

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on May 3, 2007, at the Central Mat-Su Public Safety Building, 101 W. Swanson Avenue, Wasilla, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Curtis D. Menard 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. Bill Allen, Assembly District No. 2
Ms. Michelle R. Church, Assembly District No. 3
Ms. Mary Kvalheim, Assembly District No. 4
Ms. Cindy L. Bettine, Assembly District No. 5
Mr. Robert Wells, Assembly District No. 6
Mr. Tom Kluberton, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Michelle M. McGehee, CMC, Borough Clerk
Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager
Ms. Lonnie McKechnie, Deputy Borough Clerk
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director
Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Menard 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. Carl Sleight, a member of the audience.

V. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Ordinance Serial No. 07-007: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING MONIES FROM THE CENTRAL TREASURY OF THE BOROUGH OPERATING FUNDS, ENTERPRISE FUNDS, AND CAPITAL FUNDS AND ESTABLISHING RATE OF LEVY FOR ALL BOROUGH FUNCTIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2007, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2008.

Mayor Menard opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke in support of an administration building for the emergency services dive team: Mr. Walt Gilmore.

The following persons spoke in support of funding the libraries: Mr. Lawrence McGee, Ms. Pat Kilmane, Mr. Tom Healy, Ms. Ginny Robson, and Ms. Paula Monroe.

The following person spoke in opposition to the new positions that have been included in the budget: Mr. R.K. Butts.

The following persons spoke in support of funding the proposed position for the Information Technology Department: Mr. Andrew Paquette and Mr. Erick Johnson.

The following persons spoke in support of expanding the Animal Shelter expansion: Ms. Darla Tampke, Mr. Matt Hardwig, Ms. Carolyn Johnson, Ms. Patricia Park-Fisher, Mr. Adam Cardwell, Ms. Mary Ann Cockle, Ms. Leanna Reign, Ms. Rhonda Weinrick, and Mr. Martin Wienrick.

The following person spoke in support of funding the proposed positions for the Emergency Services Department, the expansion of the Animal Shelter, and a new emergency services facility: Mr. Johnny Murdock.

The following person spoke in support of funding all of the proposed positions in the budget: Ms. Nancy Hereford, President of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Employees Association.

The following person spoke in support of assessment funding: Mr. Lloyd Smith.

The following person spoke in support of funding the engineering coordinator position for the Public Works Department: Mr. Bill Klebesadel.

There being no others present who wished to testify, Mayor Menard continued the budget public hearing to May 8, 2007.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Mayor Menard declared a conflict of interest on Ordinance Serial No. 07-054.

(Mayor Menard exited the meeting at this time.)

(Deputy Mayor Woods assumed the duties as chair.)

(The special meeting recessed at 7:21 p.m. and reconvened at 7:40 p.m.)

B. Ordinance Serial No. 07-054: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING MONIES FROM THE CENTRAL TREASURY FOR THE EDUCATION OPERATING FUND FOR FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2007, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2008.

Deputy Mayor Woods opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in support of fully funding education: Mr. John Robertson, Ms. Christina Dampier, Mr. Jason McCourt, Mr. Michael Perry, Ms. Valerie Schleich, Mr. Karl Schleich, Mr. Erick Johnson, Mr. Peter Kamilos, Mr. Bob Elyard, and Mr. Shawn Monroe.

There being no others present who wished to testify, Deputy Mayor Woods continued the budget public hearing to May 8, 2007.

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

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

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. McGehee:

- noted that there is a tentative meeting scheduled for May 18, 2007, for continued budget deliberations;
- advised that it has been the Assembly's past practice to schedule "tentative" meetings on the calendar for the purpose of public notice; and
- stated that the Borough Attorney has advised that if there is a meeting on the calendar the meeting would need to take place.

Assemblymember Bettine noted that if there was not a quorum of the Assembly present the budget deliberations would not take place.

Ms. McGehee:

- advised that herself and the Deputy Clerk would be attending the International Institute of Municipal Clerks Conference May 21 through May 27; and
- noted that she will participate in the May 23, 2007, special meeting by teleconference.

Assemblymember Kvalheim requested that information be provided on the reason that the School District's performance based budgeting placed such a heavy burden on the high schools.

Assemblymember Allen:

- advised that he met with Tammy Clayton and John Aschenbrenner to discuss the budget and revenue sources in preparation for the May 15, 2007, special meeting;
- spoke regarding meeting with Mayor Combs, of the city of Palmer, to discuss a Borough sales tax; and
- spoke to the need for the Borough to work with the cities regarding a sales tax for consistency.

Assemblymember Church requested that the information that Ms. Clayton's has gathered regarding the sales tax be provided to the Assembly prior to the cities receiving the information.

Assemblymember Bettine:

- spoke regarding concerns with the School District's performance based budgeting; and

- advised that the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Road Service Areas will be supporting the proposed positions in the Public Works Department and will be bringing forward changes for road funding and improvements.

Assemblymember Wells:

- advised that he will be going to Juneau next week;
- spoke regarding the School District's performance based budgeting;
- stated that studies have shown the best time to have small class sizes is in the entry years of elementary school; and
- spoke to the need for the Assembly to speak to the State Legislators.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.