

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SPECIAL MEETING
ASSEMBLY MAY 9, 2002

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on May 9, 2002, at the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly Chambers, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Mayor Timothy L. Anderson. The purpose of the special meeting was to hold the first public hearing on the budget.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. J. Bruce Bush, 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 Ladere, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Sandra A. Dillon, Borough Clerk
Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager
Mr. Michael Gatti, Borough Attorney
Ms. Michelle M. McGehee, Deputy Borough Clerk
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director
Mr. Jim Swing, Public Works Director
Mr. Ron Swanson, Community Development Director
Ms. Kelly Veech, Comptroller
Mr. Jack Krill, Acting Public Safety Director

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was by Linda Taylor, a member of the audience.

IV. SPECIAL ORDERS

A. PUBLIC HEARING (Three minutes per person)

1. Ordinance Serial No. 02-002: 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, 2002, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2003.

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing.

The following people spoke regarding the EMS budget for the Sutton ambulance service: Gordon Butt and Cheri Day.

Brief assembly discussion followed regarding the needs of the Sutton ambulance service and adequate funding.

The following person spoke regarding the accumulation of undesignated fund balance monies and return of taxpayers monies, the proposed recycling center, and full funding of the school district budget: Larry DeVilbiss.

The following people spoke in favor of funding the school district budget to the cap: Anne Kilkenny, Ron Rucker, Barbara Gerrard, and Chris Moore.

The following people spoke in regard to funding for the Mat-Su Youth Court: Morris Matthews and Peter Burchell.

The following person spoke regarding work done in the EMS study group and the overall EMS budget: Ulla Stice.

Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing and stated that the public hearing would be continued on May 14, 2002.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three minutes per person.)

Mayor Anderson opened audience participation.

(There was no one present who wished to testify.)

Mayor Anderson closed audience participation.

VI. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Colver:

- commented that taxpayers should receive monies back if there is an accumulated undesignated fund balance;
- opined that administration should allow the individual emergency medical services groups more flexibility in the use of their budgets; and
- asked for recommendations regarding the needs of the emergency medical services groups.

Assemblymember Ladere:

- commented that she believes this will be a very successful year in the borough;
- spoke to communications and working out difficulties;
- opined that substantial progress is being made in the borough and that the public can see the progress;
- spoke regarding a previous \$29,000 amendment for funding to go to emergency medical services in the Upper Susitna Valley; and
- asked that all people involved work with each other to make sure that funding for emergency medical services goes to the intended uses.

Assemblymember Kelly:

- spoke regarding prior commitments made to run on an open forum; and
- opined that any excess revenue should be returned to the taxpayers and that they be informed of actual costs.

Assemblymember Simpson had no comments to present.

Assemblymember Bush had no comments to present.

Assemblymember Colberg advised that he would have his budget amendments to the clerk on Monday, May 13, 2002.

Assemblymember Jansen:

- opined that the budget is one of the most important tasks of the assembly;
- commented that she believes the EMS study group reviewed the issues completely and came up with a good solution;
- stated that she is confident that all expenses can be identified; and
- concurred with Assemblymember Ladere that there is much progress in the borough.

Ms. Clayton had no comments to present.

Mr. Gatti had no comments to present.

Ms. Dillon queried the assembly regarding whether or not they felt it necessary to proceed with a work session for the special meeting on May 14, 2002.

Members of the assembly concurred that it was not necessary to hold another work session before the special meeting on May 14.

Mr. Duffy:

- noted that he had some additional information for the assembly based upon requests made at the last work session; and
- informed that the borough is moving forward with implementing expanded EMS services and that supplemental monies have been identified for this expansion.

Mayor Anderson:

- thanked those people in the audience for their testimony on the FY2003 budget;
- agreed that people in the borough are able to see that the borough is taking a positive approach to business; and
- commented that he would be in Juneau to speak with legislators before the close of session.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Minutes approved: May 21, 2002

Signed copy available in the clerk's office.