

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on May 5, 2005, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Mayor Timothy L. Anderson for the purpose of holding a public hearing on the budget.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. Lynne Woods, Assembly District No. 1
Mr. Bill Allen, Assembly District No. 2
Mr. Talis J. Colberg, Assembly District No. 3
Ms. Mary Kvalheim, Assembly District No. 4
Ms. Jody Simpson, Assembly District No. 5
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District 6 (*Deputy Mayor*)
Ms. Betty Vehrs, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Michelle M. McGehee, CMC, Borough Clerk
Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager
Ms. Janice A. Case, Deputy Borough Clerk
Ms. Cheyenne Heindel, Financial Analyst
Mr. Dennis Brodigan, Emergency Services Director
Mr. Ron Swanson, Community Development Director
Mr. Murph O'Brien, Planning and Land Use Director

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Anderson:

- noted that the vacancy report would be pulled from the agenda, as no applications were received for the Board of Equalization;
- noted that Resolution Serial No. 05-059 would be pulled from the agenda, as this item has recently been addressed by the State Legislature; and
- inquired if there were any additional changes to the agenda.

GENERAL CONSENT: The agenda was approved as amended without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Dwight Probasco, Wasilla High School Principal.

V. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Ordinance Serial No. 05-005: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING MONIES FROM THE CENTRAL TREASURY AND ESTABLISHING THE RATE OF LEVY FOR ALL BOROUGH FUNCTIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2005 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2006.

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing.

The following persons discussed the growth in the Borough and spoke in support of the Manager's proposed budget and the funding of the new positions: Ms. Karen Steward, Ms. Nancy Hereford, President of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Employees Association (MSBEA); Ms. Tahirih Klein; Mr. Bruce Paulson; Ms. Debby Broneske; Ms. Jackie Adams; and Ms. Sandra Petal.

The following persons spoke in support of purchasing the software program for the Finance Department: Ms. Jennifer Carper and Mr. Jim Hayes.

The following person discussed the growth issues the Borough is facing and voiced concern regarding the Manager's proposed budget for the School District: Mr. Ron Rucker, Classified Employees Association.

The following persons spoke in support of the pay increase and health benefits for the emergency service responders: Ms. Tamara Chipman, Ms. Tara Mellon, Mr. Tom Murray, Ms. Verna Warren, Mr. Shawn Brown, Mr. Ken Slauson, Mr. Mahlon Greene, Mr. Brennan Low, Mr. Bob Diaz, Mr. Conrad McClowskey, and Ms. Ginny Gee.

The following person discussed the high growth in the Borough and being unable to give students the attention they need in larger classes: Mr. Michael Carson, a teacher at Pioneer Peak Elementary School.

The following person spoke regarding the difference in the projected growth of students in the Manager's proposed budget and the School District's request: Mr. Joe Nolting, a teacher at Teeland Middle School.

The following persons spoke regarding the importance of funding the schools in order to give the children the best education possible: Mr. Dean Babcock, Ms. Contessa Gosset, Ms. Kris Moore, Ms. Emily Forstner, and Ms. Leslie Brown.

The following person spoke in support of diversifying the Borough's revenue sources: Ms. Barbara Hansen.

The following person stated that as an advanced student at Palmer High School she has never felt overwhelmed in her classes: Ms. Kelsey Sternhagen.

The following person spoke regarding the negative effects of the increased assessments and mill levies: Mr. Bruce Larsen.

There being no others present who wished to testify, Mayor Anderson noted that the public hearing would be re-opened on May 12, 2005, at 7 p.m. at the Central Mat-Su Public Safety Building.

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

(There were no persons present who wished to testify.)

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. McGehee thanked the members of her staff for their assistance in setting up for the meeting and Mr. Karl Augestad from Action Video Productions for the excellent audio at the meeting.

Mr. Duffy referred to a memorandum in the red folder regarding an amendment to the State Legislature's proposed E-911 legislation.

Assemblymember Simpson:

- thanked the members of the public for attending the meeting and testifying; and
- spoke in opposition to going into recess and not adjourning the earlier work session.

Assemblymember Colberg spoke in support of the travel account procedure used at the last regular Assembly meeting.

Assemblymember Kvalheim thanked the members of the public for attending the public hearing.

Assemblymember Colver:

- stated that he has reviewed the amendment to the E-911 legislation;
- noted that the amendment is somewhat of an improvement;
- thanked the members of the public for attending the public hearing; and
- thanked the staff members for the use of the Central Mat-Su Public Safety Building.

Mayor Anderson:

- thanked the staff members for the use of the Central Mat-Su Public Safety Building;
- noted that it is a great facility;
- encouraged the members of the public to attend the public hearing on May 12, 2005; and
- thanked the Manager and Mr. Gillespie for their assistance on the E-911 legislation.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

/s/

TIMOTHY L. ANDERSON, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

/s/

MICHELLE M. MCGEHEE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: May 17, 2005