

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on May 5, 2014, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Larry DeVilbiss for the purpose of continuing the public hearing and possible deliberations 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. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6
- Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7

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
- Ms. Eileen Probasco, Planning and Land Use Director
- Mr. Larry Macknicki, Director of Information Technology
- Mr. Eric Phillips, Community Development Director
- Ms. Amy Bohmbach, Administrative Assistant I
- Ms. Jamie Newman, Deputy Borough Clerk
- Ms. Elaine Flagg, Records Micrographics/Scanning Technician
- Ms. Hilary Schwaderer, 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.

Mayor DeVilbiss:

- read a proclamation into the record in recognition of Municipal Clerk's Week; and
- presented it to Ms. Lonnie McKechnie, Borough Clerk.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Ms. Lonnie McKechnie, Borough Clerk.

V. 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:

- reconvened the public hearing as recessed from May 2, 2014; and
- requested that the Clerk advise the public who are listening on Radio Free Palmer of the phone number to call in to in order to testify telephonically.

Ms. McKechnie advised of the number to call in to.

Mayor DeVilbiss:

- advised that the process for receiving public testimony would be to alternate between those present to testify and those calling in to testify; and
- opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in support of funding for the Health and Human Services Matching Grant Program: Mr. Michael P. Carson, Vice President and Recovery Specialist for My House; Ms. Laura Matter, Alaska Legal Services Corporation; Ms. Wanda Issel, Personal Care Assistant; and Mr. Bill Morrow, American Red Cross – Mat-Su District.

The following person spoke in support of funding for the Health and Human Services Matching Grant Program and in support of funding for the Mat-Su Sexual Assault Response Team: Ms. Melissa Kemberling, Mat-Su Health Foundation Director of Program Planning and Evaluation.

The following person spoke in support of funding marketing for an alpine ski area at Hatcher Pass:

Mr. Rob Wells, former Assembly member.

The following person spoke to the need for a balanced budget and to the need to ensure essential services are provided for Borough residents: Ms. Brit Lively.

The following person spoke to the need for fiscal responsibility: Ms. Cathy Hummel.

The following person spoke to concerns of the Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureau (MSCVB) receiving funding: Mr. Gregory Nelson.

(The meeting recessed at 6:36 p.m. and reconvened at 6:43 p.m.)

The following person spoke in support of funding for the Human Services Matching Grant Program: Mr. Eddie Ezelle, Mat-Su Food Bank Executive Director.

The following person spoke to concerns with gravel pits within the Borough, to concerns with public notice, and to the need to be fiscally responsible: Ms. Patty Rosnel.

The following person spoke in support of telephonic testimony, to concerns with the detail the public is expected to provide regarding budget comments, and to the need to be fiscally responsible: Ms. Michelle Church, former Assembly member.

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

MOTION: Assemblymember Arvin moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 14-014 to a time certain of May 7, 2014, at 6 p.m.

Assemblymember Colver:

- spoke in opposition to postponement;
- stated that he is prepared to work on the budget this evening; and
- noted that he had questions that he would like to ask of staff.

Assemblymember Arvin:

- noted that the Manager's proposed budget that is before the Assembly is no longer accurate, as it has had many substantive changes; and
- stated that staff continues to come back with additional information that is necessary for the body to make informed decisions on the budget.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the desire to move forward with deliberations;
- what the current revenue forecast is; and
- the possibility that many of the intended amendments may not be necessary if additional information is brought forward.

VOTE: The motion failed with Assemblymembers Salmon, Halter, and Arvin in support.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colver moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 14-014.

Assemblymember Colver:

- stated that it was not his intention to move amendments this evening;
- spoke to his desire to have a productive meeting; and
- agreed that it is important to understand the revenue forecast.

Ms. Clayton reported on the current projected revenue forecast.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- that the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payment would be the same as last year;
- how the increased funding from the State Legislature for the School District would impact the Borough; and
- that the School District is not looking at any reductions in full time employees.

MOTION: Assemblymember Sykes moved to continue Ordinance Serial No. 14-014 to May 7, 2014, at 6 p.m.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke to concerns that Government does not listen to the concerns of the public and to concerns with over development of the Borough: Ms. Cathy Hummel.

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie:

- thanked Mayor DeVilbiss for the proclamation;
- thanked Mr. Larry Macknicki and Mr. Mike Chmielewski for their help in working on the teleconferencing for the public this evening; and
- requested that if there are any budget amendments to please forward them to her by Wednesday.

Assemblymember Sykes:

- thanked Ms. McKechnie, Mr. Macknicki, and Mr. Chmielewski for making teleconferencing possible; and
- thanked the public for providing testimony.

Assemblymember Halter:

- opined that the public testimony in opposition to the MSCVB receiving funding was off base;
- noted that the tourism industry taxes themselves via the bed tax, which provides a majority of funding for the MSCVB;
- opined that the MSCVB does an excellent job promoting tourism in the Borough, noting that tourism provides revenue for the Borough;
- spoke to his pleasure that the Gateway Visitor's Center was funded by the State Legislature; and
- referred to an amendment that he intends to bring forward regarding the reserve fund.

Assemblymember Colver:

- thanked staff and the public for their participation in the meeting;
- opined that there is good news regarding school funding at the State level;
- spoke to his interpretation of revenue sharing funding;

- opined that the growth in the Borough could result in additional funding at the State level; and
- stated that he is looking forward to working on the budget.

Assemblymember Colligan:

- spoke to concerns with comments that were provided by a former member of the Assembly;
- opined that her memory is selective;
- spoke to his support of the Mat-Su Sexual Assault Response Team;
- stated that he is looking forward to beginning work on the budget; and
- requested the Manager report on how projects are funded.

Assemblymember Beck:

- thanked the public for their testimony;
- thanked staff for their hard work in preparing the budget;
- opined that the partnership the Borough has with the School District and the MSCVB works well;
- spoke to the need for a balanced budget;
- spoke in support of the funding for Human Services Matching Grant Program; and
- stated that he is looking forward to the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Joe Redington, Sr. Junior/Senior High School.

Assemblymember Arvin:

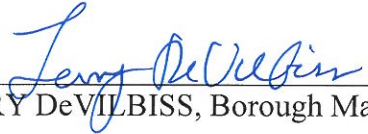
- stated that staff's budgets are very clear, very well organized, and fairly conservative;
- stated that he is concerned that members will bring forward budget increases without a funding source;
- noted that he has a number of budget amendments;
- stating that he is looking forward to explanations of the changes in the budget, prior to beginning deliberations; and
- spoke in opposition to raising the mill levy.

Mayor DeVilbiss:

- clarified that he does not expect the public to provide line item comments on the budget;
- requested that the public be direct as possible with their desires for the budget;
- stated that he appreciated the public testimony; and
- recognized former School District Superintendent Patricia Chesbro sitting in the audience.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting recessed at 7:32 p.m. to be reconvened on May 7, 2014, at 6 p.m.


LARRY DeVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 05/20/14