

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on April 10, 2010, at the Mat-Su Central Public Safety Building. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Deputy Mayor Lynne Woods for the purpose of holding a tourism summit.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Ms. Lynne Woods, Assembly District No. 1 (*Deputy Mayor*)
Mr. Ronald Arvin, Assembly District No. 3
Mr. Mark Ewing, Assembly District No. 4
Ms. Cindy L. Bettine, Assembly District No. 5 (*arrived at 10:10 a.m.*)
Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7

Assemblymembers absent and excused were:

Mr. Pete Houston, District No. 2
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk
Ms. Brenda J. Henry, Executive Assistant to the Borough Clerk
Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager
Ms. Elizabeth Gray, Assistant Borough Manager
Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney
Mr. Dave Hanson, Economic Development Director
Ms. Kathy Rocci, Administrative Secretary
Ms. Linda Brenner, Community Development Director
Mr. Dan Keyes, Recreational Services Manager

Others present and participating:

Ms. Bonnie Quill, Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director
Ms. Karen Harris, Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureau Board Member
Ms. Dot Helm, Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board
Mr. Vern Rupright, Wasilla city Mayor (*arrived at 1:25 p.m.*)
Mr. Roger Purcell, Houston city Mayor
Mr. Bill Allen, Palmer city Manager (*arrived at 11:30 a.m.*)
Mr. Chris Beck, Agnew:Beck Consultants
Mr. Gary Wolf, Wolf Architecture
Ms. Kris Abshire, Alaskans for Palmer Hay Flats

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Deputy Mayor Woods 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 Assemblymember Ewing.

V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

1. TOURISM SUMMIT, INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

MOTION: Assemblymember Halter moved to enter into the Committee of the Whole.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection and the Assembly moved into the Committee of the Whole at 10:05 a.m.

During the Committee of the Whole the Assembly discussed tourism and received presentations from Mr. Gary Wolf, Wolf Architecture; Mr. Chris Beck, Agnew:Beck Consultants; and Ms. Kris Abshire, Alaskans for Palmer Hay Flats.

(The Assembly recessed at the following times during the Committee of the Whole: recessed at 12:40 p.m. and reconvened at 1:00 p.m.; recessed at 2:58 p.m. and reconvened at 3:08 p.m.)

(Mr. Bill Allen exited the meeting at 1:44 p.m.)

(Assemblymember Ewing exited the meeting at 4:05 p.m.)

Deputy Mayor Woods inquired if there was any objection to exiting the Committee of the Whole.

There was no objection and the Assembly exited the Committee of the Whole at 4:16 p.m.

Assemblymember Bettine requested that the Assembly not take any action until further Assembly work sessions can be held.

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

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

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Duffy:

- stated that the draft Hatcher Pass Management Plan has only been released; and
- noted that the State is not ready to take action.

Assemblymember Halter stated that he would like to see the Planning Commission review the funding of the Farmland Trust issue.

Ms. Harris:

- stated that she is glad the Assembly is continuing to conduct tourism summits; and
- thanked the body for their participation.

Assemblymember Bettine:

- opined that the Borough should work with the cities to come up with incentives for lodging;
- opined that the State needs to take better care of their waysides;
- stated that the cross country skiing at Lake George is impressive;
- spoke to a recent trip to Hawaii, during which she was provided a list of farmer's markets in the area;
- further added that the Borough should do something of this sort; and
- noted that she would like to revisit the summary on infrastructure.

Ms. Helm stated that it was good to get together and review the bigger picture.

Assemblymember Arvin:

- stated that it was a good meeting; and
- noted that he learned a lot.

Ms. Quill:

- thanked the Assembly for organizing the summit; and
- spoke to providing the Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureau budget to the Assembly.

Mr. Keyes stated that it was a good meeting and he was glad to attend.

Assemblymember Woods:

- spoke to the importance of infrastructure;
- stated that she enjoyed the enthusiasm of Mr. Gary Wolf, who was a presenter; and
- opined that when the Assembly makes decisions they need to keep in mind how decisions affect economic development within the Borough.


VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.



TALIS J. COLBERG, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: 05/18/10