

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on January 24, 2017, 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.

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 6:03 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. Jessica Kilborn, Deputy Borough Clerk
Mr. Jude Bilafer, Capital Projects Director
Ms. Barb Baumgartner, Comptroller
Mr. Terrance Dolan, Public Works Director
Mr. Ken Barkley, FSA Deputy Director
Ms. Patty Sullivan, Public Affairs Director
Mr. Eric Phillips, Community Development Director
Mr. Marc Van Dongen, Port 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. Marc Van Dongen, Port Director.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

A. Regular Assembly Meeting: 01/10/17

Mayor Halter inquired if there were any changes/corrections to the regular meeting minutes of January 10, 2017.

Ms. McKechnie advised that the following amendment to Resolution Serial No. 17-001 passed and was inadvertently left out of the minutes.

MOTION: Assemblymember Sykes moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 17-001, Capital Improvement Program (CIP) by adding a project to the priority projects lists, as No. 11, Community Transportation Program, page 11 of the index and page 14 of the narrative, as follows:

- in the index to read: Lake Louise Road; and
- in the narrative to read: The only road to Lake Louise Road is 20 miles long off of Glenn Highway, Mile Post 159, providing access for residents and many visitors who come from all over for recreation winter and summer. The road has had continuous damage, accelerated since the late fall of 2015, which resulted in serious frost heaved far worse than usual. Serious safety hazards affect all drivers including loss of equipment to trailers. Last year, the Alaska State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, made some patches in the worst places, but many other similar bad spots remain unrepaired.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

Mayor Halter queried if there was any objection to adding the amendment.

There was no objection noted.

GENERAL CONSENT: The minutes were approved as amended without objection.

VI. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

A. AGENCY REPORTS

1. Reports from cities

Wasilla City

Mayor Bert Cottle reported on the activities of the City.

2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

(There was no report provided.)

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee on School Issues

(There was no report provided.)

2. Assembly Public Relations

(There were no reports provided.)

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

1. State/Federal Legislation
2. Strategic Planning Issues
3. Rail Freight Transportation Study

Mr. Jim Calvin, McDowell Group, provided a presentation on the Rail Freight Transportation Study being used for grant purposes.

Mr. Moosey:

- noted that Mr. Harris, Borough Lobbyist, was in Juneau and would observe the legislative session, paying particular attention to those issues affecting the Borough;
- announced upcoming travel:
 - the second week of February to Astoria, Oregon to observe their sawmill operations, as it related to local Borough timber opportunities;
 - the third week of February to Juneau, to meet with Governor Walker; and
 - potential travel in April to Washington, DC for lobbying purposes;
- presented mill rates and levies dated back to 1961 to assist with the fiscal year 2018 budget process; and
- spoke to the leachate acceptance request for proposal that was issued by the Borough.

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos:

- announced an order from the court was received, dismissing the cases related to the 2015 marijuana petition; and
- spoke briefly to the next steps of the process and noted more information would be brought forward at the next regular Assembly meeting.

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie:

- spoke regarding the upcoming meeting schedule; and
- noted that the Clerk's Office would be practicing the new agenda and meeting management software, Granicus, for which the plan was to go-live within the upcoming months.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

1. MSB Board/Committee Minutes:
 - a. Caswell FSA Board of Supervisors: 11/09/16
 - b. Caswell Lakes RSA Board of Supervisors: 10/05/16
 - c. Emergency Medical Services Board: 10/05/16
 - d. Enhanced 911 Advisory Board: 12/13/16
 - e. Greater Talkeetna RSA Board of Supervisors: 09/08/16, 11/10/16
 - f. MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission: 10/27/16, 12/15/16
 - g. Platting Board: 12/01/16
2. Community Council Minutes:
 - a. North Lakes Community Council: 01/28/16, 02/25/16, 09/29/16, 10/27/16
 - b. Susitna Community Council: 12/15/16
 - c. Talkeetna Community Council: 12/05/16

The citizen and other correspondence were presented and no comments were noted.

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

1. **IM No. 17-014:** Reporting Of Conclusion Of Contract For Bid No. 15-150P To Howdie, Inc. For The Fronteras Charter School Design-Build Project For The Final Contract Amount Of \$7,487,742.88.

The informational memorandum was presented.

VII. SPECIAL ORDERS

A. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (Three minutes per person.)

(There were no persons to be heard.)

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three minutes per person.)

1. **Ordinance Serial No. 17-006:** An Ordinance Approving The Acceptance And Appropriation Of Fiscal Year 2017 Community Revenue Sharing Program Funds In The Amount Of \$270,900 To Fund 475, Project No. 47033.
 - a. **Resolution Serial No. 17-007:** A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Fiscal Year 2017 Community Revenue Sharing Program, Project No. 47033.
 - (1) IM No. 17-016

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

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

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

MOTION: Assemblymember Beck moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 17-006 and Resolution Serial No. 17-007.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

2. **Ordinance Serial No. 17-007:** An Ordinance Amending MSB 2.12, Assembly; And MSB 2.08, Mayor; To Change Assembly And Mayoral Terms From 3 Years To 4 Years Without Affecting The Current Members Terms. *(Sponsored By Assemblymember Kowalke)*
 - a. IM No. 17-015

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in opposition of Ordinance Serial No. 17-007 and spoke in support of placing the subject on a future ballot: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman, Ms. Helen Munoz, and Mr. John Vinduska.

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

(Assemblymember McKee exited the meeting at 6:39 p.m. and rejoined the meeting at 6:46 p.m.)

MOTION: Assemblymember Kowalke moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 17-007.

MOTION: Assemblymember Beck moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 17-007 indefinitely.

WITHDRAW: Assemblymember Beck moved to withdraw the motion to postpone indefinitely.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Beck moved to call the question (stop debate).

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

VOTE: The main motion failed unanimously.

(The meeting recessed at 7:02 p.m. and reconvened at 7:09 p.m.)

C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three minutes per person.)

The following person spoke to the Rail Freight Transportation Study and to actions taken by the Port Commission on the related matter: Mr. Chris Gates.

The following person spoke in support of Ms. Pat Chesbro being appointed to the Planning Commission: Ms. Helen Woodings.

The following person requested a letter of support from the Assembly to Congress regarding climate control: Mr. Phil Somerville.

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

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

a. **Resolution Serial No. 17-010:** A Resolution Amending The Scope Of Work For Project No. 45040, Municipal Entitlement Lands To Include Trail Surveys.

(1) IM No. 17-023

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

a. **AM No. 17-008:** Award Of Bid No. 17-061B To Northern Asphalt Construction, Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$283,636 For South Canter Place And South Surrey Road Reconstruction.

b. **AM No. 17-009:** Vacate A 1-Foot By 3.5-Foot And A 1-Foot By 5.5-Foot Portion Of South Lake View Loop To Alleviate A Structural Setback Violation On Lot C, Gothberg Addition 1, Within Section 28, Township 17 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian.

Ms. McKechnie read the above legislation into the record.

MOTION: Assemblymember Beck moved to approve the consent agenda as read into the record by the Clerk.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. **AM No. 17-003:** Authorize The Purchase Of Ongoing Geomatics Services From Survbase In The Amount Of \$475,000 For The Port Mackenzie Rail Extension Project.

PENDING MOTION: Assemblymember Colligan moved to approve AM No. 17-003.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

B. Appointment To The Central Mat-Su Fire Service Area Board of Supervisors.

PENDING MOTION: Assemblymember Colligan moved to confirm the mayoral appointment of Mr. Brian Davis to the Central Mat-Su FSA No. 130 Board of Supervisors.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

IX. VETO

(There were no vetoes presented.)

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For public hearing – 02/07/17 Assembly Chambers)

1. **Ordinance Serial No. 17-012:** An Ordinance Requesting A Reappropriation Of \$4,874,486.64 From The Fire Service Area Capital Projects Budget, Fund 405, Project Nos. 10027, 10031, 10140, 45066, 45101, And 45268, To Project No. 10183, Fund 405, To Allow For The Construction Of The New Central Fire Station No. 62, Training Complex And Warehouse.
 - a. **Resolution Serial No. 17-008:** A Resolution Amending The Budgets For Project Nos. 10027, 10031, 10140, 45066, 45101, And 45268, And Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Project No. 10183 To Allow For The Construction Of The New Central Fire Station No. 62, Training Complex And Warehouse.
 - (1) IM No. 17-021

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 hearings for February 7, 2017.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

Mayor Halter requested the following resignations and appointments for confirmation:

Aviation Advisory Board
Chris Kepler, resignation
Board of Equalization
Read Dunn, resignation
Enhanced 911 Advisory Board
Rebecca Frey

Marijuana Advisory Committee
Edna DeVries

MOTION: Assemblymember Beck moved to confirm the Mayor's resignations and appointments.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

C. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

(There was no other new business.)

D. REFERRALS (For referral to the Planning Commission for 90 days or other date specified by the Assembly)

(There were no referrals presented.)

XI. RECONSIDERATION

(There was no reconsideration presented.)

XII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos:

- spoke to past discussions regarding marijuana setbacks and variances; and
- noted the gravel tax matter would be on the agenda at the next meeting and requested those who had questions on the matter to meet with him prior to the meeting.

Ms. McKechnie briefly spoke to the manner in which the voting results would be displayed during meetings with the Granicus system implementation.

Mr. Moosey:

- commended the Clerk's Office for implementing the new meeting management system, especially the video streaming that would soon be available for the public; and
- noted a letter requesting the Assembly's support for the incorporation of Nikiski, located within the Kenai Peninsula Borough, and inquired if the Assembly wished to provide a response.

Mayor Halter queried if the Assembly objected to sending a response in support of the incorporation.

Discussion ensued regarding not proceeding as the incorporation was located in another borough.

Assemblymember McKee inquired about the status of the outstanding insurance claims for the M/V Susitna and the Port damages.

Mr. Moosey provided a status update on the insurance claims.

Assemblymember Sykes:

- thanked everyone for the meeting;
- expressed appreciation for the discussion on Ordinance Serial No. 17-007;
- requested of the Manager a status of the changes made by Director Gamble prior to his departure;
- spoke to the meetings of the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission and noted the Board of Fish would meet in Anchorage in February; and
- encouraged Assembly and public participation at the state Board of Fish meetings related to the fishery issues affecting the Borough.

Assemblymember Kowalke:

- thanked everyone for the debate on Ordinance Serial No. 17-007;
- provided information concerning a recent meeting held between himself, Willow Area Community Organization, Mayor Halter, and an Idaho company, Gold Torrent, regarding proposed mining operations in the Hatcher Pass area;
- remarked that Gold Torrent was encouraged to work with the Willow community on its endeavors for the mining opportunity; therefore, a community meeting would be held on February 13, followed by an open house event on February 16, at the Willow Community Center; and
- noted that notification of the upcoming meetings would be made and interested parties were encouraged to attend.

Assemblymember Mayfield:

- thanked Assemblymember Kowalke for bringing forward Ordinance Serial No. 17-007 for discussion;
- thanked Mr. Spiropoulos for reminding the Assembly that Ordinance Serial No. 16-128, regarding severance taxes for gravel extraction, would be forthcoming;
- encouraged the Assembly to meet with Mr. Spiropoulos regarding any amendments to Ordinance Serial No. 16-128 prior to the next regular meeting; and
- noted his intention to bring forward a proposed trapping ordinance which would limit and/or prohibit trapping in various areas.

Assemblymember Doty:

- commended Director Gamble for his hard work and years of service to the Borough;
- requested an update on the status of the projects Director Gamble had been working on;
- inquired on the status of the dispatch billing process;
- thanked Mr. Somerville for his efforts on climate change;
- expressed her pleasure that monies were going to the community councils and advocated for guidance to the community councils on the purposes of those funds;
- thanked Mayor Cottle for his efforts to maintain healthy seniors and opined it was a great program; and

- noted she was working with the RSAs and Capital Projects to determine what could reasonably be done to address the traffic issues within District 6, with the limited funds available.

Assemblymember Colligan

- thanked Director Gamble for his hard work and years of service to the Borough; and
- noted he would be calling in for the next meeting.

Assemblymember Beck:

- noted he would be calling in for the next meeting;
- remarked on the girls' basketball game between Wasilla High School and Palmer High School; and
- expressed condolences to the family of Mr. William Snegirev, longtime Palmer resident.

Mayor Halter:

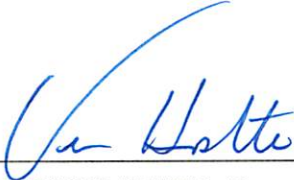
- thanked Assemblymember Kowalke for bringing forward Ordinance Serial No. 17-007 for discussion; and
- spoke to potential future discussions on the municipal classification of the Borough;
- referred to the mill rate/levies document provided by Mr. Moosey;
- commended Director Gamble for his hard work and years of service to the Borough and wished him well; and
- thanked everyone for a great meeting.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(There was no executive session held.)


XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.



VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 03/07/17