

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on August 1, 2013, at the Palmer City Council Chambers, 231 West Evergreen, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Larry DeVilbiss for the purpose of introducing Ordinance Serial No. 13-108.

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 (*Deputy Mayor*)
Mr. Steve Colligan, Assembly District No. 4
Mr. Darcie K. Salmon, Assembly District No. 5 (*entered telephonically at 6:03 p.m.*)
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6
Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7 (*attended telephonically*)

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Jamie Newman, Deputy Borough Clerk
Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager
Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney
Ms. Brenda J. Henry, Assistant Clerk

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Assemblymember Colver requested to take up audience participation prior to introductions.

Mayor DeVilbiss queried if there was any objection.

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

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Bill Cornthwaite, a member of the audience.

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following persons spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 13-108: Ms. Barbara Gerard; Mr. Chris Whittington-Evans, Fronteras Charter School Board Chair; Ms. Raeanne Stephens; Ms. Amber Rinella; Miss MyKennan Rinella; Ms. Jennifer Renee; and Ms. Jennifer Schmidt, Fronteras Charter School Principal.

The following person spoke to concerns with Ordinance Serial No. 13-108: Ms. Susan Pougher.

V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For public hearing – 08/07/13, Palmer City Council Chambers - 231 W. Evergreen Avenue)

1. Ordinance Serial No. 13-108: An Ordinance Authorizing The Matanuska-Susitna Borough To Issue Areawide General Obligation Bonds, In One Or More Series, In The Aggregate Principal Amount Of Not To Exceed \$15,000,000, To Finance The Acquisition, Design, Construction, Major Renovation, and Renewal Of Educational Capital Improvement Projects And Related Capital Improvements In The Borough, And To Submit The Question Of The Issuance Of Such Bonds To The Qualified Voters Of The Borough At The October 1, 2013, Borough Regular Election. (Sponsored by Assemblymember Colver and Halter)
 - a. IM No. 13-193

MOTION: Assemblymember Colver moved to introduce Ordinance Serial No. 13-108 and set the public hearing for August 7, 2013.

Assemblymember Colver:

- recognized that in 2011, the School District had stated that they would not seek additional bonding for five years;
- opined that at that time, there was a lot of confusion as to what projects would be included in the bonding;
- stated that he did not support the bond because it did not include charter schools, which is a problem;
- spoke to issues that charter schools have faced;
- noted that staff and parents at Fronteras Charter School are frustrated with an inadequate facility; and
- requested that the public be given the opportunity to weigh in on the legislation.

Assemblymember Keogh:

- stated that he has no doubt that Fronteras is a good school that is in need of a better facility; and
- spoke to concerns that the legislation was not brought up sooner.

Assemblymember Salmon spoke to concerns with debating the legislation when the motion is to introduce it or not.

Assemblymember Keogh spoke in opposition to introducing the legislation.

Assemblymember Arvin spoke in support of introducing the legislation.

Assemblymember Woods spoke in opposition to introducing the legislation.

VOTE: The motion passed with Assemblymembers Keogh and Woods opposed.

(Assemblymember Halter dropped off the conference line due to technical difficulties.)

Mayor DeVilbiss vetoed the introduction of Ordinance Serial No. 13-108.

Mr. Spiropoulos advised that in order for the veto to be effective, it needs to be put in writing in accordance with code.

(The Assembly took a brief at ease while Mayor DeVilbiss wrote down his veto.)

(Assemblymember Halter re-entered the meeting telephonically.)

Assemblymember Colligan:

- stated that he would not override the veto;
- noted that he was looking forward to the public weighing in on the issue;
- spoke in support of Fronteras Charter School; and
- stated that he would like to keep the promise to the voters to not ask for more bond money.

Assemblymember Arvin:

- spoke to Spanish being a great second language to learn;
- opined that the Assembly has an obligation to support the legislation;
- noted that it should be up to the public to make the decision;
- commented that although there was the promise to the voters to not bond for five years, sometimes circumstances change; and
- opined that other issues in Juneau would not be compromised if the voters are in support of the bond.

Assemblymember Keogh:

- spoke to concerns with breaking the five year promise;
- stated that he is opposed to the legislation because it has not been before the School Board;
- noted that the issue is not whether Fronteras is a good school or if they need a new facility; and
- spoke to the value of learning foreign languages.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colver moved to override the mayoral veto of the introduction of Ordinance Serial No. 13-108.

VOTE: The motion to override failed with Assemblymembers Arvin, Salmon, and Colver in support (requires five votes).

VIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos advised that an executive session and a public discussion had been added to the August 7, 2013, special meeting agenda for the purpose of discussing options and liabilities for the ferry.

Ms. Newman:

- advised that the deadline for candidates to withdraw their candidacy is August 2, 2013; and
- stated that today there were two candidates that withdrew from the race for District No. 1.

Assemblymember Salmon spoke to his pleasure of the veto not being overridden as he was originally unsure of what his decision would be.

Assemblymember Arvin requested that the motion to enter into executive session on August 7, 2013, include Ms. Clayton.

Assemblymember Colver:

- thanked Ms. Clayton and the Clerk's Office for their hard work in quickly putting together the legislation;
- thanked the public for providing testimony; and
- spoke to the need for Fronteras to no longer have a lease.

Mayor DeVilbiss:


- apologized for vetoing the introduction of the legislation;
- stated that he only did so because it is important to him to keep his campaign promise; and
- spoke to his support of charter schools.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 7: 45 p.m.


LARRY DEVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 08/20/13