

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SPECIAL MEETING
ASSEMBLY MARCH 27, 2001

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on March 27, 2001, at the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly Chambers, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Timothy L. Anderson. The purpose of the special meeting was a joint assembly/planning commission meeting.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. Talis J. Colberg, Assembly District No. 3
Mr. Dan Kelly, Assembly District No. 4
Ms. Jody Simpson, Assembly District No. 5
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6
Ms. Kelly Lankford Ladere, Assembly District No. 7

Assembly members absent and excused:

Mr. Larry DeVilbiss, Assembly District No. 1
Ms. Sara Jansen, Assembly District No. 2 (Deputy Mayor)

Planning Commission members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. Chris Rose, District 1
Ms. Cynthia Payne, District 2
Mr. Craig Savage, District 5
Mr. Dick Stoffel, District 6
Mr. William Moll, Chair, District 7

Planning Commission members absent and excused:

Mr. Lee Sharp, District 3
Ms. Mary Kvalheim, District 4

Borough staff participating:

Ms. Sandra Dillon, Borough Clerk
Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager
Mr. Michael Gatti, Borough Attorney

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Anderson noted the following change to the agenda:

- the administration requested that item D., Borough Procedures and Process for Funding the Academy Charter School, be pulled as legislation was being drafted and routed to the Planning Commission for comments regarding this issue.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mary Psenak, a member of the audience.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation by Thede Tobish, Anchorage Planner: Comprehensive Plan Project (Requested by Planning Commission)

Mr. Thede Tobish gave a presentation on the process of development and the status of the Anchorage Comprehensive Plan.

Discussion followed regarding:

- buildings next to sidewalks without setbacks;
- meeting with developers prior to construction permits;
- development versus redevelopment of existing sites;
- plan use restrictions and building codes rather than zoning;
- a transportation team included in comprehensive plan development; and
- transit corridors.

The special meeting recessed at 7:07 p.m. and reconvened at 7:17 p.m.

B. Zoning (Requested by Assemblymember Colver)

Ms. Garley spoke to:

- the planning commission being provided the first draft of a zoning plan in February;
- districts with mixed uses; and
- a proposed large-scale map that will be divided by communities.

Assemblymember Kelly suggested the transportation advisory board be incorporated in the borough zoning development plans.

Discussion continued regarding:

- concern for the timing of scheduling public hearings in the summer;
- a zoning plan for the core area versus areawide;
- application may be specific with the document language universal;
- Talkeetna zoning challenges;
- maintaining existing land bases; and
- focusing on areas supportive of zoning.

C. Developing guidelines, parameters, and criteria for the CIP/STIP priority list. (Requested by Planning Commission)

Ms. Garley questioned the criteria used for ranking and rating projects that are not road projects.

Mr. Duffy:

- suggested incorporating the school district when developing guidelines, parameters, and criteria for ranking and rating projects;
- commented that DOT/PF has ranking criteria for public facilities;
- remarked that the school district submits list of projects for CIP/STIP consideration; and
- noted that all borough departments may annually make recommendations to CIP/STIP.

Assemblymember Kelly:

- stated that both vehicle use count and safety issues should be addressed when ranking roads for CIP/STIP priority lists;
- spoke to the need for emergency roads to be developed in areas with single access roads;
- remarked that the Transportation Advisory Board has a long range transportation plan; and
- suggested that the planning commission develop a method to address new road placement on the CIP/STIP list.

Discussion continued regarding:

- state considering local priorities;
- competition with private business's given consideration during the ranking process;
- relying on Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board for ranking of borough trails; and
- the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board working with Transportation Advisory Board.

VI. PLANNING COMMISSION, MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Planning Commissioner Rose:

- appreciated the assembly members' comments in reference the zoning issues; and
- invited the assembly to remain involved and to forward suggestions regarding zoning.

Planning Commissioner Stoffel:

- reminded the commission and assembly to be sensitive to the segment of the population that opposes zoning.

Planning Commissioner Savage:

- noted that new multi-use plans are full circle to what was accepted in the past; and
- reminded the commission and assembly to allow market forces to control development.

Planning Commissioner Moll:

- commented that the planning commission's goal is to develop a zoning model that may be used in an area that requests it; and
- stated that in the long run, people will not object to fair rules.

Assemblymember Simpson:

- spoke to the Wasilla Friends of the Library request for information regarding how public facilities capital programs will be prioritized; and
- appreciated the exchange of information during the meeting.

Assemblymember Lankford Ladere:

- recognized Renae Moore who participated in a national skiing competition;
- stated that a large majority of Talkeetna opposed zoning and are now holding local meetings to address the problem;
- commented that Anchorage has a geographical limitation which is significantly different from the Matanuska-Susitna borough; and
- appreciated everyone who participated in this meeting.

Assemblymember Kelly:

- enjoyed the varying viewpoints of the planning commission and the assembly;
- appreciated the presentation of the Anchorage comprehensive plan;
- suggested that the assembly look to municipal views as population grows versus separate communities;
- supported zoning for those who desire it; and
- requested a long range transportation plan and a transportation scoring method.

Assemblymember Colberg:

- supported zoning to address the issues as a result of increase in population density.

Assemblymember Colver:

- encouraged steps to building a good community.

Mayor Anderson:

- thanked the planning commission for their hard work on the zoning issue;
- supported the planning commission reviewing planning matters before they are presented to the assembly; and
- congratulated Renae Moore in her participation of the national skiing championships.

The special meeting recessed at 8:25 p.m. and reconvened at 8:35 p.m.

SPECIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING (Immediately following the Special Joint Assembly/Planning Commission Meeting)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on March 27, 2001, at the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly Chambers, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 8:35 p.m. by Mayor

Timothy L. Anderson. The purpose of the special meeting was to address resolutions addressing education issues.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. Talis J. Colberg, Assembly District No. 3

Mr. Dan Kelly, Assembly District No. 4

Ms. Jody Simpson, Assembly District No. 5

Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6

Ms. Kelly Lankford Ladere, Assembly District No. 7

Assembly members absent and excused:

Mr. Larry DeVilbiss, Assembly District No. 1

Ms. Sara Jansen, Assembly District No. 2 (Deputy Mayor)

Borough staff participating:

Ms. Sandra Dillon, Borough Clerk

Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager

Mr. Michael Gatti, Borough Attorney

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Renae Moore, a member of the audience.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution Serial No. 01-020: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING HB 101, RELATING TO CHARTER SCHOOLS.
(Sponsor: Assemblymember Colver)

MOTION: Assemblymember Colver moved for adoption of Resolution Serial No. 01-020.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colver moved a primary amendment to the fifth whereas clause to insert “capital” and “or bonding authority” to read: “Whereas, the current law authorizes a charter school to be operated in an existing school district facility within the school district, but provides no capital funding or bonding authority; and”

Discussion followed regarding the issue of bonding authority and charter schools.

MOTION: Assemblymember Kelly moved a secondary amendment to the end of the fifth whereas clause to add “for charter schools” to read: “Whereas, the current law authorizes a charter school to be operated in an existing school district facility within the school district, but provides no capital funding or bonding authority, for charter schools; and”

Mr. Gatti:

- spoke to the state statute which addresses the charter school issues.

Mr. Duffy:

- stated that the department of education will not address bonding for charter schools.

Assemblymember Simpson:

- expressed concerns regarding changes to resolutions on the floor.

GENERAL CONSENT: The secondary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colver moved a secondary amendment to the fifth whereas clause to delete “for bonding authority” to read: “Whereas, the current law authorizes a charter school to be operated in an existing school district facility within the school district, but provides no capital funding, for charter schools; and”

GENERAL CONSENT: The secondary amendment passed without objection.

GENERAL CONSENT: The primary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Kelly moved a primary amendment to strike the final whereas clause.

GENERAL CONSENT: The primary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Kelly moved a primary amendment to the final be it resolved clause to insert “to provide for charter school financial needs” to read: “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly encourages the Alaska State Legislature to provide for charter school financial needs.”

VOTE: The primary amendment passed with Assemblymember Colver opposed.

GENERAL CONSENT: The main motion, as amended, passed without objection.

B. Resolution Serial No. 01-021: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SB 1, RELATING TO THE BASE STUDENT ALLOCATION USED IN THE FORMULA FOR STATE FUNDING OF PUBLIC EDUCATION. (Sponsor: Assemblymember Colver)

MOTION: Assemblymember Colver moved for adoption of Resolution Serial No. 01-021.

Discussion followed regarding fast-tracking, ill prepared legislation.

MOTION: Assemblymember Kelly moved a primary amendment to the resolved clause to add “to \$4,585” to read: NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough encourages the Alaska State Legislature to pass legislation that increases the base student allocation from \$3,940 per student to \$4,585.”

Mr. Gatti:

- spoke to the statewide education budget.

Discussion followed on the amount of funding requested per student.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed with Assemblymember Simpson opposed.

MOTION: Assemblymember Kelly moved a primary amendment to amend the title to strike the words “SB1 1 relating to” and to insert “ increasing” to read: “A resolution in support of increasing the base student allocation used in the formula for state funding of public education.”

GENERAL CONSENT: The primary amendment passed without objection.

GENERAL OBJECTION: The main motion, as amended, passed without objection.

C. Resolution Serial No. 01-022: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING SB 133, RELATING TO SCHOOL COMPETENCY EXAMINATIONS. (Sponsor: Assemblymember Colver)

Ms. Renae Moore:

- voiced concerns relating to the school competency exams;
- supported school competency exams; and
- opposed school exit exams that set standards students were not exposed to during the education process.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colver moved for adoption of Resolution Serial No. 01-022.

Assemblymember Colver:

- stated Senator Green requested support of SB 133.

Assemblymember Kelly:

- stated that no time limit should be imposed on competency; and
- remarked that tests should be given based on performance.

Assemblymember Colberg:

- supported the resolution while opposing the exit exam concept.

VOTE: The motion passed with Assemblymember Kelly opposed.

V. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY AND STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. Dillon:

- spoke to the agenda for the Juneau AML meetings.

Mr. Duffy:

- announced a meeting in the borough assembly chambers Saturday, March 31, 2001, for the state redistricting board to accept public comments;
- stated that the administration is drafting scenarios for redistricting proposals;
- reported that Mr. Romack, Hatcher Pass Development Corporation, has pledged to work with the borough regarding the land lease;
- commented that an independent third party will complete an appraisal of the Hatcher Pass land prior to a request for purchase; and
- remarked that the bond rating results will be available March 28.

Assemblymember Colver:

- thanked the assembly for support of the education resolutions.
- spoke to the service area bills, HB13 and SB75; and
- suggested the assembly empower the manager to respond to legislative issues without assembly direction on time critical matters.

Assemblymember Colberg:

- announced that he had received thank you letters from students regarding his Dr. Suess day participation.

Assemblymember Simpson:

- voiced appreciation for Ms. Moore's eloquent testimony on Resolution Serial No. 01-022; and
- spoke to the assembly's trip to Juneau for AML meetings.

Assemblymember Lankford Ladere:

- congratulated Ms. Moore on her American government project participation for the Su Valley High School, which will obtain safety measures along ski trails;
- appreciated the courtesy paid to the forestry industry in the work session; and
- announced an intention to speak to Senator Halford regarding service area legislation.

Mayor Anderson:

- cautioned the assembly to adhere to the requirements of the OMA when traveling to Juneau;

Assemblymember Simpson:

- requested a copy of the assembly talking points to be addressed in Juneau.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The special assembly meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

TIMOTHY L. ANDERSON, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

SANDRA A. DILLON, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: March 20, 2001