

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Wednesday, February 10, 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. 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 (*entered telephonically at 6:02 p.m.*)
Mr. Randall Kowalke, Assembly District No. 7

Assemblymembers absent and excused:

Mr. Matthew Beck, Assembly District No. 2 (*Deputy Mayor*)

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Jessica Kilborn, Deputy Borough Clerk
Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager
Mr. George Hays, Assistant Borough Manager
Mr. John Aschenbrenner, Deputy Borough Attorney
Mr. Marc Van Dongen, Port Director

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. Ron Arvin, former member of the Assembly.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three minutes per person.)

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

The following persons spoke to concerns with funds spent on the M/V Susitna: Ms. Helen Munoz and Mr. Ron Arvin.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. M/V Susitna

Mr. Moosey and Mr. Von Dongen presented the engine repair needs for the M/V Susitna and spoke to the work occurring with the insurance company regarding those repairs.

MOTION: Assemblymember Kowalke moved to direct the Manager to negotiate with the buyer for a 48-hour extension on the sale of the M/V Susitna.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colligan moved a primary amendment to have the Attorney secure a legally binding sales agreement with the buyer that includes a date certain for completion of the sale.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colligan moved a primary amendment to have the Manager provide a spreadsheet to the Assembly that included the monthly cash flow for the M/V Susitna.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

(The meeting recessed at 7:06 p.m. and reconvened at 7:13 p.m.)

MOTION: Assemblymember Sykes moved a primary amendment by striking “48-hours.”

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

VOTE: The main motion passed as amended with Assemblymember McKee opposed.

MOTION: Assemblymember Mayfield moved to have the M/V Susitna towed to Seattle as soon as possible for the purpose of repairs.

MOTION: Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to strike “for the purpose of repairs” and inserting in its place “with a disposition to be determined.”

VOTE: The primary amendment passed with Assemblymembers McKee and Colligan opposed.

VOTE: The main motion passed as amended with Assemblymembers McKee and Colligan opposed.

MOTION: Assemblymember Kowalke moved to have the Attorney act as the lead on the insurance negotiations and sale of the M/V Susitna.

MOTION: Assemblymember Sykes moved a primary amendment to direct the Finance Director, the Internal Auditor, the Port Director, and the Manager to provide all contacts and documents related to the insurance negotiations regarding the repair and sale of the M/V Susitna, to the Attorney.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

VOTE: The main motion passed as amended without objection.

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Aschenbrenner:

- reported Mr. Spiropoulos asked if the Assembly wished to pursue an ordinance related to the extension of terms of office from three years to four years for members of the Assembly; and
- noted an ordinance sponsored by an Assembly member would initiate the process.

Ms. Kilborn:

- noted the legislation that was provided as backup to the M/V Susitna discussion would be introduced at the February 16, 2016, regular meeting and set for public hearing at a special meeting on February 23, 2016; and
- inquired if the Assembly wished to schedule the February 23, 2016, special meeting for the purpose of holding a public hearing on Ordinance Serial No. 16-013 and Resolution Serial No. 16-015, appropriating funds for M/V Susitna engine repairs.

There was no objection noted and the Assembly gave direction to schedule the February 23, 2016, special meeting.

Assemblymember Colligan:

- spoke to his belief that a written contract agreement between the potential buyer and the Borough was necessary prior to moving the M/V Susitna to Washington for repairs; and
- opined that there were options to address such an agreement within the set time limits.

Assemblymember Mayfield:

- spoke to the Assembly's responsibility for making the ultimate decisions regarding the M/V Susitna;
- appreciated the discussion that was held regarding the vessel;
- spoke in support of the sale of the M/V Susitna; and
- opined that the current plan was a good plan.

Assemblymember Kowalke:

- spoke to the difficult decisions faced by the Assembly regarding the M/V Susitna;
- voiced respect for the viewpoints of Assemblymembers Colligan and McKee;
- appreciated the discussion that was held regarding the vessel;

- noted it was up to the current Assembly to deal with the inherited issues surrounding the vessel;
- requested further discussion regarding the extension of terms of office for members of the Assembly; and
- clarified that the subject had come up during the January 30, 2016, Planning Session in regards to discussion held on multi-year budgeting.

Assemblymember Sykes:

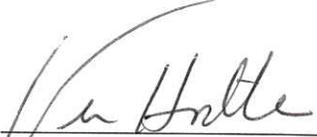
- thanked the Assembly for the questions regarding the M/V Susitna;
- noted he found the discussion to be very valuable;
- spoke to his observance of the issues surrounding the vessel prior to his term on the Assembly;
- noted that the Assembly was asked to make decisions based on the best information available and choose a direction based on that information; and
- looked forward to hearing from the Attorney regarding the next steps to take on the matter.

Mayor Halter:

- spoke to his reasons for bringing the discussion regarding the M/V Susitna forward during a special meeting;
- acknowledged the matter was a difficult one;
- noted his desire to hold discussions publically during a thorough debate of the Assembly;
- opined that the Assembly would have something in writing from the buyer to review by February 23, 2016, before taking action on Ordinance Serial No. 16-013 and Resolution Serial No. 16-015, appropriating funds for M/V Susitna engine repairs;
- spoke in support of the extension of terms of office from three years to four years for members of the Assembly; and
- thanked Mr. Arvin and Mr. Van Dongen for being in attendance.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.


 VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


 LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 03/15/16