

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Thursday, May 12, 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 for the purpose of deliberations 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 (*arrived at 6:03 p.m.*)
Mr. Steve Colligan, Assembly District No. 4
Mr. Dan Mayfield, Assembly District No. 5
Ms. Barbara Doty, Assembly District No. 6 (*arrived at 6:04 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. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney
Ms. Jessica Kilborn, Deputy Borough Clerk
Mr. Jude Bilafer, Capital Projects Director
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director
Mr. Terrance Dolan, Public Works Director
Ms. Eileen Probasco, Planning and Land Use Director
Mr. Bill Gamble, Emergency Services Director
Ms. Patty Sullivan, Public Affairs Director
Mr. Eric Phillips, Community Development Director
Ms. Cheyenne Heindel, Financial Analyst
Mr. Ken Barkley, FSA Deputy Director
Ms. Lisa Behrens, EMS Deputy Director
Ms. Elizabeth Weiant, Administrative Specialist
Mr. Casey Cook, Emergency Manager
Mr. Hugh Leslie, Recreation and Library Manager
Mr. Joe Miner, Ice Rink Manager

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 Ms. Elizabeth Weiant, Community Development Administrative Specialist.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three minutes per person.)

The following person spoke to the proposed Assembly salary increases: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

The following person spoke in support of funding for the libraries: Ms. Marci Hawkins.

The following person spoke to Ordinance Serial No. 16-021, regarding marijuana license referrals: Mr. Brian Endel

The following person spoke in support of funding for additional officers on the Drug Enforcement Task Force: Mr. Shane Calt, Alaska State Trooper.

The following person provided information on the Sexual Assault Response Team, Wasilla's cigarette tax, spoke in support of funding for the Mat-Su Youth Court, and funding for an additional officer for the Drug Enforcement Task Force: Mr. Bert Cottle, Wasilla City Mayor.

The following persons spoke in support of the library funding: Mr. Nathan Wallace, Palmer City Manager; and Ms. DeLena Johnson, Palmer City Mayor.

The following person spoke reported on the Alaska Board of Fish: Mr. Edward Grasser, of Harris Consulting.

The following persons spoke in support of the budget for the Central Mat-Su Fire Service Area: Mr. Carol Christiansen, member of the Central Mat-Su FSA Board of Supervisors; and Mr. Ken Slauson, Chair of the Central Mat-Su FSA Board of Supervisors.

The following person spoke in opposition to increased funding for emergency services and encouraged consideration of alternate revenue sources: Ms. Patricia Rosnell.

The following person spoke in support of funding for libraries and parks: Mr. Timothy Hale.

VI. DELIBERATIONS AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2017 BUDGET

- 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.

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

Amendment No. 2

Fire Service Areas, Central Mat-Su FSA (Tab G, Pages 27-39)

PENDING MOTION: Assemblymember McKee moved a primary amendment to the
Central Mat-Su Fire Service Area Budget, fund 250, by striking
\$14,455,989 and inserting in its place \$12,455,989 for an overall
decrease of \$2,000,000 and a corresponding decrease in the mill
rate.

MOTION: Assemblymember Mayfield move to call the question (stop debate).

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

VOTE: The primary amendment failed with Assemblymember McKee in support.

Amendment No. 4

Non-Areawide - Animal Care (Tab D, Page 15)

PENDING MOTION: Assemblymember McKee moved a primary amendment to
Non-Areawide, Animal Care to add one full time Deputy Animal
Care Officer as follows:

- Animal Care and Regulation, 200.100.606.411s and 412s,
increase of \$91,747.

MOTION: Assemblymember Beck moved a secondary amendment to Non-Areawide Fund
Balance (Tab D, Page 1) by striking \$285,623 and inserting in its place \$193,876
for a decrease of \$91,747 and inserting the \$91,747 into the Animal Care budget
411's and 412's.

VOTE: The secondary amendment failed with Assemblymembers Beck, Doty, and
McKee in support.

VOTE: The primary amendment failed with Assemblymembers Beck and McKee in
support.

Amendment No. 5

**Capital Grants/Pass Through, City Block Grants (Tab O, Page 1)
M/V Susitna (Tab M, Page 2)**

PENDING MOTION: Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to Capital Grants/Pass Through, City Block Grants and the M/V Susitna as follows:

- City of Palmer by striking \$40,000 and inserting in its place \$19,300 for a total decrease of \$20,700;
- City of Wasilla by striking \$45,000 and inserting in its place \$19,300 for a total decrease of \$25,700;
- City of Houston by striking \$21,000 and inserting in its place \$19,300 for a total decrease of \$1,700;
- M/V Susitna, 367.110, by striking \$814,760 and inserting in its place \$762,860 for a total decrease of \$51,900 and an equal decrease in the areawide fund; and
- by inserting a separate planning grant for the City of Wasilla in the amount of \$100,000.

MOTION: Assemblymember Mayfield moved a secondary amendment as follows:

- striking the first three bullets (block grants to cities of Palmer, Wasilla, and Houston);
- Areawide Estimated Fund Balance (Tab B, Page 1) by striking \$75,009 and inserting in its place \$26,909 for a total decrease of \$48,100; and
- inserting under M/V Susitna “a corresponding decrease in expenditures”, to read “M/V Susitna, 367.110, by striking \$814,760 and inserting in its place \$762,860 for a total decrease of \$51,900, a corresponding decrease in expenditures and an equal decrease in the areawide fund”.

VOTE: The secondary amendment passed without objection.

VOTE: The primary amendment failed with Assemblymembers Sykes, Mayfield, and Kowalke in support.

(The meeting recessed at 7:45 p.m. and reconvened at 7:52 p.m.)

Amendment No. 9

Areawide - Assembly (Tab B, Pages 19-20) (100.100.101)

MOTION: Assemblymember Sykes moved a primary amendment to Areawide, Assembly, 411.100, Permanent Wages, by striking \$161,980 and inserting in its place \$94,000 for a decrease of \$67,080.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed with Assemblymembers Mayfield and Kowalke opposed.

Amendment No. 10

Areawide - Assembly (Tab B, Pages 19-20) (100.100.101)

MOTION: Assemblymember Sykes moved a primary amendment to Areawide, Assembly, 414.200, Expense Reimbursements Outside Borough, by striking \$12,750 and inserting in its place \$6,000 for a decrease of \$6,750.

VOTE: The primary amendment failed with Assemblymembers Sykes, Beck, and McKee in support.

Amendment No. 11

Areawide - Assembly (Tab B, Pages 19-20) (100.100.101)

MOTION: Assemblymember Sykes moved a primary amendment to Areawide, Assembly, 414.400, Travel Tickets, by striking \$11,250 and inserting in its place \$6,000 for a decrease of \$5,250.

VOTE: The primary amendment failed with Assemblymembers Sykes, Beck, and McKee in support.

Amendment No. 12

Areawide - Assembly (Tab B, Pages 19-20) (100.100.101)

MOTION: Assemblymember Sykes moved a primary amendment to Areawide, Assembly, 429.900, Other Contractual, by striking \$18,000 and inserting in its place \$17,000 for a decrease of \$1,000.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed with Assemblymembers Colligan, Mayfield, and Kowalke opposed.

Amendment No. 13

Capital Grants/Pass Through, City Block Grants (Tab O, Page 1)

MOTION: Assemblymember Colligan moved a primary amendment to Capital Grants/Pass Through, City Block Grants, by inserting a separate planning grant for the City of Wasilla in the amount of \$100,000.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colligan moved a secondary amendment to insert the verbiage "contingent upon matching grant funds to the project in the amount of \$100,000".

VOTE: The secondary amendment passed without objection.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed with McKee and Mayfield opposed.

Amendment No. 14

Areawide - Assembly (Tab B, Page 19) (100.100.101)

MOTION: Assemblymember Colligan moved a primary amendment to amend Areawide, Assembly, 412s, Benefits, by striking \$221,858 and inserting in its place \$214,752 for a decrease of \$7,106.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

Amendment No. 15

Areawide - Mayor (Tab B, Page 39) (100.110.104)

MOTION: Assemblymember Colligan moved a primary amendment to amend Areawide, Mayor as follows:

- 411.100, Permanent Wages, by striking \$49,300 and inserting in its place \$29,975 for a decrease of \$19,325; and
- 412s, Benefits, by striking \$41,024 and inserting in its place \$33,759 for a decrease of \$7,265.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed with Assemblymembers Mayfield and Kowalke opposed.

Amendment No. 16

Areawide - Planning (Tab B, Pages 61 and 72)

MOTION: Assemblymember Sykes moved a primary amendment to the Areawide fund by striking the Cultural Resources Specialist and transferring funds to create a Planner II in Development Services as follows:

- 100.100.130, 411s and 412s, by striking \$120,043 and transferring \$98,748 into 100.100.139, 411s and 412s.

WITHDRAW: Assemblymember Sykes moved to withdraw the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

Amendment No. 17

Fire Service Areas (Tab 6, Pages 20 and 28)

MOTION: Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to Fire Service Area mill rates as follows:

- Central Mat-Su FSA, by striking 1.99 mills and inserting in its place 2.15 mills ; and
- West Lakes FSA, by striking 1.92 mills and inserting in its place 2.2 mills.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colligan moved to divide the question.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

MOTION: First segment. Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to Central Mat-Su FSA, by striking 1.99 mills and inserting in its place 2.15 mills.

VOTE: The first segment of the primary amendment passed with Assemblymember McKee opposed.

MOTION: Second segment. Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to West Lakes FSA, by striking 1.92 mills and inserting in its place 2.2 mills.

VOTE: The second segment of the primary amendment passed with Assemblymember McKee opposed.

MOTION: Assemblymember Beck moved to set the mill rates at 9.984 areawide and .525 non-areawide.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

VOTE: The main motion passed as amended without objection.

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie informed the Assembly that the Human Resources Department would leave the Attorney's evaluation link up until Friday, May 13 at 9 a.m.

Assemblymember Doty:

- thanked the Assembly for passing the budget; and
- opined that the fire service areas and the School District would do a good job using the funds they were both given.

Assemblymember Colligan:

- thanked everyone for a smooth budget process; and
- thanked staff for their hard work.

Assemblymember McKee spoke to his campaign objective, which was to be cautious with the taxpayers' money.

Assemblymember Sykes:

- opined that he felt rushed during the budget season;
- commended staff for their budget presentations;
- spoke to constituents concerns about budget line items and the research he conducted regarding those concerns;
- encouraged establishing a citizens' budget committee;
- spoke to the need for detailed line items within the departmental budgets;
- spoke in appreciation of the Finance Director's explanation to the questions he had posed on the Borough's revenue;
- noted his pleasure with the budget process and deliberations;
- commented that due to the debt service on bonds there had been no increase to the mill rate for several years; and
- opined that the School District, service areas, and the Borough budget were well established should there be economic shortfalls in the coming years.

Assemblymember Kowalke:

- opined that the Assembly did the right thing for the Emergency Services Department; and
- spoke in support of the funding for the additional officer position on the Drug Enforcement Task Force.

Assemblymember Mayfield:

- spoke to four important things that he considered during the budget process: education funding, funding for the Point MacKenzie Park, funding for the drug enforcement officer, and keeping the areawide mill rate level;
- spoke to his reason for voting against the drug enforcement officer, in that he feared it would increase the overall mill rate;
- noted he was pleased that the drug enforcement officer position was funded with no increase to the mill rate;
- commented that the budget process was very successful; and
- thanked the Assembly for working together and supporting each other throughout the process.

Assemblymember Beck:

- commented that he was pleased to be part of the budget process;
- thanked the Assembly for the deliberations;
- thanked staff for their hard work on the budget;
- spoke to Mr. Calt's testimony regarding heroine in the Valley;
- spoke in support of the funding for the drug enforcement officer; and
- spoke in support of education and schools in the Borough.

Mayor Halter:

- spoke to the efforts of keeping the mill rate level with the Manager's budget proposal;

- opined that good partnership efforts were displayed by funding the libraries;
- spoke to the historical mill rates;
- voiced pleasure with the budget process;
- thanked staff for the budget presentations and for their hard work through the process;
- spoke in support of the mill rate increases for the fire service areas;
- noted his attendance at the ribbon cutting for the Wasilla Creek Wetlands Trail; and
- spoke to the positive relationships between the Borough and the cities of Houston, Palmer, and Wasilla.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.


for VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 06/07/16