

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on May 1, 2014, at the Central Mat-Su Public Safety Building, 101 West Swanson, Wasilla, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Larry DeVilbiss for the purpose of holding a public hearing on the budget ordinance.

**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*)  
Mr. Steve Colligan, Assembly District No. 4  
Mr. Darcie K. Salmon, Assembly District No. 5  
Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7

Assemblymembers Absent and excused:

Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk  
Ms. Brenda J. Henry, Assistant Clerk  
Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager  
Mr. George Hays, Assistant Borough Manager  
Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney  
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director  
Mr. Dennis Brodigan, Emergency Services Director  
Mr. Eric Phillips, Community Development Director  
Mr. Larry Macknicki, Director of Information Technology  
Mr. Mike Brown, Capital Projects Director  
Ms. Pamela Graham, Grants and Project Coordinator  
Mr. James Wilson, Internal Auditor  
Ms. Joell Church, Records Management Officer  
Ms. Amy Bohmbach, Administrative Assistant I

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor DeVilbiss 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, Wasilla City Deputy Administrator.

#### **V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

- A. **AM No. 14-038:** Vacate A Portion Of The 33-Foot Wide Section Line Easement Located Within Lot 2, Block 2, Mountain Ash Subdivision, Plat No. 2007-87, Located In Section 4, Township 17 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian.

MOTION: Assemblymember Arvin moved to adopt AM No. 14-038.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

#### **VI. PUBLIC HEARING (Three Minutes Per Person)**

- A. **Ordinance Serial No. 14-014:** An Ordinance Appropriating Monies From The Central Treasury For The Borough Operating Funds, Enterprise Funds, Education Operating Fund, And Capital Funds And Establishing The Rate Of Levy For All Borough Functions For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2014, And Ending June 30, 2015, And Setting The Surcharge Rate For The Wireline And Wireless Enhanced 911 Systems For The Period Of July 1, 2014, Through June 30, 2015.

Mayor DeVilbiss opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in support of funding for the Health and Social Services Community Matching Grant Program: Ms. Karen Nugen-Logan, Executive Director of Nugen's Ranch; Mr. Herman Thompson; and Ms. Lori Carey, Executive Director of Family Promise – Mat-Su.

The following person spoke in support of funding for a small building to be located in Hatcher Pass as a warming hut and avalanche education center: Ms. Debra McGhan, Alaska Avalanche Information Center.

MOTION: Assemblymember Arvin moved to continue the public hearing on Ordinance Serial No. 14-014 to May 2, 2014, at 6 p.m. at the Willow Community Center.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

#### **VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

The following person spoke regarding Nugen's Ranch open house that is scheduled for June 7, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.: Ms. Karen Nugen-Logan, Executive Director of Nugen's Ranch.

## VIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the location of the Willow Community Center where the May 2, public hearing will be conducted.

Assemblymember Colligan:

- spoke to the list of the Manager's changes to the budget that was provided to the body this evening; and
- requested an explanation of the list.

Mr. Moosey:

- stated that based upon Assembly comments of items that should be included in the budget, that Administration has prepared an omnibus amendment for consideration; and
- noted that the list is a work in progress and was created to alleviate Assembly concern.

Assemblymember Colligan queried the intent of the list and who participated in the changes.

Mr. Moosey:

- advised that staff had made the changes at his request; and
- noted that they are working to make the budget process more organized and streamlined.

Mayor DeVilbiss queried if the list was a public document.

Mr. Moosey:

- noted that it is only a draft document at this time; and
- stated that it would be made available to the public on the Borough's budget website as soon as possible.

Assemblymember Halter queried if the budget currently included funding for the Health and Social Services Community Matching Grant Program or if it would need to be amended to include that.

Mr. Moosey advised that the list does contain a proposal for an amendment to include that funding.

Assemblymember Beck queried if there is an amendment that would include Youth Court.

Mr. Moosey stated that he is unsure but assumes that it is included and would find out.

Assemblymember Beck thanked Emergency Services for their budget presentation.

Assemblymember Sykes:

- thanked Emergency Services for their budget presentation;
- spoke to how he has been approaching the budget process;
- stated that he would like to see budget data from several years back for comparison;
- opined that there has been a trend of how tax payers fund the budget;

- spoke to concerns with grant funds funding approximately 35 percent of the budget;
- spoke to the need to determine where revenue is coming from;
- stated that he would like to see a line item comparison by department for the past several years;
- spoke to the many terms that he is unfamiliar with and would like more information on; and
- noted that he would like to understand the Borough's critical needs, as it is not clear to him where the Assembly's priorities lie.

Assemblymember Salmon:

- spoke to his confidence in the ability of staff to properly prepare the budget; and
- opined that individual Assembly members meeting with staff could answer questions, which would eliminate the need for the body as a whole to discuss it.

Assemblymember Halter:

- congratulated Mid Valley Seniors in receiving a grant to expand their facility;
- stated that he would thank the Legislators who supported the facility next time he saw them;
- spoke to his pleasure that the Gateway Visitor Center was funded by the State Legislature;
- spoke to his interpretation of the budget for Emergency Services; and
- noted the beautiful weather that has occurred this week.

Assemblymember Arvin:

- noted that Assembly seats change annually, as do the Assembly priorities as a whole; and
- queried the genesis of restoring funding for a skate sharpener.

Mr. Moosey:

- noted that his directive was to bring in departmental budgets to as close as possible as the prior year;
- advised that the skate sharpener was put back into the budget, as it enhances a key service that provides revenue, which impacted the decision to bring it back; and
- stated that each change would be fully explained as progress is made, so that questions can be asked in advance.

Assemblymember Arvin:

- spoke to the requested funding for a Right-Of-Way Acquisition Officer and a Civil Construction Project Manager;
- opined that those positions are largely a result of the numerous road bond projects that are occurring; and
- queried why the positions are not funded through the projects.


Mr. Moosey:

- advised that project funds are being used for those positions;
- noted that staff is working to get projects completed on a timely basis; and
- stated that he will provide more detail regarding that query.

Mayor DeVilbiss advised that he would not be present on May 2, as he would be in Juneau for the Republican Party Convention.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The special meeting recessed at 7:36 p.m. to be reconvened on May 2, 2014, at 6 p.m.

  
LARRY DEVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 05/20/14