

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on February 3, 2004, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was also teleconferenced to the Trapper Creek Elementary School Library, Mile 2.5 W. Petersville Road, Trapper Creek, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Deputy Mayor Jim Colver.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. Bill Allen, Assembly District No. 2
Mr. Talis J. Colberg, Assembly District No. 3
Ms. Mary Kvalheim, Assembly District No. 4
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6 (Deputy Mayor)
Ms. Betty Vehrs, Assembly District No. 7

Assembly members absent and excused were:

Mr. J. Bruce Bush, Assembly District No. 1
Ms. Jody Simpson, Assembly District No. 5

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Sandra A. Dillon, CMC, Borough Clerk
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Acting Borough Manager
Mr. John Aschenbrenner, Assistant Borough Attorney
Ms. Michelle M. McGehee, Deputy Borough Clerk
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director
Mr. Don Shiesl, Public Works Director
Mr. Dennis Brodigan, Emergency Services Director
Mr. Steve Cypra, Acting Community Development Director
Ms. Susan Dickinson, Planning and Land Use Director

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Deputy Mayor Colver inquired if there were any changes to the agenda.

GENERAL CONSENT: The agenda was approved as presented.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dan Contini, Palmer Fire Chief/School Board Member.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

A. Regular Assembly Meeting: January 20, 2004

Deputy Mayor Colver inquired if there were any corrections to the regular Assembly meeting minutes of January 20, 2004.

No corrections were noted.

GENERAL CONSENT: The minutes were approved without objection.

VI. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

A. AGENCY REPORTS

1. Reports from cities

Wasilla City

Councilmember Straub:

- reported that the city was happy to dedicate the ice rink portion of the sports complex in honor of Curtis Menard II;
- stated that the city council has reappointed Stan Tucker to the Planning Commission;
- noted that the city has appropriated funds for a railroad crossing at South Mack Drive;
- advised that the city has set forth a railroad relocation reconnaissance study and asked that the Borough add it to the comprehensive plan;
- reported that the city has identified priorities for mitigation hazards; and
- concluded that the highest priority was earthquake and then wind.

2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

School Board Member Dan Contini:

- recognized Palmer Middle School student Kevin Ferry for receiving the Top Youth Award for his efforts in community recycling;
- advised that Doug Bean has been named Athletic Director of the Year by the Student Activity Association;
- reported that Chief School Administrator Bob Doyle will be presenting the district budget cuts at the School Board meeting scheduled for February 4 at 6 p.m.;
- stated that the district is predicting approximately \$8 million in budget cuts in FY05;
- noted meetings held on Thursday at 6 p.m. at Palmer High School and Friday at 6 p.m. at Wasilla Middle School to address questions from the public regarding the education budget cuts; and
- reported that the School Board will be voting at their February 4 meeting regarding the teachers' agreement.

Assemblymember Vehrs:

- inquired if there will be any school closures; and
- noted her concerns about advertising the budget cuts and informational meetings in the northern district.

School Board Member Contini responded that he is not aware of the particulars regarding the budget cuts at this time.

Assemblymember Allen inquired regarding source and application of funds for the School District.

Ms. Clayton responded that the meeting originally scheduled for today at 3 p.m. to lay out the financial plan will be rescheduled.

Assemblymember Allen:

- reiterated the purpose of discussing the source and application of funds for the School District to inform the public where the funds come from and how they are spent; and
- spoke regarding the Conference of Alaskans, the use of the Permanent Fund Dividend as an income stream for education, and inflation proofing education.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee on School Issues

Deputy Mayor Colver:

- stated that the committee met yesterday; and
- noted that discussion consisted of the Vocational Education Center site selection, the sale of bonds for school projects this past week, more involvement from the School Board regarding the consolidated site selection committee, and Chief School Administrator Doyle's overview of budget issues.

Assemblymember Allen:

- spoke regarding establishing a replacement fund for major maintenance;
- stated that Ms. Clayton has developed a draft of a sinking fund for discussion purposes;
- advised that the concept is to provide a fund where annual contributions are made and maintained at a certain level for major maintenance and deferred maintenance; and
- spoke to the need to know what the preventative maintenance schedule.

2. Regional Transportation Planning Organization

Deputy Mayor Colver noted that the next Regional Transportation Planning Organization meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2004, at the MTA Building.

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

Ms. Clayton spoke regarding the successful pricing and sale of Borough school and port bonds last week.

Discussion ensued regarding advertising the bond sale.

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

(No comments were presented.)

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. Dillon:

- reviewed the Assembly's meeting schedule for February and March;
- spoke to the need to schedule some additional work sessions;
- reminded members of the Assembly regarding the March joint Assembly/Municipality of Anchorage work session on February 10 at 2 p.m.;
- asked the Assembly to contact her with any agenda items for the joint meetings with the School District and the Planning Commission;
- informed that she and Deputy Clerk Michelle M. McGehee would be at the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerk's Conference in Anchorage Thursday through Sunday; and
- advised that she will be in Seattle next week with Ms. Clayton for bond closing.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

1. MSB Board/Committee Minutes:
 - a. Board of Adjustment and Appeals: 06/13/03
 - b. Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board: 10/01/03, 11/05/03, 12/03/03
 - c. Enhanced 9-1-1 Advisory Board: 09/09/03, 10/14/03, 11/12/03, 12/16/03
 - d. Historical Preservation Commission: 11/07/03
2. Community Council Correspondence:
 - a. Trapper Creek Community Council: 01/15/04
 - b. Willow Area Community Organization Resolution: 01/05/04

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

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

(There were no informational memorandums to present.)

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(There was no unfinished business.)

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTION (For public hearing - 02/17/04, 7 p.m., Borough Assembly Chambers)

1. Ordinance Serial No. 04-023: AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING 2003 SOUTHCENTRAL WINDSTORM DISASTER RELIEF MONIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$277,012, FROM THE ALASKA STATE DIVISION OF EMERGENCY SERVICES (ADES) AND THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA), TO FUND 445, PROJECT NO. 55011
 - a. Resolution Serial No. 04-026: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR THE 2003 SOUTHCENTRAL WINDSTORM DISASTER RELIEF MONIES, PROJECT NO. 55011, FUND 445.
(1) IM No. 04-035
2. Ordinance Serial No. 04-024: AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING \$23,000 FROM THE ALASKA STATE DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM, TO FUND 425, PROJECT NO. 45158, FOR CONDUCTING EXERCISES AND EVALUATIONS DETAILED IN THE ALASKA STATE THREE-YEAR HOMELAND SECURITY EXERCISE AND EVALUATION PLAN 2004-2006.
 - a. Resolution Serial No. 04-027: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE SCOPE OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR THE ALASKA STATE HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY SERVICES, PROJECT NO. 45158, FUND 425, FOR CONDUCTING EXERCISES AND EVALUATIONS DETAILED IN THE ALASKA STATE THREE-YEAR HOMELAND SECURITY EXERCISE AND EVALUATION PLAN 2004-2006.
(1) IM No. 04-036
3. Ordinance Serial No. 04-025: AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING \$1,308.15 FROM MATANUSKA TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION TO A NON-LAPSING CAPITAL FUND 480, PROJECT NO. 20312, FOR UPGRADING AND ENHANCING THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH LIBRARIES.
 - a. IM No. 04-037
4. Ordinance Serial No. 04-026: AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AND APPROPRIATING \$150,000 FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE TO THE PORT MACKENZIE PHASE II PROJECT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FERRY LANDINGS.
 - a. IM No. 04-039

Ms. Dillon read the above legislation into the record.

MOTION: Assemblymember Kvalheim moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and set the public hearings for February 17, 2004.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

B. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

- a. Resolution Serial No. 04-029: A RESOLUTION APPROVING A LOAN FROM THE ROAD SERVICE AREA REVOLVING LOAN FUND (FUND 610) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$68,500 TO THE BIG LAKE ROAD SERVICE AREA NO. 21 (FUND 277).

(1) IM No. 04-038

- b. Resolution Serial No. 04-030: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FORMATION OF AN ACCELERATED HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM FOR SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA AS A FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AND PROJECT PRIORITY FOR THE YEAR 2004.

(1) IM No. 04-040

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

- a. AM No. 04-013: RETROACTIVE APPROVAL OF DISABLED VETERAN EXEMPTION FOR DANIEL K. SHAW ON TAX ACCOUNT NO. 3090B01L005 FOR TAX YEAR 2003.

- b. AM No. 04-021: AWARD OF BID NO. 04-050 TO STEPPERS CONSTRUCTION, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$213,399.99 FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF A CENTRAL LANDFILL STORAGE FACILITY.

- c. AM No. 04-022: RETROACTIVE APPROVAL OF DISABLED VETERAN EXEMPTION FOR ROGER D. OSBORN ON TAX ACCOUNT NO. 1193B04L001 FOR TAX YEAR 2003.

- d. AM No. 04-024: RETROACTIVE APPROVAL OF DISABLED VETERAN EXEMPTION FOR OSCAR D. EDWARDS ON TAX ACCOUNT NO. 2999B05L015 FOR TAX YEAR 2003.

- e. AM No. 04-027: AWARD PROPOSAL 04-087 TO WIRE-COMMUNICATIONS, INC. FOR THE ANTICIPATED AMOUNT OF \$41,484.84 FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

Ms. Dillon read the consent agenda into the record.

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

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

C. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

Mayor Anderson made the following recommendations:

Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association
Peter Stortz
Enhanced 911 Advisory Board
Dennis Brodigan
Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Police Powers
Ole Larson
Senior Citizen Advisory Board
Frances "Wanda" Murphy
Site Selection Committee – Borough Area Schools
Betty Vehrs
Jim Colver
Sara Welton
Faye Palin
Helga Larson
Jody Simpson
Rose Jenne
Title 16 Rewrite Committee
Gary LoRusso
Mark Masteller

Mayor Anderson requested the following confirmations:

Animal Care and Regulation Board
David Brown
Monika Swan-Armtistead
Library Board
Resignation of Amy Epple
Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board
Ed Strabel
Port Commission
Jordan May
Title 16 Rewrite Committee
Sandra Garley
Clarence Herschbach
Murray Nash
Big Lake Fire Service Area No. 33
Joan Estes
Midway Road Service Area No. 9
Walter Williams

MOTION: Assemblymember Colberg moved to confirm the Mayor's appointments and resignations up for confirmation this evening.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

XIII. MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Assemblymember Colver:

- referred to a presentation that he attended where University of Alaska President Mark Hamilton spoke; and
- spoke regarding the statistics of Alaskan students staying in state to attend college.

(Comments continued, See pp. 9 of 10)

(The regular meeting recessed at 6:35 p.m. and reconvened at 7 p.m.)

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

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

1. Richard Stryken Re: Borough Matching Funds Policy and Road Paving

Deputy Mayor Colver noted that Mr. Stryken had to leave the meeting and would reschedule his comments at another time.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three minutes per person.)

(There were no items scheduled for public hearing.)

C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three minutes per person.)

Mr. Merle Akers:

- spoke regarding a residential petition for a lake management plan at Whiskey Lake;
- noted his concerns regarding a potentially deficient draft lake management plan from the Planning Department;
- advised that the petition was submitted by the residents in September 2000;
- commented that the proposed draft plan does not describe property correctly; and
- stated that the petitioners are now in a position to go to the Planning Commission to oppose their own petition request due to deficiencies.

Discussion ensued regarding adhering to the Borough's process of drafting lake management plans.

Assemblymember Allen requested that a summary of Mr. Akers testimony be sent to the Planning Department and that a response be forthcoming to Mr. Akers within ten days.

Mr. Ken Marsh thanked the Assembly for helping to teleconference the meetings to areas in District 7.

D. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

(There was no other new business.)

X. RECONSIDERATION

(There were no reconsiderations.)

XI. VETO

(There was no veto presented.)

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

(There was no executive session held.)

XIII. MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Assemblymember Kvalheim:

- thanked staff for the information on libraries;
- commented that she has received a complaint from a constituent regarding the noise level at the bowling alley bar; and
- stated that she would like to see some resolution on the bar noise issue.

Assemblymember Vehrs:

- commented that she is glad to have the Assembly meetings teleconferenced;
- thanked the Clerk for arranging the teleconferences;
- spoke regarding Beryozava Elementary School, the conditions of the school, and fund-raising efforts on behalf of the school; and
- stated that she was very impressed with the school and would like to see it upgraded.

Assemblymember Allen:

- reiterated his request to administration to be provided with a building needs assessment;
- spoke to the accommodations that the public are receiving from the Borough;
- commented regarding the working environment here at the Borough Building; and
- stated that he will follow up individually with Mr. Bost regarding his accounting principals.

Assemblymember Colver:

- agreed with Assemblymember Allen regarding the working conditions at the Borough Building;
- asked Ms. Dillon to find an appropriate spot on the agenda for "State and Federal Legislation" reports;
- spoke regarding his attendance at the most recent coal bed methane work shop; and
- commented that he is happy to see the Wasilla Sports Complex Ice Arena dedicated to Curtis Menard II.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

JIM COLVER, Deputy Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

SANDRA A. DILLON, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: February 17, 2004