

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH - REGULAR MEETING

ASSEMBLY - JANUARY 2, 2001

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on January 2, 2001, at the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly Chambers, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Timothy L. Anderson.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. Larry DeVilbiss, Assembly District No. 1
Ms. Sara Jansen, Assembly District No. 2 (Deputy Mayor)
Mr. Talis J. Colberg, Assembly District No. 3
Mr. Dan Kelly, Assembly District No. 4
Ms. Jody Simpson, Assembly District No. 5
Ms. Kelly Lankford Ladere, Assembly District No. 7

Assembly member absent and excused:

Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Sandra Dillon, Borough Clerk
Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager
Mr. Michael Gatti, Borough Attorney
Ms. Elizabeth Manfred, Borough Deputy Clerk
Mr. Jim Swing, Public Works Director
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director
Mr. Karl Borglum, Borough Assessor
Ms. Sandy Garley, Planning Director
Mr. Ron Swanson, Community Development Director
Mr. Kevin Koechlein, Public Safety Director

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There was no objection to the agenda as presented.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Ms. Barbara Hunt, a member of the audience.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

- A. Joint Assembly/School Board Meeting: December 12, 2000
- B. Regular Assembly Meeting: December 19, 2000
- C. Special Assembly Meeting: December 19, 2000

MOTION: Assemblymember Kelly moved for approval of the December 12, 2000, Joint Assembly/School Board meeting minutes, the December 19, 2000, regular assembly meeting minutes, and the December 19, 2000, special assembly meeting minutes

Assemblymember Jansen noted a correction to the final comment on page 3 of the December 12, 2000, Joint Assembly/School Board meeting. *[After clerk's research, the comment was corrected to read, "reported that the state had a 6 percent shortfall in pupil transportation funding; and]*

Assemblymember DeVilbiss requested clarification of his comments on page 11 of

the December 19, 2000, regular meeting. [After clerk's research, his comments were corrected to read, "Assemblymember DeVilbiss noted for the record that the recommendation of the mayor for the Planning Commission, District 1 position, was not his recommendation. He further noted that Steve Rowland, the mayor's recommendation for the Board of Adjustment and Appeals, had applied for the Planning Commission and not the BOAA.]

GENERAL CONSENT: The motion passed without objection and the December 12, 2000, Joint Assembly/School Board meeting minutes, the December 19, regular meeting minutes, and the December 19, 2000, special meeting minutes were approved pending the clerk's research.

VI. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

A. AGENCY REPORTS

1. Report from cities

Palmer Mayor Guinotte:

- remarked that the city will schedule paving for several downtown streets with residents paying 25 percent and the city paying the remaining 75 percent of the costs;
- spoke to the Academy Charter School site selection process;
- announced that the local mayors will meet with the local legislators on January 3, 2001, to discuss municipal goals and projected funding requests; and
- stated that Palmer City has nine acres of land to sell for fair market value for the Academy Charter School site; and
- suggested that the Academy Charter School site selection Committee determine acreage necessary then give first consideration to available borough property.

2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

Superintendent Chesbro:

- reported that students retook the Alaska Standards tests and the results were improved over prior testing; and
- announced that Karl Schleicht has been appointed principal of the Ron Larson Elementary School.

B. Committee REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee on School Issues:

(There was no report from the Joint Assembly/School Board Committee.)

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Duffy:

- reported that the borough bond rating has increased from A- to A which will result in reduced interest rates on bonds sold to finance borough projects;
- stated that the Army Corps of Engineers will begin test drilling next week at Port MacKenzie.

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Gatti:

(There were no attorney comments.)

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. Dillon:

- spoke to the meeting schedule for January and February; and
- presented the tracking report and invited comments on the items listed.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

1. MSB Board/Committee Minutes:

a. Agricultural and Forestry Advisory Board: 12/11/00

Assemblymember Jansen questioned the burning of timber versus sale or salvage of such when on a borough construction site.

Assemblymember Lankford Ladere volunteered to assist with the development of a borough policy regarding methods for disposing of timber on borough construction sites.

Mr. Duffy responded that administration is working on a policy and it will be presented to the assembly soon.

b. Mat-Su Fire Chiefs Association - 12/13/00

c. Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board: 11/28/00, 12/14/00

d. Planning Commission: 12/04/00

e. Port Commission - 12/11/00

f. Service Area No. 9, Midway RSA: 12/05/00

g. Transportation Advisory Board: 11/28/00

2. Community Council Correspondence:

a. Big Lake Community Council: 11/08/00

b. Butte Community Council: 08/09/00, 09/13/00, 10/11/00, 11/08/00, 12/13/00

c. Greater Farm Loop Community Council: 12/18/00

d. Talkeetna Community Council - 11/06/00

Mike Janecek, Vice President, Meadow Lakes Community Council, reported that the Johnston family had donated five acres of land for a community center construction site and one acre for community council investment purposes.

The citizen and other correspondence was presented and no comments were given except where noted..

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

(There was no informational memorandum.)

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(There was no unfinished business.)

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTION (Suggested public hearing - 01/16/01)

1. Ordinance Serial No. 01-005: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH TO ISSUE GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL BONDS, 2001 SERIES A, IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$14,143,000 TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR SCHOOL AND RELATED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BOROUGH, FIXING CERTAIN DETAILS OF SUCH BONDS AND AUTHORIZING THEIR SALE. IM No. 01-009

2. Ordinance Serial No. 01-006: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH TO ISSUE GENERAL OBLIGATION PARK BONDS, 2001 SERIES B, IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$4,400,000 TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR BALLPARKS, INDOOR AND

OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, TRAILS AND RELATED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BOROUGH, FIXING CERTAIN DETAILS OF SUCH BONDS AND AUTHORIZING THEIR SALE. IM No. 01-010

3. Ordinance Serial No. 01-007: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING AN ADDITIONAL \$680,000 TO FUND 204, EDUCATION OPERATING, FOR A SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAM. IM No. 01-011

4. Ordinance Serial No. 01-008: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CALCIUM CHLORIDE APPLICATION ON BOROUGH UNPAVED ROADS AS AN ACCEPTABLE USE OF AREAWIDE AIR POLLUTION CONTROL FUNDS. IM No. 01-012

Ms. Dillon read the above legislation into the record.

MOTION: Assemblymember Jansen moved for introduction of the above-referenced legislation and set the public hearing on January 16, 2001.

GENERAL CONSENT: The motion passed without objection.

B. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

(There were no resolutions.)

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

(There were no action memorandums.)

C. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

Mayor Anderson made the following recommendations:

Historic Preservation Commission:

Randall C. Lorenz
Stephen G. Sylvester

Local Emergency Planning Commission:

John Bogue, Environmental/Business/Technical representative

Port Commission:

- Art Scates, Seat 4 representative

Transportation Advisory Board:

- Patricia E. Hunt

Caswell Lakes RSA No. 15:

- Steven Heinrich

Talkeetna FSA No. 24:

- Mary E. B. Farina

Greater Butte RSA No. 26:

- Mike Whitlatch

Gold Trail RSA No. 28:

- Kenneth Clark

Meadow Lakes FSA No. 34:

- Ferman Strickland

Willow FSA No. 35:

- Claire Fitgaird

Mayor Anderson requested the following confirmations:

Adjustments and Appeals, Board of:

- Steve Rowland

Agricultural and Forestry Advisory Board:

- Arthur J. Petersen, Upper Su Soil Conservation District Representative
- Vicki L. Trytten, Wasilla Soil Conservation District Representative

Animal Control Board:

- Judith Masteller, DVM, Licensed Veterinarian
- Rod Hutchinson, Animal Trainer
- Peri Tharp, Animal Owner
- Sandy Petal
- Joan S. Westall, Alternate

Emergency Medical Services Board:

- Roger Swingle, M.D., Medical Director
- John L. Akers, Butte Ambulance

Enhanced 911 Advisory Board:

- Kevin Koechlein, Matanuska-Susitna Borough Representative
- Jerry Nelson, City of Houston Representative

Equalization Board:

- Traci J. Barickman

Ethics Board:

- Gilbert Lucero
- David D. Church

Historical Preservation Commission:

Robert Tucker

Local Emergency Planning Commission:

- Ken Slauson, Fire Service

- Joanne M. Fine, Environmental/Business/Technical Representative
- Ester Gilmore, Environmental/Business/Technical Representative
- Carl E. Luchsinger, Environmental/Business/Technical Representative
- James J. Rogers, Environmental/Business/Technical Representative
- Taunnie L. Boothby, National Guard Representative

Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board:

Ricardo Ernst, Assembly District 7 Representative

Planning Commission:

- Chris Rose, Assembly District 1
- Mary Kvalheim, Assembly District 4

Port Commission:

- Mike Janecek, Seat 1
- Darrell E. Korman, Seat 7

Senior Citizens Advisory Board:

- Ruby Church, Wasilla Senior Center Representative
- Dolores Kohring
- William Larkin

Transportation Advisory Board:

- George Williams, Transportation Industry Representative

North Colony RSA No. 23:

- Barbara Gerard

Big Lake FSA No. 33:

- Joan L. Estes

Wasilla/Lake FSA No. 130:

- Ken Slauson
- Frederick Snodgrass

Circle View and Stampede Estates Flood and Erosion Control SSA No. 131:

- Doyle R. McCombs

Greater Palmer Consolidated FSA No. 132:

- Charles Akers

MOTION: Assemblymember Jansen moved to confirm the mayor's appointments up for confirmation this evening.

MOTION: Assemblymember DeVilbiss moved to divide the question to address the appointments of Chris Rose to the Planning Commission and the appointment of

Steve Rowland to the Board of Adjustment and Appeals separately.

GENERAL CONSENT: The motion, to divide the question, passed without objection.

GENERAL CONSENT: The motion, to confirm the mayor's appointments excepting Mr. Rowland and Mr. Rose, passed without objection.

Assemblymember DeVilbiss:

- stated an objection to Mr. Rose representing District 1 on the Planning Commission;

Discussion continued on Mr. Rose's qualifications and the process of mayor's appointments.

Mayor Anderson:

- commented that he based his appointments on the applicant's qualifications;
- related that his past experience on the planning commission allowed him insight as to what the position requires;
- spoke to the quasi-judicial role of the planning commission;
- explained Mr. Rose's participation in development of the Sutton Comprehensive Plan; and
- stated that he attempts to make appointments from communities not previously represented.

VOTE: The motion, to confirm Chris Rose's appointment to the Planning Commission, failed with Assemblymembers Jansen, Colberg, and Simpson in favor and Assemblymembers Lankford Ladere, DeVilbiss, and Kelly opposed. [Tie vote] The motion passed with Mayor Anderson invoking his voting privilege in favor.

Discussion continued on Mr. Rowland's appointment to the Board of Adjustment and Appeals.

GENERAL CONSENT: The motion, to confirm Steve Rowland's appointment to the Board of Adjustment and Appeals, passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Jansen moved for reconsideration of Mr. Rose's appointment to the Planning Commission.

VOTE: The motion, for reconsideration, failed with Assemblymembers Lankford Ladere, Kelly, and DeVilbiss in favor and Assemblymembers Jansen, Colberg, and Simpson opposed. [Tie vote] Mayor Anderson did not invoke his voting privilege.

The regular assembly meeting recessed at 6:52 p.m. and reconvened at 7:08 p.m.

VII. SPECIAL ORDERS (to begin at 7 p.m.)

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. 00-184: AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING \$7,234,822 FROM THE STATE OF ALASKA SENATE BILL 192 FOR POINT MACKENZIE PORT DEVELOPMENT AND ASSOCIATED RAIL LINE IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN THE BOROUGH. IM No. 00-227

Mr. Duffy:

- commented that a formal economic study of the project is being prepared;
- stated that a scope of work for this project will be prepared upon submission

of the Army Corps of Engineer's report; and
• commented that the scope of work will be presented to the assembly for approval prior to any expenditures for this project.

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing.

The following spoke in favor of the ordinance as written: Ms. Jay Nolfi.

The following spoke in opposition of the ordinance as written: Mr. Joe LeBeau.

There being no others wishing to be heard, the public hearing was closed and discussion moved to the assembly.

MOTION: Assemblymember Simpson moved for adoption of Ordinance Serial No. 00-184.

MOTION: Assemblymember Jansen moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 00-184 indefinitely.

Discussion continued concerning:

- appropriation of funds is not time critical;
- scope of work does not accompany the appropriation ordinance; and
- Army Corps of Engineer's report on project and soil analysis.

VOTE: The motion, to postpone indefinitely, failed with Assemblymember Jansen in favor.

Mr. Duffy:

- stated that the legislative delegation will be informed regarding the scope of work;
- commented that the scope of work will be developed after the Corps of Engineers report is received; and
- remarked that the administration will not incur expenses on the project until a scope of work is approved by the assembly.

GENERAL CONSENT: The motion passed without objection.

2. Ordinance Serial No. 01-001: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING AN ADDITIONAL \$4,677,470 FROM LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL SOURCES TO FUND 204, EDUCATION OPERATING FUND, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2001. IM No. 01-002

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing. There being no one wishing to be heard, the public hearing was closed and discussion moved to the assembly.

MOTION: Assemblymember Jansen moved for adoption of Ordinance Serial No. 01-001.

Assemblymember DeVilbiss thanked the finance director for assisting him in researching this ordinance.

GENERAL CONSENT: The motion passed without objection.

3 Ordinance Serial No. 01-002: AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,528.75 FROM THE STATE OF ALASKA, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, OFFICE OF HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY, TO FUND TRAVEL FOR A HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE IN PENNSYLVANIA.

a. Resolution Serial No. 01-001: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET OF \$1,528.75 FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVEL TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION FORUM "PITTSBURGH 2000" CONFERENCE. IM No. 01-003

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing. There being no one wishing to be heard the public hearing was closed and discussion moved to the assembly.

MOTION: Assemblymember Jansen moved for adoption of Ordinance Serial No. 01-002 and Resolution Serial No. 01-001.

GENERAL CONSENT: The motion passed without objection.

4. Ordinance Serial No. 01-003: AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING MSB 4.56, ESTABLISHING THE SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY BOARD. (Sponsor: Mayor Anderson) IM No. 01-005

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing. There being no one wishing to be heard, the public hearing was closed and discussion moved to the assembly.

MOTION: Assemblymember Jansen moved for adoption of Ordinance Serial No. 01-002 and Resolution Serial No. 01-001.

Discussion ensued concerning the fiscal aspect of this ordinance.

GENERAL CONSENT: The motion passed without objection.

5. Ordinance Serial No. 01-004: AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING A \$16,500 GRANT FROM THE ALASKA STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES FOR COMPLETION OF A VISUAL PREFERENCE STUDY.

a. Resolution Serial No. 01-002: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR A VISUAL PREFERENCE SURVEY. IM No. 01-007(REVISED)

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing.

The following spoke in favor of the ordinance as written: Ms. Michelle Church, Mr. Murph O'Brien, Department of Transportation Legislative Liaison.

Mr. O'Brien explained that the scope of work for Resolution Serial No. 01-002 is a broader approach seeking information from all borough residents rather than the main street approach conducted in Soldotna which focused on only two blocks in from the highway.

There being no others wishing to be heard, the public hearing was closed and discussion moved to the assembly.

MOTION: Assemblymember Jansen moved for adoption of Ordinance Serial No. 01-004 and Resolution Serial No. 01-002.

MOTION: Assemblymember Jansen moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 01-002 to strike \$15,000 and insert \$14,980 from Professional Services, to change Borough administration to read Borough administration/audit fee, and to strike \$1,500 and insert \$1,520 to Borough administration/audit fee.

GENERAL CONSENT: The primary amendment passed without objection.

Discussion followed concerning Friends of the Mat-Su meeting non-political state standards.

VOTE: The motion, as amended, passed with Assemblymember DeVilbiss opposed.

C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three minutes per person.)

(There was no audience participation.)

D. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

(There was no other new business.)

X. RECONSIDERATION

(There was no reconsideration pending.)

XI. VETO

(There was no veto pending.)

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(There was no executive session.)

XIII. MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Assemblymember DeVilbiss:

- announced he may represent the Alaska Farm Bureau in Juneau and asked the borough to share expenses if he also represented borough issues;
- commended the mayor for increased appointments to borough boards and commissions; and
- expressed concern that appointments to the port commission have an in-depth background in business.

Assemblymember Lankford Ladere:

- expressed pleasure in Houston's special elections results
- spoke to snow machine trail grooming and intense concentration of snow machine use within the upper valley area;
- commented that the Department of Transportation had listed two Wasilla roads in her district;
- complimented the mayor and manager for their participation on a radio talk show presenting borough issues; and
- requested that the administration address a borough forest health plan/program.

Assemblymember Simpson:

- congratulated the finance department on a clean audit;
- appreciated the manager's approach to multi-year budgeting;
- acknowledged land management for publishing the parks and recreation asset management plan chapters eight and nine on the Internet; and
- thanked the mayor and manager for attending the Big Lake Chamber of Commerce and dedicating two miles of easement along the Crooked Lake Trail.

Assemblymember Jansen:

- expressed concern the school site selection Committees do not address how public facilities selected will be funded; and
- requested that the administration and the assembly develop policies regarding funding for public facilities.

Mayor Anderson:

- enjoyed attending the Big Lake Community Council meeting where he dedicated trail easements and awarded a grant;
- commented that the local mayors will speak at the joint Palmer/Wasilla Chamber meeting to address valley economic development plans;
- spoke to the Cook Inlet Pipeline Terminus Committee and his intent to appoint Assemblymember Kelly, Manager Duffy, and himself to serve on the Committee;
- invited everyone to visit the Wasilla Senior Center and view the new housing unit.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The regular assembly meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Minutes approved: January 16, 2001

Signed copy available at the clerk's office