

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on May 3, 2012, at the Central Mat-Su Fire Station 6-1, 101 E. Swanson Avenue, Wasilla, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Larry DeVilbiss for the purpose of holding a public hearing and possible deliberations on Ordinance Serial No. 12-012 (budget ordinance).

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 (*arrived at 6:07 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. Don Moore, Assistant Borough Manager
- Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney
- Ms. Jamie Newman, Deputy Borough Clerk
- Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director
- Ms. Cheyenne Heindel, Financial Analyst
- Ms. Shaune O'Neil, Public Works Director
- Ms. Eileen Probasco, Acting Planning and Land Use Director
- Mr. Dennis Brodigan, Emergency Services Director
- Ms. Patty Sullivan, Public Affairs Director
- Ms. Shannon, Post, Chief Information Officer
- Mr. Don Dyer, Economic Development Director
- Mr. Eric Phillips, Community Development Director
- Ms. Marian Romano, Acting Community Development Director

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. Ben Ellis, a member of the audience.

V. PUBLIC HEARING AND POSSIBLE DELIBERATIONS

- A. Ordinance Serial No. 12-012: 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, 2012, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2013.

Mayor DeVilbiss continued the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in support of the proposed funding for the School District in the budget: Ms. Noelle Carbon; Ms. Sarah Kehoe; Mr. Scott Nelson, Iditarod Elementary School Principal; Mr. Tim Walters; and Ms. Barbara Gerard, Academy Charter School Principal.

The following persons spoke in support of library funding: Ms. Jenifer Baer and Ms. Gwyn Black.

The following persons spoke in support of the power line extension for the Denali State Park Visitors Center Development: Mr. Ben Ellis, Alaska State Parks Director; and Mr. Bruce Bustamante, Princess Cruises.

The following persons spoke in support of funding the Human Services Community Matching Grant Program: Ms. Trisha DeLacy, Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska Education Specialist; Ms. Cindy Andrilli; Mr. Philip Licht, Set Free Alaska Executive Director; Ms. Gretchen Geist, Community Sports Incorporated Executive Director; and Ms. Elizabeth Ripley, Mat-Su Health Foundation Executive Director.

The following persons spoke to concerns regarding working schedules and compensation afforded to emergency service responders: Ms. Sandy Hoeft, Emergency Responder; Mr. Roy Roistacher, Emergency Responder.

(The meeting recessed at 6:41 p.m. and reconvened at 6:52 p.m.)

The following person read a letter on behalf of Ms. Mary Brodigan, Planning Department Secretary II, affirming the dedication and work ethic of Borough employees, and thanking the Assembly for their continued support of public employees: Ms. Sally Letherman, Information Technology Services Desk Manager.

There being no others present who wished to testify, the public hearing closed and discussion moved to the Assembly.

MOTION: Assemblymember Arvin moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 12-012, 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, 2012, and ending June 30, 2013.

Mayor DeVilbiss queried if monies collected from the cigarette tax go into the areawide fund and if the tax could be identified for matching grants.

Ms. Clayton affirmed that monies collected from the cigarette tax are deposited into the areawide fund and dollars for matching grants come from the areawide fund.

Assemblymember Halter queried as to how the Vehicle Registration Tax collected by the State is allocated among Borough funds.

Ms. Clayton advised that the monies are allocated in accordance with Borough code and the breakdown of the allocation has been provided to the Assembly.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the allocation of the Vehicle Registration Tax to city residents compared to residents in service areas; and
- the allocation formula.

Assemblymember Colligan:

- opined that the funding model for libraries is flawed; and
- queried as to the history of the formula and how it could be amended.

Mr. Spiropoulos:

- advised that libraries is a non-areawide power; and
- spoke to the process for the changing the power to an areawide power through voter approval or legislative approval.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the levy of the tobacco tax;
- the use of funds collected from an alcohol tax under State law;
- the cost of employee benefits in relation to the rate of pay;
- the increasing demand for the Human Services Community Matching Grant Program;
- the responder positions requested by the Wasilla-Lakes Fires Serve Area Board of Supervisors, which were not included in the budget by the Manager;
- the use of the undesignated fund balance; and
- how service area mill rates are set.

MOTION: Assemblymember Arvin moved to continue Ordinance Serial No. 12-012 to the May 7, 2012, special meeting.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Ms. Sandy Hoeft spoke in support of using funds generated from patient transport contracts to hire and retain emergency services personnel.

Mr. Roy Roistacher thanked the Assembly for the articulate and well reasoned questions regarding the budget.

Mr. John Klapperich encouraged the Assembly to consider economic development opportunities that will generate income.

Ms. Laurie Moffitt spoke to the need to address the employment issues raised by emergency services personnel as a matter of safety.

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie:

- requested that the Assembly submit budget amendments to her by Monday morning; and
- noted that there is legislation on the May 8, agenda that requires introduction.

Assemblymember Keogh thanked Ms. Marian Romano for her exemplarily service to the Borough.

Assemblymember Colligan:

- expressed his appreciation of Borough employees;
- expressed concern about emergency services;
- noted he plans to bring forward budget requests for a study to benchmark the Emergency Services Department against national performance, safety, and wage standards; and
- spoke in support of consolidated dispatch services across the Borough.

Assemblymember Woods thanked the public for their participation in the budget process.

Mayor DeVilbiss:


- spoke in support of forward funding by the Borough; and
- noted managing debt is the key to success.

Assemblymember Arvin:

- noted that essentially it is a flat budget plus the bonds that passed;
- commented that there is \$4 million undedicated funds from revenue sharing;
- stated that he will only support budget amendments that relate to the core functions of education, emergency services, and infrastructure; and
- encouraged the body to follow suit during upcoming budget deliberations.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.



LARRY DeVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 06/05/12