

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on May 4, 2010, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 3:39 p.m. by Mayor Talis J. Colberg for the purpose of the review of Community Development budget and review of any remaining budget issues and comments to the Alaska State Department of Natural Resources on the Hatcher Pass Management Plan.

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 (*via teleconference at 3:45 p.m.*)
Mr. Ron Arvin, Assembly District No. 3 (*arrived at 3:40 p.m.*)
Mr. Mark Ewing, Assembly District No. 4
Ms. Cindy L. Bettine, Assembly District No. 5 (*arrived at 3:47 p.m.*)
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6
Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk
Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager
Ms. Elizabeth Gray, Assistant Borough Manager
Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director
Ms. Shaune O'Neil, Public Works Director
Mr. Dennis Brodigan, Emergency Services Director
Ms. Christine Nelson, Planning and Land Use Director
Ms. Patty Sullivan, Public Affairs Director
Mr. Dave Hanson, Economic Development Director
Ms. Eileen Probasco, Chief of Planning
Mr. Dan Keyes, Recreational Services Division Manager

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Colberg 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 Ms. Rindi White, Anchorage Daily News.

V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.

1. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BUDGET AND REVIEW OF ANY REMAINING BUDGET ISSUES
2. COMMENTS TO THE ALASKA STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE HATCHER PASS MANAGEMENT PLAN

MOTION: Assemblymember Woods moved to enter into the Committee of the Whole.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection and the Assembly moved into the Committee of the Whole at 3:41 p.m.

Ms. Gray and Mr. Keyes presented the fiscal year 2011 Community Development budget.

(Assemblymember Colver exited the meeting at 4:06 p.m. and reentered the meeting at 4:07 p.m.)

The Assembly discussed the draft memorandum to the State regarding Assembly comments on the Hatcher Pass Management Plan.

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved to exit the Committee of the Whole.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection and the Assembly exited the Committee of the Whole at 5:17 p.m.

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved to approve the draft memorandum as the Assembly's comments to the Alaska State Department of Natural Resources regarding the draft Hatcher Pass Management Plan.

Assemblymember Colver:

- spoke in support of the recommendations; and
- stated that there would be issues if there was a motorized all terrain vehicle (ATV) trail at 16 mile.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the public opposition regarding a motorized ATV trail at 16 mile; and
- the need to support an upgrade to the Hatcher Pass Road.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colver moved a primary amendment by adding an additional bullet at the end of the memorandum to read: "The Borough strongly supports paving the road over Hatcher Pass."

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

VOTE: The main motion as amended passed without objection.

Assemblymember Arvin queried the statement within the memorandum regarding the Alaska State Department of Natural Resources ignoring the numerous requests from the Borough to participate on the Planning Team.

Ms. Probasco:

- noted that the previous HPMP was developed over a period of time with representatives from State and Borough agencies working together as a Planning Team in preparing the HPMP;
- stated that the process used for the current draft HPMP was quite different;
- noted that the team working on the current draft HPMP consisted of State employees;
- commented that the Alaska State Department of Natural Resources contacted the Borough and provided maps and an internal HPMP draft; and
- stated that it would have been very helpful for the Borough to be involved with preparing the internal draft versus the State drafting it alone.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the turnover of State employees possibly contributing to the change in the process; and
- the Borough participating with a Planning Team that drafted the original HPMP.

Assemblymember Woods spoke to an article regarding hawk watchers in Assembly District one.

Assemblymember Bettine:

- spoke to the Big Lake ice rink breaking ground;
- commented that the Big Lake ice rink was funded by the Big Lake Lion's Club and land donations from Barbara and Bob Fisher;
- spoke to the reasons why the topic may not be in the newspaper; and
- spoke to the excitement of the public having affordable ice time.

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke in support of the trail management section for the fiscal year 2011 budget: Ms. Dot Helm.

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Ewing:

- spoke in support of non-profit organizations doing things on their own with very little government support;
- noted that it is nice to see people willing to donate property for a public facility; and
- spoke to the need to have less government and more private sector donations and funding in projects.

Assemblymember Halter spoke in appreciation of Senator Huggins and Representative Neuman hosting a get together in Willow and Trapper Creek to update the residents on what is occurring during the legislative session.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting recessed at 5:29 p.m.

ATTEST:


TALIS J. COLBERG, Borough Mayor


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: 06/01/10