

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on March 25, 2014, at the Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Planning Commission Chair Klapperich for the purpose of holding a joint Assembly/Planning Commission meeting and taking up AM No. 14-022.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. Jim Sykes, Assembly District No. 1
Mr. Matthew Beck, Assembly District No. 2
Mr. Ronald Arvin, Assembly District No. 3 (*Deputy Mayor*) (*attended telephonically*)
Mr. Steve Colligan, Assembly District No. 4 (*attended telephonically*)
Mr. Darcie K. Salmon, Assembly District No. 5
Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7

Assembly members absent and excused:

Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6

Planning Commission Members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. Brian Endle, Seat 1
Mr. Thomas Healy, Seat 2 (*exited the meeting at 7 p.m.*)
Mr. John Klapperich, Seat 3 (*Planning Commission Chair*)
Mr. Bruce Walden, Seat 4
Mr. Bill Kendig, Seat 5
Mr. Tom Adams, Seat 6
Mr. Vern Rauchenstein, Seat 7

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Jamie Newman, Deputy Borough Clerk
Mr. George Hays, Assistant Borough Manager
Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney
Ms. Brenda J. Henry, Assistant Clerk
Ms. Eileen Probasco, Planning and Land Use Director
Mr. Mike Brown, Capital Projects Director
Ms. Lauren Driscoll, Planning Chief
Mr. Emerson Krueger, Planner II

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Planning Commissioner Chair Klapperich inquired if there were any changes to the agenda.

GENERAL CONSENT: The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Bert Cottle, city of Wasilla Deputy Administrator.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke to the need for a regional wastewater septage facility: Ms. Helen Munoz.

The following persons spoke to concerns with a road upgrade issue in the area of Horizon Road off Knik-Goose Bay Road and to concerns with the lack of notification of the project: Mr. Dan Huttunen, Ms. Susie Kaltenbacher, and Mr. Kent Kaltenbacher.

VI. JOINT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Subcommittee On Transportation Between The Matanuska-Susitna Borough And The Municipality Of Anchorage *(Requested By Administration)*

Mr. Emerson Krueger, Planner II, provided a regional transportation authority project update.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the challenges of local funding mechanisms;
- traffic volumes on the Glenn Highway;
- that it was decided at the joint transportation subcommittee that the members would return to their individual bodies to quantify what their individual transportation priorities are;
- legislation that would need to be changed at the State level before a transportation authority could be created;
- the possibility of a railroad commuter train;
- the desire to move forward with the regional transportation authority despite numerous challenges;
- identified sources of funding;
- where the transportation data came from; and
- gaps in the current data.

B. Southwest Demographics Update – ~~Mr. Shannon Bingham~~ *(Requested by Administration)*

Ms. Lauren Driscoll provided the southwest demographics update.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- that the study is hypothetical at this point;
- concerns with projected growth;
- the need for a wastewater facility;
- future transportation needs;

- concerns with government determining future lot sizes;
- concerns with government planning future city sites;
- the desire to set aside future school sites;
- concerns with the lack of comparative data; and
- the potential for future needs to change.

C. Transportation Week Summary – ~~Ms. Anne Brooks~~ *(Requested By Administration)*

Ms. Eileen Probasco, Planning and Land Use Director, provided a summary of Transportation Week.

D. Transportation Planning Discussion *(Requested by Administration)*

Ms. Probasco:

- advised that there is no presentation for this item of business; and
- stated that it was added in case the body wanted to engage in transportation discussion.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- that the Palmer-Wasilla Highway is a State corridor;
- that the Borough has many roads that intersect with the Palmer-Wasilla Highway;
- concerns with a possible transit authority that would cover two municipalities;
- the need to understand and utilize the Long Range Transportation Plan as transportation is discussed;
- concerns with inequity in mill rates and assessments in road service areas; and
- the need to review the road service area model to determine whether there is a better alternative.

VII. PLANNING COMMISSION COMMENTS

Planning Commissioner Adams:

- thanked the Assembly for the opportunity to conduct a joint meeting; and
- applauded the Planning Department for their hard work on such difficult topics.

Planning Commissioner Rauchenstein:

- thanked the Assembly for the joint meeting; and
- noted the importance of planning for future development.

(Mayor DeVilbiss assumed the duties of the chair.)

VIII. ASSEMBLY ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- A. **AM No. 14-022:** Award Of Contract No. 14-094B To Wirtanen Commercial, LLC. In The Contract Amount Of \$714,500 For The Valley Community For Recycling Solutions Building Modification Construction.

MOTION: Assemblymember Salmon moved to adopt AM No. 14-022.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

IX. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Beck:

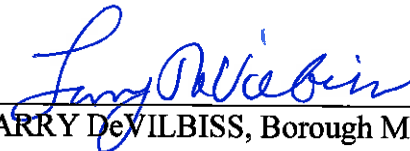
- thanked Staff for the information presented this evening; and
- spoke to the need for public notification regarding Borough projects.

Mayor DeVilbiss:

- spoke to the need for the body to be informed regarding transportation issues; and
- thanked the Planning Commission for their service.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.


LARRY DEVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 04/01/14