

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on May 2, 2016, at the Mat-Su College Glenn Massay Theater, 8295 E. College Drive, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. by Mayor Vern Halter for the purpose of recreation bond discussion.

**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 (*arrived at 6:06 p.m.*)
- Mr. Dan Mayfield, Assembly District No. 5
- Ms. Barbara Doty, Assembly District No. 6
- Mr. Randall Kowalke, 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
- Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney
- Ms. Brenda J. Henry, Assistant Clerk
- Ms. Benji Wood, Administrative Assistant
- Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director
- Mr. Ken Barkley, Deputy Emergency Services Director – Fire
- Ms. Lisa Behrens, Deputy Director - EMS
- Mr. Bill Gamble, Emergency Services Director
- Ms. Eileen Probasco, Planning Director
- Ms. Patty Sullivan, Public Information 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. George Hays, Assistant Borough Attorney.

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

The following person spoke in support of full funding for the School District budget: Mr. Dan Hardy.

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

**VI. PUBLIC HEARING (Three Minutes Per Person)**

- A. **Ordinance Serial No. 16-016:** 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, 2016, And Ending June 30, 2017, And Setting The Surcharge Rate For The Wireline And Wireless Enhanced 911 Systems For The Period Of July 1, 2016, Through June 30, 2017.

Mayor Halter reopened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in support of full funding for the School District: Principal Lisa Vrivilo, Cottonwood Creek Elementary; Mr. Wade Erickson; Ms. Staci Bouvais; Principal Susan Steele, Finger Lake Elementary; Principal Reese Everett, Palmer High School; Ms. Davil Latrip; Principal Justin Ainsworth, Colony High School; Principal Brad Allen, Palmer Junior Middle School; Principal Jason Marvel, Burchell High School; Ms. Amber Craig, Burchell High School Teacher; Mr. Dan Hietala, Burchell High School Teacher; Ms. Diane Demoski, Burchell High School Nurse; and Principal Mary McMahan, Colony Middle School.

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

**MOTION:** Assemblymember Beck moved to continue the public hearing on Ordinance Serial No. 16-016, to May 5, 2016, at 6 p.m. at the Willow Community Center.

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

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

Assemblymember Sykes:

- thanked the public for attending the meeting and providing testimony;
- noted that the School District has been allowed to keep their fund balance for a number of years;
- spoke to concerns regarding the ability to fully fund the School District budget; and
- thanked School District staff for their hard work.

Ms. McKechnie reminded the body of the May 3, 2016, special meeting at 4 p.m. and regular meeting at 6 p.m.

Assemblymember McKee:

- spoke to concerns that students are not passing the high school qualifying exams;
- opined that money does not make students smarter; and
- noted that these are tough financial times.

Assemblymember Mayfield:

- thanked the School District for their support of students and education; and
- noted that he would do what is possible to provide funding.

Assemblymember Kowalke:

- summarized his positive experience with the School District; and
- spoke to concerns with the amount of funds Anchorage expended to find a School District Superintendent.

Assemblymember Colligan:

- thanked everyone for attending the meeting;
- opined that his children received a top notch education with the School District; and
- congratulated Dr. Deena Paramo for being selected as the new Anchorage School District Superintendent.

Assemblymember Doty:

- thanked School District staff for taking time to attend the meeting and provide testimony;
- spoke to the need to balance resources and to provide responsible fiscal management; and
- noted that the Assembly supports education.

Assemblymember Beck:

- noted his experience with the budget process;
- spoke to his family's positive experiences with the School District;
- stated he is looking forward to working through the budget; and
- thanked everyone for their attendance.

Mayor Halter:

- thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting;
- thanked the Clerk's Office and Action Video for setting up the meeting;
- stated that it means a lot to see so much public participation;
- spoke in support of the education provided by the School District; and
- congratulated Dr. Paramo on being selected as the Anchorage School District Superintendent.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The special meeting recessed at 6:48 p.m. to be reconvened on May 5, 2016, at 6 p.m.

  
VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 05/17/16