

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on October 25, 2016, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The special meeting was called to order at 3 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. Matthew Beck, Assembly District No. 2
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 3:14 p.m.*)
Mr. Randall Kowalke, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Jessica Kilborn, Deputy Borough Clerk
Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager
Mr. George Hays, Assistant Borough Manager
Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney
Mr. James Wilson, Internal Auditor
Mr. Jude Bilafer, Capital Projects Director
Ms. Cheyenne Heindel, Acting Finance Director
Mr. Terrance Dolan, Public Works Director
Ms. Eileen Probasco, Planning and Land Use Director
Mr. Alex Strawn, Development Services Manager
Mr. Bill Gamble, Emergency Services Director
Mr. Ken Barkley, FSA Deputy Director
Ms. Lisa Behrens, EMS Deputy Director
Ms. Patty Sullivan, Public Affairs Director
Mr. Eric Phillips, Community Development Director
Mr. Hugh Leslie, Recreation and Library Manager
Mr. Eric Wyatt, Information Technology Director
Ms. Kirsten Vesel, Animal Care and Regulation Director
Ms. Sonya Conant, Human Resources Director
Mr. Marc Van Dongen, Port Director
Mr. Russ Kraft, Purchasing Officer

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 Assembly Member.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person introduced herself to the Assembly: Ms. Janel Gagnon, Library Board Chairperson.

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

The following person spoke to the need to consider essential services versus non-essential services when considering the Borough's current financial situation: Mr. Ron Arvin.

The following person spoke to ideas and concerns regarding the Borough budget: Ms. Patty Rosnell.

The following person spoke to the budget process and economic development: Ms. Helen Munoz.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. How To Pay For Government Services

Mr. Moosey provided information to facilitate discussions regarding the Borough's financial future.

Ms. Cheyenne Heindel, Finance Director, spoke to the Borough's current tax caps.

Mr. James Wilson, Internal Auditor, summarized the long-term budget forecast and projections.

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropolous:

- spoke to two forthcoming letters addressing questions generated by discussions during the meeting; and
- notified the Assembly of a recently filed lawsuit against the Willow Historical Wildlife Foundation.

Assemblymember Sykes commented that he looked forward to future discussions regarding Borough finances.

Assemblymember Mayfield noted that it would take thinking outside the box to resolve the financial situation.

Assemblymember Doty looked forward to future ideas from staff to address the financial situation.

Assemblymember Colligan cautioned the Assembly to consider the Borough's essential required services when conducting future discussions.

Assemblymember Beck:

- encouraged more participation with the public when conducting future budget discussions;
- noted the need to make the departmental budgets transparent to the public;
- spoke to the need to revisit the bed tax issue;
- commented on a potential convention center for the Borough;
- encouraged more discussion on basic building permit fees and plastic bag usage fees; and
- thanked the Manager for the presentations.

Mayor Halter:

- cautioned the Assembly to closely watch the mill rate;
- commented that there was good discussion on the matter; and
- encouraged new tax ideas for the Borough and its services.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.



VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 11/17/16