

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on April 25, 2013, at the Borough School District Administration Building, 501 N. Gulkana Street, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. by Deputy Mayor Ron Arvin for the purpose of receiving a presentation regarding the Mat-Su Health Foundation Community Health Assessment and for introduction of Ordinance Serial No. 13-056.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. Warren Keogh, Assembly District No. 1
Mr. Noel Woods, Assembly District No. 2
Mr. Ronald Arvin, Assembly District No. 3 (*Deputy Mayor*)
Mr. Steve Colligan, Assembly District No. 4
Mr. Darcie K. Salmon, Assembly District No. 5
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6 (*entered at 4:56 p.m.*)
Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk
Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager
Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney
Ms. Brenda J. Henry, Assistant Clerk
Mr. George Hays, Assistant Borough Manager
Mr. Dennis Brodigan, Emergency Services Director
Ms. Cheyenne Heindel, Financial Analyst
Ms. Shannon Post, Chief Information Officer

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Deputy Mayor Arvin queried 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. John Moosey, Borough Manager.

V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Mat-Su Community Health Assessment Presentation - Ms. Melissa Kemberling,
Mat-Su Health Foundation and Ms. Shelly Wade, Agnew Beck Consulting

Ms. Elizabeth Ripley:

- provided an overview of what the Mat-Su Health Assessment Presentation would cover; and
- introduced Dr. Melissa Kemberling and Ms. Shelly Wade, who would be making the presentation.

Dr. Melissa Kemberling, Project Director for Mat-Su Health Foundation and Ms. Shelly Wade, Project Manager for Agnew Beck Consulting, provided a video and an oral presentation regarding the Mat-Su Community Health Assessment.

Assemblymember Keogh queried if the data concerning middle and high school students contemplating suicide was specific to the Borough.

Dr. Kemberling affirmed the query.

Assemblymember Keogh queried where the data was obtained.

Dr. Kemberling advised that it came from the “Youth Risk Behavior Survey” that is done every other year by all students in Alaska.

Deputy Mayor Arvin queried how the data compares to that of the lower forty-eight.

Dr. Kemberling advised that the Borough is higher in most areas.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- that the violent crime rate is higher in Alaska versus the lower forty-eight;
- the social connectedness of residents in the Borough;
- the binge drinking and smoking rates of adults versus senior adults;
- overweight and obesity rates in the Borough;
- that suicide is an issue for the entire State;
- whether or not tobacco or alcohol taxes decrease consumption;
- the need for detox services in the Borough;
- alcohol prevention education for youth;
- that there is a higher rate of smoking for those with mental health issues;
- healthy people goals;
- the financial impacts of not addressing health issues;
- the top health concerns of the members of the Assembly;
- that many health issues are interrelated;
- strategies to address health concerns; and
- that the health assessment data is available on the Mat-Su Health Foundation website.

Deputy Mayor Arvin queried if there was any objection to the following prioritized concerns voted on by the Assembly:

Health Issues:

1. Child and Youth Abuse and Violence
2. Alcohol and Drug Abuse
3. Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault
4. Overweight and Obesity
5. Violent Crime

Healthy Future Goals

1. Child and Youth Abuse and Violence
2. Alcohol and Drug Abuse
3. Violent Crime
4. Access to Mental Health Care
5. Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault

There was no objection noted.

VI. INTRODUCTION (For public hearing – 05/02/13, Central Mat-Su Public Safety Building)

- A. Ordinance Serial No. 13-056: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING MSB 3.30 TO INCREASE THE EXCISE TAX ON CIGARETTES AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS.
(Sponsored by Assemblymember Arvin)
1. IM No. 13-104

MOTION: Assemblymember Salmon moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and set the public hearing for May 2, 2013.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke to the need to set aside property for a regional wastewater septage treatment plant, the need for hospice care within the Borough, and to the departure of the Public Works Director: Ms. Helen Munoz.

VIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Moosey:

- stated that his annual evaluation was scheduled for May 21, 2013;
- stated that he will be unavailable on that day; and
- suggested May 7, 2013, at 4 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Arvin queried if there was any objection.

There was no objection noted.

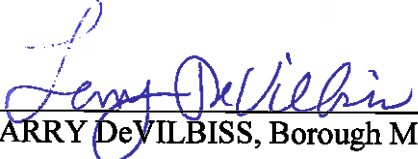
Assemblymember Keogh thanked the Mat-Su Health Foundation for the presentation.

Deputy Mayor Arvin:

- thanked the Mat-Su Health Foundation for the presentation; and
- opined that it was informative and insightful.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.


LARRY DeVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 05/21/13