

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, July 19, 2016, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor 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

Staff in attendance were:

- Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk
- Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager
- Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Halter:

- advised that Governor Walker will be coming to the meeting this evening;
- noted that Governor Walker's flight was delayed due to weather; and
- queried if there was any objection to allowing the Governor to address the Assembly upon his arrival.

There was no objection noted.

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. Helen Munoz, a member in the audience.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three minutes per person.)

The following person spoke to concerns with the way unions are negotiating during the State's fiscal crisis, to concerns with increasing the Borough's indebtedness and to the need to cut staff training and travel: Ms. Beth Fread.

Mayor Halter welcomed Representative Tilton, Representative Gattis, Representative Keller, Senator Hughes, and Senator Dunleavy to the meeting.

The following person spoke to concerns with the State's financial crisis and opined that recently vacated Planning Chief position should not be filled: Mr. Brian Endle.

The following person spoke to the need for the Borough to be fiscally responsible during the State's fiscal crisis: Mr. Ron Johnson.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 16-098 and thanked the Borough for their support of the City: Mayor Virgie Thompson, city of Houston.

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

The following person opined that Governor Walker is causing the State's fiscal crisis: Mr. Mike Coons.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 16-098: Mr. Ken Slausen.

The following person spoke to concerns with the atmosphere in Juneau: Mr. Tim Hale.

The following person opined that the discussion this evening needs to focus on budget solutions: Ms. Patty Rosnel.

The following person spoke to concerns with the possible loss of funding for preschool: Mr. Harry Banks, Willow Area Community Organization Chair.

The following person thanked the Assembly for their public service and noted that the loss of oil revenue cannot be made up from the pockets of families: Representative Shelley Hughes.

The following person spoke in support of Governor Walker's vetoes and the need to increase revenue: Mr. Kevin Bruu.

The following person spoke in support of Governor Walker's vetoes, the need to increase revenue, the need reinstate an income tax, and in opposition of oil tax credits: Ms. Barbara McDaniel.

The following person spoke to the need to make more cuts to the State budget and spoke to the need to regulate and tax marijuana as a source of revenue: Mr. Tom Idle.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colligan moved to leave audience participation open until directly after the Governor speaks.

MOTION: Assemblymember Sykes moved a primary amendment by inserting after the word “open” the words “for members of the public who have not yet spoken.”

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

VOTE: The main motion passed as amended without objection.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTION (For public Hearing on 08/02/16, Assembly Chambers)

1. **Ordinance Serial No. 16-098:** An Ordinance Accepting A Temporary Transfer Of Power From The City Of Houston To Manage And Administer All Fire And Rescue Emergency Response With An Expiration Date Of September 1, 2016.

a. IM No. 16-148

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 hearing for August 2, 2016.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

B. Borough’s Fiscal Year 2017 Budget – Governor Walker’s Vetoes

Mr. Moosey reported on the Borough’s internal response to the Governor’s vetoes.

Governor Walker summarized the reasons for his fiscal plan and proposed vetoes.

(Audience participation continued to this portion of the agenda.)

There was no one present who wished to speak.

(The meeting recessed at 7:30 p.m. and reconvened at 7:44 p.m.)

Assemblymember Colligan stated that he wished to continue the discussion with Mr. Moosey.

Mayor Halter queried if there was any objection.

There was no objection noted.

The Assembly asked questions of Mr. Moosey regarding the Borough’s response to budget issues.

Mayor Halter queried if there was any objection to directing the Manager report back to the Assembly with a plan for specific cuts to be labeled and itemized and to report on possible new revenue, at the August 2, 2016, Assembly meeting.

There was no objection noted.

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Beck:

- acknowledged that the Borough has sent a task force to provide support for the McHugh Creek fire;
- spoke to a minor emergency that occurred with his family;
- thanked Borough emergency responders that participated in that emergency; and
- thanked the Manager for his comments about being in this fiscal crisis together.

Assemblymember Sykes:

- thanked the Manager for his approach to the fiscal crisis; and
- spoke in support of addressing common problems together.

Assemblymember McKee requested a status on the insurance reimbursement regarding the M/V Susitna.

Mayor Halter queried if a report on that could be provided on August 2.

Mr. Moosey affirmed the query.

Mayor Halter:

- stated that he would like to write a letter of thank you to Governor Walker for attending the meeting;
- related that the letter would include encouragement for the Legislature to try to work something out on school debt reimbursement; and
- thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 08/02/16