinance Serial No. 16-003 until after the October 4, 2016, Borough election and spoke to his conversation with the Alaska Alcohol and Marijuana Control Office regarding deadlines related to commercial marijuana sales permits: Mr. Brian Endel.

The following person opined that changes were needed to Borough Code Title 43 Subdivisions: Mr. Gary Finch.

The following persons spoke to concerns with the public process: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman and Ms. Patricia Rosnell.

#### **VI. JOINT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

- A. Community Council Boundaries And Un-Assigned Subdivisions Within The Core Area  
*(Requested By Assemblymember Doty)*

Ms. Lauren Driscoll provided information on the process to address the core area and boundary issues and to the process of updating community councils.

- B. Future Subdivision Development In The Core Area And Traffic Impact/Public Safety Issues  
*(Requested By Assemblymember Doty)*

Ms. Eileen Probasco addressed the need for traffic assessments in areas impacted by an increase in land development and provided information on the planning processes related to the issue.

- C. Connector Roads In Rapid Development Areas - Options For Solutions To Congestion  
*(Requested By Assemblymember Doty)*

Assemblymember Doty spoke to the need for a traffic plan, including a reduction in speed limits and traffic signal lights, along the Seward Meridian, Seldon, and Bogard corridor.

- D. Guidelines For New Homeowners As A Public Service That Outlines Current MSB Ordinances Affecting Homeownership And Suggested Neighborly Behaviors: "Good Neighbor Guidelines" Re: Setbacks, Leash Law, Firearm Use, ATV Use, Noise Abatement  
*(Requested By Assemblymember Doty)*

Assemblymember Doty spoke to the promotion of an informational guide for the purpose of educating community members on the various ordinances affecting homeownership.

- E. Economic Benefits of Trails, Parks, and Open Space in the Mat-Su Borough – David Batker, President from Earth Economics  
*(Requested By Administration)*

Mr. David Batker, President from Earth Economics, reported on a recent study on economic benefits of trails, parks, and open space in the Borough, to optimize the return on investment.

F. Mat-Su Salmon Partnership Update – Jessica Speed, Partnership Coordinator *(Requested By Administration)*

Ms. Jessica Speed, Partnership Coordinator for the Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership, reported on salmon habitat conservation efforts.

G. Transportation Projects Status Report *(Requested By Administration)*

Ms. Driscoll provided an update on the spring 2016 transportation planning.

H. Update on Title 43 Subdivisions and Title 17 Zoning *(Requested By Administration)*

Ms. Probasco and Ms. Driscoll provided an update on the revisions to Titles 17 and 43.

I. Cost of Community Services Study *(Requested By Assemblymember Sykes)*

Mr. James Wilson provided an update on the cost of a community services study.

## VII. PLANNING COMMISSION COMMENTS

Planning Commissioner Anderson:

- thanked staff for the presentation and the information on the projects coming forward; and
- expressed gratitude for working with the Assembly.

Planning Commissioner Vague:

- thanked staff for the presentation and the information on the projects coming forward; and
- looked forward to working with staff and making progress for the community.

Planning Commissioner Kendig:

- reported on the progress of the Vi Redington Memorial Bridge on the historic Iditarod trail;
- expressed a desire to see a winter/summer trail on the Big Susitna River; and
- spoke to including Knikatnu, Incorporated on the trail project in order to incorporate the Dena'ina culture.

Planning Commissioner Adams:

- spoke to the design and improvement of various road extension projects;
- acknowledged the growth of the community and urged the bodies to make good choices for the community;
- spoke to the Title 17 and Title 43 revisions;
- expressed appreciation for being able to have discussions with the Assembly on the upcoming projects; and
- commended staff on their efforts on the various projects.

Planning Commissioner Rauchenstein:

- thanked the presenters for the reports provided; and
- commented on the plan to incorporate Talkeetna as a city.

Planning Commissioner Klapperich:

- expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Planning Department; and
- spoke to an increase for interim material district requests and the action the Commission was taking on the requests.

*(The Planning Commission exited the meeting at this time.)*

*(The meeting recessed at 8:35 p.m. and reconvened at 8:46 p.m.)*

## VIII. ASSEMBLY ITEMS OF BUSINESS

*(Assemblymember Doty had not entered the meeting at this time.)*

A. INTRODUCTION – (For public hearing – 04/05/16, Assembly Chambers)

1. **Ordinance Serial No. 16-012:** An Ordinance Amending MSB 15.24.030, Adopting The Port Master Plan.
  - a. IM No. 16-023
2. **Ordinance Serial No. 16-031:** An Ordinance Appropriating \$704,890 From The Land Management Permanent Fund, To Fund 450, Project No. 70012, As A Loan To Fund 520, To Fund Repairs To The Port Mackenzie Barge Dock Which Will Be Paid Back By Transfers From The Areawide Fund, Port Revenues And Insurance Settlement.
  - a. **Resolution Serial No. 16-029:** A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget Of \$704,890 For The Port Mackenzie Barge Dock Repair, Project No. 70012.
    - (1) IM No. 16-059

Ms. McKechnie read the above legislation into the record.

MOTION: Assemblymember Beck moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and set the public hearings for April 5, 2016.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

Mr. Moosey:

- spoke to the current issues with the Teachers Retirement System program and the potential impact to the School District;
- spoke to the request of Mayor Berkowitz, Municipality of Anchorage, regarding the Borough's participation on a potential general obligation bond for the port and rail systems;

- reported on House Bill 338 regarding the State mandated senior tax exemption program; and
- queried the Assembly if there was support for HB 338.

There was objection to supporting HB 338.

**B. 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 Discussion Of Matters Subject To The Attorney Client Privilege)*

**1. M/V Susitna**

**MOTION:** Assemblymember Beck moved to enter into executive session for matters, which 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 discussion of matters subject to the attorney-client privilege. In particular to discuss the financial impacts of potential litigation with regards to the insurance for the M/V Susitna. Those present during executive session will be the Mayor, the Assembly, the Attorney, the Manager, the Clerk, the Port Director, and the Internal Auditor.

**VOTE:** The motion passed without objection and the Assembly entered into executive session at 8:59 p.m.

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

**VOTE:** The motion passed without objection and the Assembly exited executive session at 9:54 p.m.

**MOTION:** Assemblymember Sykes moved to suspend the rules and extend the meeting to 10:10 p.m.

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

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

Assemblymember Sykes requested the Manager's Evaluation Process be added to the April 5, 2016, regular meeting agenda.

Assemblymember Mayfield announced the following events:

- the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce would host a presentation by Representative Don Young on March 28, at 12 p.m.; and
- the Dena'ina Elementary School would hold a school tour on March 24, at 9 a.m.

Assemblymember Doty:

- thanked everyone for the presentations; and
- looked forward to working with the Planning Commission and Planning Department staff on future projects.

Assemblymember Colligan:

- thanked everyone for their efforts for the meeting presentations; and
- commented on the terrorist attack in Belgium.

Assemblymember Beck:

- thanked everyone for the presentations; and
- noted he would not be in attendance for the school tours.

Mayor Halter thanked everyone for the presentations and for meeting with the Planning Commission.

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

  
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VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 05/03/16