

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on May 7, 2009, at the Central Mat-Su Fire Department. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Deputy Mayor Lynne Woods for the purpose of holding public hearings for Ordinance Serial No. 09-009, fiscal year 2010 budget.

**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  
Ms. Michelle R. Church, Assembly District No. 3  
Mr. Mark Ewing, Assembly District No. 4  
Ms. Cindy L. Bettine, Assembly District No. 5  
Mr. Robert Wells, Assembly District No. 6 (*arrived at 6:10 p.m.*)  
Mr. Tom Kluberton, 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. Brenda J. Henry, Executive Assistant to the Borough Clerk  
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director  
Mr. Keith Rountree, Public Works Director  
Mr. Dennis Brodigan, Emergency Services Director  
Ms. Linda Brenner, Community Development Director  
Mr. Mark Mayo, Planning and Land Use Director  
Ms. Patty Sullivan, Public Affairs Director  
Mr. Dave Hanson, Economic Development Director  
Ms. Sharon Huckins, Administrative Secretary

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Deputy Mayor Woods 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. Benny Cottle, a member of the public.

**V. PUBLIC HEARING AND BUDGET DELIBERATIONS (Three minutes per person)**

- A. Ordinance Serial No. 09-009 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING MONIES FROM THE CENTRAL TREASURY FOR THE BOROUGH OPERATING FUNDS, ENTERPRISE FUND, AND CAPITAL FUNDS, AND ESTABLISHING THE RATE OF LEVY FOR ALL BOROUGH FUNCTIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2009 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2010.

The following persons spoke in support of increased funding for the School District: Ms. Tracy Magnan, Mr. Steven Impson, Ms. Marne Meier, Mr. Michael Carson, and Ms. Dana Deedy.

The following person spoke in support of full funding for the Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureau: Ms. Karen Harris, President of the Board of Directors, Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The following person spoke in support of full funding for the Animal Care and Regulation Board and in favor of new positions for the Animal Shelter: Mr. John Wood, Chair of the Animal Care and Regulation Board.

The following person spoke regarding increased funding for Lakes Fire Service Area: Mr. Berkely Tilton.

The following person spoke regarding the bed tax grants process: Mr. Dewey Taylor, Parks, Recreation and Advisory Board and Ms. Gini King-Taylor.

The following person spoke in support of full funding for the schools and the libraries: Ms. Jeanne Troshynski.

The following person spoke in favor of funding for the Fire Training Facility on Vine and Knik Goosebay Bay: Mr. Benny Cottle.

*(This special meeting recessed at 7:01 p.m. and reconvened at 7:19 p.m.)*

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 09-009, appropriating monies from the central treasury for the Borough operating funds, enterprise funds, and capital fund and establishing the rate of levy for all Borough functions for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2009, and ending June 30, 2010.

Mr. Duffy advised that Administration will be back on Monday with technical corrections if any are required.

Ms. McKechnie:

- provided a proposed schedule of technical amendments;
- advised that the proposed technical amendments are in packet form in order to make the amendments easier to follow;
- stated that it does not preclude the Assembly from making amendments to something that has already been spoken about; and
- further added that by having the amendments in a packet does not preclude the Assembly from making amendments from the floor.

Assemblymember Bettine:

- queried how the Borough bed tax grants are funded;
- further asked if there was a plan in place if bed tax revenues are less than expected;
- noted that she will be requesting information regarding mill rates for fire service areas, road service areas, and other service areas, in order to determine the difference in revenues from last year to this year; and
- queried if there was a formula in place that is used in determination of how bed tax grants are funded.

Mr. Duffy stated that there is no formula.

Assemblymember Bettine:

- queried what would happen if the Assembly approved the \$730,000 for bed tax grants and then collected inadequate funds;
- noted that there would be no funds for the tourism infrastructure program; and
- stated that the Borough might want to go back to the old formula.

Mr. Duffy:

- spoke to the handout that reflects 10 percent, 15 percent, 20 percent, and 30 percent reduction forecasts for revenue; and
- noted that after the budget is adopted, Administration will bring an ordinance to the Assembly that allocates the funds.

Ms. Clayton added that what is in the budget for the bed tax is a flat amount and can be amended.

Assemblymember Houston:

- stated that he was unaware that there was no formula in place; and
- queried if this is a new issue or part of procedure.

Mr. Duffy:

- advised that there was no formula last year; and
- stated that the Assembly wanted to look at the allocation and review the tourism infrastructure study.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- bed tax formula calculation;
- calculation of road service are funds, fund 265;
- grant matching funds;
- timeline of the Governor Palin's veto for the State budget;
- block grants for the city of Wasilla and the city of Palmer;
- education funding;
- Hatcher Pass sledding hill, Phase I; and
- Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureau roof repairs.

Deputy Mayor Woods queried if there were any amendments by the Assembly at this time.

There were no amendments noted.

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 09-009 to May 11, 2009, at 6 p.m.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

## **VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

The following person spoke in favor of providing Borough advisory boards more time to speak before the Assembly: Mr. John Wood, Chair of the Animal Care and Regulation Board.

## **VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS**

Assemblymember Houston:

- opined that Borough advisory boards should have more time to speak under the audience participation or agency reports portion of the agenda; and
- stated that it is important that Borough advisory boards have a free amount of time to advise the Assembly.

Ms. McKechnie stated that she would review code in order to determine the appropriate way to address Assemblymember Houston's concerns.

Assemblymember Ewing queried if the mill rate had to go before the voters.

Mr. Duffy stated that the only reason that would occur would be if it exceeded the tax cap.

Assemblymember Ewing:

- thanked the public for their input; and
- thanked the Assembly for their hard work on the budget.

Assemblymember Church queried if the salary schedule that was provided would be a part of the budget.

Mr. Duffy affirmed the query.

Assemblymember Church:

- commented on attending the Mat-Su Housing Summit;
- stated that over 600 children within the Borough has been identified as homeless;
- spoke to the need to come up with a solution for affordable housing; and
- opined that Borough staff should be involved with the housing summit.

Assemblymember Wells advised that he is considering accompanying the Manager to Washington, D.C. on May 19.

Assemblymember Bettine:

- thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting;
- spoke to being prepared to move the budget process along in a timely fashion; and
- spoke to her concerns regarding funds that could be coming to the Borough and not having that information during the budget process.

### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting recessed at 8:24 p.m.

  
LYNNE WOODS, Deputy Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: 06/16/09