

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on April 29, 2008, at the Central Mat-Su Public Safety Building, 101 W. Swanson Avenue, Wasilla, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Deputy Mayor Lynne Woods for the purpose of holding a public hearing on the budget.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Ms. Lynne Woods, Assembly District No. 1 (*Deputy Mayor*)
Mr. Pete Houston, Assembly District No. 2
Ms. Michelle R. Church, Assembly District No. 3
Ms. Mary Kvalheim, Assembly District No. 4
Ms. Cindy Bettine, Assembly District No. 5 (*arrived at 6:50 p.m.*)
Mr. Robert Wells, Assembly District No. 6
Mr. Tom Kluberton, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk
Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager
Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney
Ms. Cheryl Marino, Deputy Clerk
Ms. Joell Church, Records Management Officer
Ms. Cheyenne Heindel, Financial Analyst
Mr. Emerson Krueger, Planner II
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Financial Director
Mr. Dennis Brodigan, Emergency Services Director
Ms. Patty Sullivan, Public Relations Manager
Mr. Keith Rountree, Public Works Director
Mr. Dave Allison, Chief Animal Care and Regulation Officer
Ms. Linda Brenner, Community Development Director
Ms. Nancy Hereford, Land and Resource Management
Mr. Greg Goodale, Solid Waste Manager

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 Mr. Mark Simpson, a member of the audience.

V. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Ordinance Serial No. 08-008: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING MONIES FROM THE CENTRAL TREASURY FOR THE BOROUGH OPERATING FUNDS, ENTERPRISE FUNDS, AND CAPITAL FUNDS AND ESTABLISHING THE RATE OF LEVY FOR ALL BOROUGH FUNCTIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2008, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2009.

Deputy Mayor Woods opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke in support of sustaining/increasing the School District's funding: Ms. Ellen Varosi.

The following person spoke in support of the School District's enhanced budget package: Ms. Katherine Wright.

The following persons spoke in support of the School District's enhanced budget package to include counselors in small schools: Ms. Jolene Perry; and Ms. Leslie Overland.

The following person spoke in support of literacy coaches and the School District's enhanced budget package: Ms. Sebrina Shaw, Snowshoe Elementary representative.

The following person spoke to the School District's funding levels in Fiscal Year 2008 and spoke in support of funding education: Ms. Tawny Buck, Larson Elementary representative.

(Mayor Menard entered the meeting at 6:28 p.m. and assumed his duties.)

The following person spoke in support of the new positions for Emergency Services: Mr. Johnny Murdock.

The following person spoke in support of the Parks and Recreation position in Talkeetna: Mr. Warren Templin.

The following person spoke in support of the electronic Records Management Program: Mr. Emerson Krueger.

The following persons spoke in support of increasing funding for tourism marketing: Mr. Casey Ressler, Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureau; and Karen Harris, Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureau President.

The following person spoke in opposition to increasing the School District's budget: Mr. Phillip Meilke.

The following person spoke in support of the School District Budget: Mr. Kenny Barber.

The following person spoke to tax relief, revenue sharing, the tax cap, positions added in previous budget years, in opposition to the landfill employees, and encouraged a review of the budget: Mr. Jim Colver.

(Assemblymember Bettine entered the meeting at 6:49 p.m.)

The following person spoke in opposition to bringing solid waste in-house: Mr. Mokie Tew.

The following person spoke in support of solid waste being in-house: Mr. Jim Durst.

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 08-008 to a time certain of May 1, 2008.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following persons spoke in opposition to Resolution Serial No. 08-040: Mr. Bill Folsom, Mr. Peter Probasco, Mr. Kenny Barber, Ms. Patty Barber, and Mr. Vern Powell.

The following persons spoke in support of Resolution Serial No. 08-040: Mr. Mark Simpson, Ms. Carrie Graywolfe, and Mr. Robert Howard.

The following person spoke in opposition to Resolution Serial No. 08-040 and in support of an area to be set aside for shooting: Mr. Patrick O'Conner.

The following person spoke in opposition to Resolution Serial No. 08-040 and expressed concern regarding the Butte Community Council not receiving a copy of the resolution: Ms. Lucille Frey, Butte Community Council member.

(The special meeting recessed at 7:25 p.m. and reconvened at 7:35 p.m.)

The following persons spoke in opposition to Resolution Serial No. 08-040: Ms. Shawn Glancy, Mr. Earl Lackey, Mr. Dennis Hamann, Mr. Bruce Walden, Mr. Michael Johnson, Mr. Patrick Martin, Mr. Wayne Letourneau, Mr. Scott Lapiene, Mat-Su Trails Council President; Ms. Jeanine Erickson, and Mr. Darryl Dreher.

The following persons spoke in support of Resolution Serial No. 08-040: Mr. Gregory Nilsson, Ms. Catherine Hummel, Ms. Brit Lively, and Ms. Kate Nilsson.

The following persons spoke in opposition to Resolution Serial No. 08-040 and expressed concern regarding the Butte Community Council not receiving a copy of the resolution: Mr. Mike Erickson, Alaska ATV Club President; and Mr. Dick Coutts.

The following person spoke in opposition to AM No. 08-036: Mr. Jim Colver.

(The meeting recessed at 8:53 p.m. and reconvened at 9:04 p.m.)

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTION (For public hearing - 05/06/08, 7 p.m., Borough Assembly Chambers)

1. Ordinance Serial No. 08-064: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING MSB 17.60.140, CONDITIONAL USES, TO ADDRESS TALL STRUCTURES.
- a. Resolution Serial No. 08-041: A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING FEES FOR MSB 17.60, CONDITIONAL USES.
- (1) IM No. 08-111

Ms. McKechnie read the above legislation into the record.

MOTION: Assemblymember Woods moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and set the public hearing for March 6, 2008.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

VIII. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

- A. Resolution Serial No. 08-039: A RESOLUTION CREATING A SITE EVALUATION TEAM FOR THE FRONTERAS CHARTER SCHOOL.
1. IM No. 08-090

MOTION: Assemblymember Woods moved to approve Resolution Serial No. 08-039.

Mr. Duffy provided a staff report.

Assemblymember Bettine requested that the Manager bring forward legislation that would include the selection of charter school sites under the purview of the Borough Area School Site Selection Committee.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

- B. Resolution Serial No. 08-040: A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ADDITION OF REQUIREMENTS FOR BUFFERS AND OTHER MITIGATION MEASURES IN THE KNIK RIVER PUBLIC USE AREA MANAGEMENT PLAN.
1. IM No. 08-107

MOTION: Assemblymember Woods moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 08-040.

Assemblymember Woods:

- noted that she previously met with residents and explained the intent of the resolution; and

- stated that the intent of the resolution is to protect the community.

Mr. Duffy:

- spoke to the management of the area; and
- stated that the Knik River Public Use Area Management Plan is in draft form.

Assemblymember Wells queried the status of the Butte Asset Management Plan.

Ms. Brenner:

- noted that the Butte Asset Management Plan was adopted in May 2007;
- advised that staff was compiling comments to submit regarding Knik Public Use Area to the State; and
- stated that the Butte Asset Management Plan was supported by the Butte Community Council.

Discussion ensued regarding concerns that the resolution was not presented to the Butte Community Council.

VOTE: The motion failed with Assemblymembers Woods and Church in favor.

C. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

Mayor Menard requested the following confirmations:

Schools Site Selection Committee
Resignation of Mark Masteller
Lazy Mountain RSA No. 19
Shannon Rochelle

Mayor Menard made the following recommendations:

Borough Area School Site Selection Committee
Ken Klunder
Fronteras Charter School Evaluation Team
Lebron McPhail
John Phillips
Robert Kalander
Lori Koutsy
Mary Kvalheim
Cindy Bettine
Real Property Asset Management Board
Norman Harris

MOTION: Assemblymember Woods moved to confirm the Mayor's recommendations up for confirmation this evening.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

IX. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos:

- noted that he will be out of town; and
- spoke to the oral argument in front of the Superior Court regarding the tobacco tax.

Assemblymember Houston:

- stated his reasons for opposing Resolution Serial No. 08-040;
- spoke regarding the condition of trails;
- noted his support for registration fees and user fees on off-road vehicles; and
- spoke to the difficulty he has had hiking the trails.

Assemblymember Kluberton spoke to the trash and abuse of some streams and how it reflects on the Borough.

Assemblymember Church:

- spoke regarding her support of Resolution Serial No. 08-040;
- noted the need to contact the State regarding tags for motor vehicles;
- spoke to the buffer and trash issue; and
- noted the need for self-policing.

Assemblymember Woods:

- noted her support of buffers between residential and recreational activities;
- spoke to concerns regarding multi-use recreation in residential areas; and
- spoke to reclamation in the Sutton area.

Assemblymember Bettine:

- spoke regarding community councils by-laws; and
- commented on the communication between the Borough and the community councils; and
- queried if the study regarding privatizing the landfill had been completed.

Mr. Duffy noted that the report from Northern Economics Analysis will be completed by May 1, 2008.

Discussion ensued regarding the Northern Economics Analysis timeline.

Assemblymember Wells:

- emphasized the need for increased public relations regarding fish habitats and the lake management plans; and
- spoke to the need for the Assembly to take their time during budget deliberations.

Mayor Menard spoke to the legislative sessions.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

/ S /

CURTIS D. MENARD, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

/ S /

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: 05/20/08