

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SPECIAL MEETING
ASSEMBLY MAY 3, 2001

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on May 3, 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. The purpose of the special meeting was to hold public hearings on the FY 02 annual budget.

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
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6
Ms. Kelly Lankford Ladere, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Sandra Dillon, Borough Clerk
Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager
Mr. Michael Gatti, Borough Attorney
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director
Ms. Elizabeth Manfred, Deputy Borough Clerk
Ms. Michelle McGehee, Borough Clerk's Office

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Anne Kilkenny, a member of the audience.

Mr. Duffy:

- announced that a site review of the Palmer Dispatch Center followed by a presentation on the borough's 9-1-1 system was scheduled to begin at 3 p.m. on May 7 and again on May 8 for those assembly members who wish to take part; and
- notified the assembly that he would be out of the office on May 4 testifying in response to a subpoena.

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. REVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2002 BUDGET

(There was no unfinished business remaining as departmental presentations for the FY 02 budget have been completed.)

V. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Beginning at 7 p.m. - Three minutes per person.)

A. Ordinance Serial No. 01-028: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING MONIES FROM THE CENTRAL TREASURY AND ESTABLISHING THE RATE OF LEVY FOR ALL BOROUGH FUNCTIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2001, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2002.

1. IM No. 01-103

SUSPEND THE RULES: Mayor Anderson requested a suspension of the rules to begin public testimony on the budget ordinance before 7 p.m. as there were so many people already in attendance. The assembly had no objections and Mayor Anderson opening the public hearing at 6:20 p.m.

Barbara Leiss:

- spoke in opposition to the proposed funding for education; and
- suggested options for funding schools; i.e., change school architectural designs, revisit staffing needs, and renegotiate health insurance.

The following spoke in favor of funding education to the maximum allowable by statute: Ann Kilkenny, Kim Floyd, Kathy Summers, Bud Jahn, Carol Smith, Barbara Gerard, Laurel Fortunoff, Michael Fry, Chris Moore, Sheila Dickman, Lorraine Hanson, and Rob Wells.

Bob Lamar:

- spoke in favor of funding additional EMS staffing.

Mike Coons:

- encouraged a constitutional amendment to give school districts the authority to fund schools through separate taxation; and
- supported funding for additional EMS staffing.

The special assembly meeting recessed at 7:03 p.m. and reconvened at 7:15 p.m., and the public testimony continued.

The following spoke in favor of funding education to the maximum allowable by statute: Lucy Hope, Carolyn Frey, Renae Ogle, Martin Buser, Ronnie Berg, Dawn Brettrager, Dage Rose, Carl Gatto, Collette Watches, Kim Evans, and Brenda Currier.

Ulla Stice:

- spoke in support of funding for additional EMS staffing.

Robert Hall:

- voiced support for full education funding;
- spoke in support of funding for additional EMS staffing; and
- opposed a sales tax but supported a value added tax.

There being no others who wished to be heard, the public hearing was suspended for the evening and will continue on May 8, 2001.

The special assembly meeting recessed at 7:45 p.m. and reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTION (Suggested public hearing - 05/08/01)

1. Ordinance Serial No. 01-068: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$145,956 FROM THE AREAWIDE FUND BALANCE, FUND 100, TO THE SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND, FUND 400, FOR THE ADDITIONAL ISSUANCE COSTS RELATED TO THE 2001 SERIES A GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL COSTS.

a. Ordinance Serial No. 01-069: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$129,950 TO FUND 440, RECREATIONAL CAPITAL PROJECTS, FOR THE ISSUANCE COSTS RELATED TO THE 2001 SERIES B GENERAL OBLIGATION PARKS AND RECREATION BONDS. IM No. 01-105

Ms. Dillon read the above legislation for introduction into the record.

MOTION: Assemblymember Jansen moved for introduction the above-referenced legislation as read into the record by the clerk and set the public hearing on May 8, 2001.

GENERAL CONSENT: The motion passed without objection.

VIII. MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Assemblymember Colberg:

- addressed the public's perception of cutting the budget and clarified that the assembly was not considering cutting the education budget, rather, will be deciding how much additional to fund education; and
- spoke in favor of a sales tax with a cap on the mil rate.

Assemblymember Kelly:

- expressed his desire for a constitutional amendment that would allow school districts to tax for education; and
- stated his support for school funding.

Assemblymember Colver:

- reiterated his support for funding education; and
- queried the manager on recycling at the landfill.

Assemblymembers Simpson, DeVilbiss, and Ladere expressed their appreciation to the members of the public who attended tonight's meeting.

Assemblymember Jansen:

- reiterated Assemblymember Colberg's comments, explaining that the assembly is not looking to cut funding for education, is instead, considering the amount of increase.
- expressed her appreciation to the school district for their lobbying efforts with the state legislature for additional funding for education;
- encouraged the public to use the public opinion messages (POMs) to send their positions to the state legislature; and
- supported full funding for education.

Mayor Anderson:

- expressed his support for full funding for education, and further explained that full funding will result in an increase in the mill rate and additional budget cuts; and
- voiced his support for a sales tax, and further stated that he expects a sales tax to generate more than anticipated.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

TIMOTHY L. ANDERSON, Borough Mayor
ATTEST:

SANDRA A. DILLON, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: May 15, 2001