

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on May 5, 2016, at the Willow Community Center, 23625 West Willow Community Center Circle, Willow, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Vern Halter for the purpose of conducting a budget public hearing on Ordinance Serial No. 16-016.

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 (*arrived at 6:28 p.m.*)
- 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, Emergency Services Deputy Director - Fire
- Ms. Lisa Behrens, Emergency Services Deputy Director – EMS
- Mr. Eric Phillips, Information and Technology Director
- Ms. Patty Sullivan, Public Affairs 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. William Mailer, a member of the audience.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three minutes per person.)

The following person spoke in support of the preservation of the current location of the old Willow Community Center: Mr. Jim Huston.

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: Assistant Principal John Gardner, Big Lake Elementary School; Principal Bill Johnson, Houston High School; Principal Ben Howard, Houston Middle School; Principal Lisa Shelby, Talkeetna Elementary School; Mr. Dale Lloyd; Mr. Tim Walters, Mat-Su Education Association President; Ms. Shari Peterson; Principal Allison Wall, Trapper Creek Elementary; Ms. Donna Dearman, School Board Member District 7; Ms. Judith McCrossen; Ms. Patty Fisher; Ms. Lisa Humphreys, Houston High School Secretary; Ms. Sara Fiedler; Mr. Chad Rice, Houston High School Teacher; and Mr. Ryan McCrossen, Houston High School student.

The following person spoke in support of the Willow Library replacement and Community Center upgrades: Mr. William Mailer, Willow Library Association Member.

The following person spoke in support of a park and recreation area in the Point MacKenzie area: Ms. Billie Gonzales, Point MacKenzie Community Council.

The following person spoke in support of the current location of the Old Willow Community Center and in support of the Willow Library replacement: Mr. Harry Banks, Willow Area Community Organization Chair.

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

The following person spoke in support of funding for the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART), in support of funding for Mat-Su Youth Court, and in support of funding for a Drug Enforcement Officer: Mayor Bert Cottle, city of Wasilla.

The following person spoke in support of full funding for the School District, in support of funding for SART, in support of drug use prevention, and in support of the Mat-Su Youth Court: Mr. Stu Graham, Wasilla City Council Member.

The following person spoke to the need for the Assembly to be fiscally responsible: Ms. Patricia Rosnel.

The following person spoke in support of funding for upgraded E-911 dispatch equipment: Ms. Debbie Bloom, EMT II for Willow Fire Service Area.

The following person spoke to concerns with a letter written in support of preserving the old Willow Community Center: Mr. Jim Houston.

The following person spoke to the need to providing funding to small non-profit entities: Mr. Herman Thompson.

There being no others who wished to testify, the public hearing closed and discussion moved to the Assembly.

MOTION PENDING: Assemblymember Beck moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 16-016.

MOTION: Assemblymember Beck moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 16-016 to a time certain of May 9, 2016, at 6 p.m.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

VIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Moosey:

- thanked the Willow Community for their hospitality;
- noted the large number of attendees; and
- commented that the cookies provided with dinner were delicious.

Assemblymember McKee:

- spoke to concerns on cost per student at the School District; and
- commented that perhaps resources may need to be used more wisely.

Assemblymember Sykes:

- thanked the public for attending the meeting and providing testimony;
- stated that he believes the School District has done a great job at managing resources; and
- spoke to the need to be fiscally responsible.

Assemblymember Doty:

- thanked the public for attending this evening;
- stated that the Assembly is supportive of education;
- noted that roads and public safety are also important;

- spoke to pass through grants for health and social service agencies; and
- stated that she would like the Borough to negotiate good health care that is focused on wellness instead of illness.

Assemblymember Colligan:

- commented that he too enjoyed the cookies provided this evening;
- spoke in support of funding for SART and Youth Court;
- spoke to the most difficult experience he has had while being a member of the Assembly; and
- thanked the public for attending the meeting.

Assemblymember Mayfield:

- thanked everyone who attended the meeting and provided testimony;
- stated that he has spent a lot of time working on the budget;
- noted that he is hopeful there is a way forward without increasing the mill rate; and
- spoke to amendments that he will be bringing before the body.

Assemblymember Beck:

- spoke to his appreciation of the input of the public;
- spoke in support of funding for the Youth Court program; and
- noted that he is in support of full funding for the School District.

Assemblymember Kowalke:

- thanked the Willow Community for the dinner that was provided;
- shared that it was nice to not have so far to drive for the meeting this evening; and
- spoke in support of the Willow Library project.

Mayor Halter:

- recognized Ms. Jamie Newman, Wasilla City Clerk and former Borough Deputy Clerk;
- spoke to his appreciation of the Willow community;
- noted the growth that is occurring in the area;
- spoke in support of the Willow Library project;
- noted some projects that he would like to see funded through the budget cycle;
- stated that he would like to try to stay at the same mill rate as last year;
- noted that the Borough is seeing significant growth;
- thanked the public for the testimony they provided;
- spoke to his appreciation of the School District; and
- noted that there are many projects he would like to see included in the recreational bond package.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting recessed at 7:48 p.m. to be reconvened on May 9, 2016, at 6 p.m.



for VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 06/07/16