I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on June 4, 2011, at the Big Lake Library, 3212 South Big Lake Road, Big Lake, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Mayor Larry DeVilbiss for the purpose of holding an Assembly Planning Session.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:
- Mr. Warren Keogh, Assembly District No. 1
- Mr. Noel Woods, Assembly District No. 2
- Mr. Ronald Arvin, Assembly District No. 3
- Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6 *(arrived at10:19 a.m.)*
- Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7
- Ms. Cindy L. Bettine, Assembly District No. 5 *(arrived at 2:42 p.m.)*

Assemblymembers absent and excused were:
- Mr. Mark Ewing, Assembly District No. 4

Staff in attendance were:
- Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk
- Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager
- Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney
- Ms. Cheryl D. Marino, Deputy Borough Clerk

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

GENERAL CONSENT: The agenda was approved without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Assemblymember Ronald Arvin.

V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION: Assemblymember Arvin 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 10:03 a.m.

1. ASSEMBLY PLANNING SESSION – ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES

Ms. Karen Kirk, Synergistic Solutions, facilitated the meeting and the Assembly proceeded to establish priorities.

(The Assembly recessed at 12:33 p.m. and reconvened at 1:15 p.m.)

(Mayor DeVilbiss exited the meeting at 1:22 p.m. and Assemblymember Arvin assumed the duties of the chair.)

(Assemblymember Bettine entered the meeting at 1:42 p.m.)

Deputy Mayor Arvin inquired if there was any objection to exiting the Committee of the Whole.

VOTE: There was no objection noted and the Assembly exited the Committee of the Whole at 3:33 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Arvin inquired if there was objection to adopting the 2011 Assembly priorities as follows:

1st Priority	**Timeline**
• Port Expansion	Active
• Rail Extension	Active
• Bridge	Active
• Ordinance Changes / Regulatory Reform	Next step**:** 07/01/12
2nd Priority	
• Major Land Sale Project	Propose plan by: 01/12
• Road Bonds	Next step: 07/19
• Tourism Infrastructure (private sector jobs)	Active
• Implement Economic Development Plan	Staff prioritize steps: 09/01
3rd Priority	
• Streamline / Re-organize Government	Manager recommend 08/12
• Borough Space	Active
• Review Boards & Commission Status	Mayor will advise

Strong Interest / Continued Focus

- Agricultural Development
- Emergency Services
- Coal Project
- Port Authority (set benchmarks)
- 4 year University

- Public Meeting Process (open to public)
- River Erosion (proactive plan)
- Ferry
- Budget Process
- Hatcher Pass

GENERAL CONSENT: The 2011 priorities were approved without objection.

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person encouraged the Assembly to support the Manager with a flat organization structure, and spoke to the importance of process and workflow, and announced he will be a candidate for the October 2011 regular election: Mr. Steve Colligan.

The following person spoke to running for Assembly District No. 5 and spoke in support of the Assembly's 2011 set priorities: Mr. Bill Kramer.

The following person applauded the format of the meeting and the expectations the Assembly has set for staff to consider Borough growth, new orientation of the newly elected Assembly and knowledge of Borough code, and Borough growth: Ms. Patty Rosnell.

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie:

- stated that she would like to schedule an annual evaluation for herself;
- stated that at the end of the regular meeting in July could be scheduled without scheduling a new meeting; and
- queried if that is something the Assembly would like to do.

There was no objection noted.

Mr. Spiropoulos:

- stated that a lot of the priorities the Assembly has established will require ordinance changes;
- invited the Assembly to come by his office should they want to discuss changes to the code;
- noted that it helps the Law Department to know the priorities of the Assembly; and
- opined it was a good meeting.

Mr. Moosey;

- stated that he appreciates the direction and information that he has received today;
- opined that the timing of the planning session was appropriate;
- noted that he will provide a lot of feedback to the Assembly in order to keep them apprised of how things are progressing;
- requested permission to speak directly to the members on special interests projects when that might be appropriate; and
- opined that this might help to fill the information gap.

Assemblymember Arvin:

- noted that he feels free to approach the Manager on an individual basis;
- related that he has never provided direction on only his opinion;
- stated that he does not have an issue with members speaking to the Manager about special interests; and
- opined that if a member was approaching the Manager and demanding things be done, that this could be a potential problem.

Mr. Moosey:

- stated that should this type of situation arise, that he would handle it diplomatically; and
- noted that he works for the body and not individual members.

Assemblymember Colver:

- opined that in the past there has been no staff to champion a particular member's cause;
- spoke to the help he does receive from the Clerk's Office and the Law Department;
- spoke to the difficulty of moving from task to task within different departments;
- opined that the Assembly should be letting the Manager know when there is a perceived problem;
- opined that a flat organizational structure would serve the Borough well; and
- stated that the Assembly needs to narrow their focus in order to achieve goals.

Assemblymember Keogh:

- opined it was a good meeting;
- stated that he is satisfied with the outcome;
- spoke to attending a meeting on Elmendorf Air Force Base regarding the proposed military air space expansion;
- noted that the meeting was an outreach attempt in order to receive more public input;
- spoke to the wide representation of people from within the Borough, particularly from the Lake Louise area;
- opined that at the meeting there was more military present than general public;
- related that as he understands it, the military intends to go forward with the expansion with some limitations on their proposal;
- opined that unless the congressional delegation weighs in, that once the draft environmental impact study (EIS) is done, that the military will continue to try and expand the area into Talkeetna/Denali area; and
- related that the draft EIS is many months from being completed.

Assemblymember Woods stated it was a productive meeting.

Assemblymember Halter;

- opined that the land sale project would be a major project; and
- encouraged the Assembly to actively engage their constituents in that process from the beginning.

Assemblymember Colver:

- thanked Ms. Kirk for facilitating the planning session; and
- thanked Ms. Marino for her service to the Borough as Deputy Clerk.

Assemblymember Bettine:

- stated that she is unsure of the details of the legislation regarding the military air space expansion that the Assembly previously adopted;
- requested that Mr. Moosey be updated on that subject;
- opined that perhaps the Assembly should send additional comments acknowledging the most recent meeting conducted by the Military;
- requested an update as to the status on the expansion and the best way the Assembly can provide input;
- spoke to the facilities guide that the Borough has and noted that the document has gone through the Borough Area Schools Site Selection Committee;
- spoke to the need to properly research land sales before they occur;
- stated that she is hopeful that other members of the Assembly will attend the Jay Nolfi park dedication at Fish Creek Park today;
- thanked everyone for coming to Big Lake and noted that this will be her last Planning Session;
- spoke to the special Port Commission meeting scheduled for Monday; and
- stated that she is looking forward to the flat organizational structure.

Assemblymember Arvin queried when the code changes proposed by Assemblymember Colver would be coming before the Assembly.

Assemblymember Colver advised that they would appear on the next agenda under referrals.

Assemblymember Halter:

- noted that he would like to move forward with changes to MSB Title 5;
- opined that it should be structured in order to make it difficult to get out of a service area, but easy to get in; and
- spoke to concerns with former employees who retire and having the ability to come back as a contractor.

Mr. Spiropoulos stated that he would research that issue and get back to him

(Mayor DeVilbiss re-entered the meeting at 3:05 p.m. and resumed the duties of the chair.)

Assemblymember Arvin:

- spoke to his attendance at public meetings;
- opined that the tenure at the table is refreshing;
- spoke to hearing condescending comments amongst the Assembly at previous meetings;
- related that it is important for the body to remain respectful to each other;

- opined it was a good meeting and he was glad to attend in person; and
- related that he would be out of the country for the next June meeting, but would attend telephonically.

Mayor DeVilbiss shared a truism that leaders do right things and that managers do things right.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

LARRY DeVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: 07/19/11