

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on May 11, 2004, at the Palmer High School Theater, 1170 West Arctic Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Timothy L. Anderson for the purpose of addressing Ordinance Serial No. 04-004, public hearing of the budget.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. J. Bruce Bush, 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
Ms. Betty Vehrs, Assembly District No. 7

Assembly members absent and excused were:

Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6 (Deputy Mayor)

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Sandra A. Dillon, CMC, Borough Clerk
Ms. Michelle M. McGehee, CMC, Incoming Borough Clerk
Mr. John Duffy, Borough Manager
Ms. Teresa S. Williams, Borough Attorney
Mr. Don Sheisl, Public Works Director
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director
Mr. Ron Swanson, Community Development Director
Mr. Dennis Brodigan, Emergency Services Director
Ms. Susan Dickinson, Planning and Land Use Director

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Anderson inquired if there were any changes to the agenda.

GENERAL CONSENT: The agenda was approved as presented.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Amy Spargo, a member of the audience.

V. PUBLIC HEARING *(Continued from 05/06/04)*

- A. Ordinance Serial No. 04-004: 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, 2004, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2005.

The following persons spoke in support of full funding of education: Mr. Steve Unfried, Mr. Dirk Craft, Ms. Novella Harrison, Ms. Janet Standard, Ms. Sharon Hilstrom, Ms. Marilyn Feller, Ms. Janet Hagen, Ms. Kathy Summers, Mr. Logan Michaelson, and Ms. Barbara Morris.

The following person spoke in support of library funding: Ms. Julia Ede.

The following persons spoke in support of full funding of education: Ms. Amy Spargo, Mr. Jon Payne, Ms. Emily Forstner, Mr. Ron Rucker, and Mr. Chris Hagen.

The following person spoke in support of limiting spending and in opposition to funding new Borough positions: Mr. Larry LaGrone.

The following person spoke in support of a mill increase for the Big Lake Fire Service Area: Mr. Bill Gamble.

The following person spoke in support of full funding of education: Mr. Patrick Mayer.

The following person spoke in support of limiting Borough spending: Mr. Doyle Currier.

The following person spoke in support of the office assistant position for the animal care and regulation shelter: Ms. Judith Masteller.

The following person spoke in support of full funding of education and diversification of revenues: Ms. Kris Moore.

The following persons spoke in support of cutting the FY05 budget and limiting spending: Mr. Pio Cottini, Ms. Pia Cottini, and Mr. Bennett Durgeloh.

The following person spoke in support of full funding of education: Mr. Glenn Jacob.

The following person advocated drug testing of teachers: Mr. Clarence Furbush.

The following persons spoke in support of full funding of education: Ms. Beth Whitmore and Ms. Laura Wick.

The following person spoke in support of an increase to the Wasilla-Lakes Fire Service Area mill levy: Mr. Ken Slauson.

The following person spoke in support of library funding and full funding of education: Ms. Jeanne Troshynski.

The following person spoke in support of emergency services funding: Mr. Steve Lopes.

The following persons spoke in support of full funding of education: Ms. Diane Vanhoomissen and Ms. Sharon Johnson.

The following persons spoke in support of funding for emergency services: Mr. Jim Weeks, Ms. Ula Stice, and Mr. Ron Durheim.

(The special meeting recessed at 8:30 p.m. and reconvened at 8:40 p.m.)

The following persons spoke in support of operating within the funding parameters established by the FY04 budget: Mr. Leon King and Mr. Clark Smith.

The following person spoke in support of limiting spending and additional revenue sources generated by economic development: Ms. Annette Harpster.

The following person spoke in support of full funding of education: Mr. Dan Williams.

The following persons spoke in support of funding for emergency services: Amanda Lopes and Andrea Richey.

The following person spoke in support of full funding of education: Ms. Melody Mann.

The following persons spoke in opposition to increasing the mill levy: Mr. Penny Nixon and Mr. John Levan.

The following person spoke in support of full funding of education: Mr. Mark Vinque.

The following person spoke in support of funding additional Borough employees: Ms. Cheyenne Heindel.

The following person spoke in opposition to funding for social groups: Ms. Jay Nolfi.

The following persons spoke in support of full funding of education: Mr. Michael Carson, Ms. Cyd Duffin, Mr. Casey Bowen, and Karl Schlieght.

The following persons spoke in support of funding for emergency services: Mr. Tara Mellon and Mr. Ken Barkley.

There being no others present who wished to testify, Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing.

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke regarding land in private ownership: Mr. Clarence Furbush.

There being no others who wished to speak, Mayor Anderson closed audience participation.

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Duffy:

- stated that the prison bill has passed the Legislature; and
- reported regarding revenue option sources.

Assemblymember Bush:

- spoke to endowments for schools; and
- asked the Manager to schedule a work session to address the subject.

Assemblymember Kvalheim:

- thanked the public for their testimony; and
- voiced support of funding for the Wasilla-Lakes Fire Service Area.

Assemblymember Simpson:

- recognized Senator Green for her efforts in supporting the prison bill;
- spoke to the benefits of having prisoners stay at home near their families;
- updated the members of the Assembly on House Bill 531 regarding coal bed methane; and
- stated that she is looking forward to beginning deliberations on the FY05 budget.

Assemblymember Vehrs:

- spoke in favor of the prison bill;
- thanked Administration for providing information on alternative revenue sources; and
- thanked the public for their testimony.

Mayor Anderson:

- stated that he too appreciated the testimony of the public;
- reminded members of the Assembly to forward any proposed budget amendments to the Clerk;
- commented that he also appreciated the information provided by Administration on alternative revenue sources; and
- asked that the Manager add a 1 percent sales tax to his list of alternative revenue options.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

/S/

TIMOTHY L. ANDERSON, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

/S/

MICHELLE M. MCGEHEE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: June 1, 2004