

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on August 5, 2014, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. by Mayor Larry DeVilbiss for the purpose of discussing Borough priorities.

**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 (*arrived at 4:37 p.m.*)  
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6 (*arrived at 5:15 p.m.*)  
Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk  
Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney  
Ms. Brenda J. Henry, Assistant Clerk  
Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager  
Mr. George Hays, Assistant Borough Manager  
Mr. Mike Brown, Capital Projects Director  
Mr. Brad Sworts, Transportation and Environmental Manager  
Mr. Dennis Brodigan, Emergency Medical Services Director  
Ms. Sara Jansen, Planner II  
Ms. Ali Little, Executive Assistant to the Borough Manager  
Mr. Eric Phillips, Community Development Director  
Mr. Marc VanDongen, Port Director  
Mr. Hugh Leslie, Recreation and Library Services Manager  
Mr. Carl Hereford, Acting Information and Technology Director  
Ms. Patty Sullivan, Public Affairs Director

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Assemblymember Sykes requested to take up audience participation prior to items of business.

Mayor DeVilbiss queried if there was any objection.

There was no objection noted.

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

#### **IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Marc VanDongen, Port Director.

#### **VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

The following person spoke to concerns that there were no more copies of the draft legislation regarding the Borough priorities available for the public: Mr. Eugene Haberman.

#### **V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

##### **1. Borough Priorities**

The following possible Borough State Legislative Priorities for 2015 were discussed:

- Port MacKenzie Rail Extension - \$16,000,000;
- MSB School Access Transportation Bond (2013) - \$14,400,000;
- Port MacKenzie Dock Pile Protection and Impress System - \$3,000,000;
- Seward Meridian Parkway Extension North, Phase II (Palmer/Wasilla Highway to Seldon Road) - \$30,000,000;
- Interchange for Port MacKenzie Access - \$5,000,000;
- MSB Septage and Leachate Facility, Phase I - \$2,200,000;
- Fish Protection - \$2,000,000;
- Consolidated Fleet Services Complex - \$10,000,000;
- MSB Substandard Road and Bridge Improvements - \$6,000,000;
- South Gateway Visitor Center - \$5,000,000;
- Government Peak Recreation Area - \$6,650,000;
- South Denali Gateway Visitor Center - \$28,000,000;
- Emergency Operations Center - \$5,000,000;
- Brett Memorial Ice Arena Renovations - \$3,500,000;
- Palmer and Wasilla Swimming Pool Renovations - \$12,000,000;
- Museum Drive Extension (Parks Highway Connector) - \$4,000,000;
- Parks Highway Wasilla Alternative Corridor – Advance Right-of-way Acquisition - \$10,000,000;
- West Susitna Parkway to Little Susitna (Roads to Resources) - \$2,000,000;
- Alsop Road Upgrade - \$2,750,000;
- Little Susitna River Bridge - \$2,500,000; and
- Replacement Share-A-Ride Vans for Mat-Su – (\$57,000 per van) - \$515,000.

MOTION: Assemblymember Beck moved to suspend the rules to reopen audience participation.

VOTE: The motion passed with Assemblymember Salmon opposed.

The following person spoke in support of the Assembly discussing broader priorities that impact the Borough: Ms. Patricia Rosnel.

The following persons spoke to the need for a regional septage and wastewater facility: Ms. Helen Munoz and Mr. Jim Chesbro.

## VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Sykes:


- spoke to the need to conduct a work session regarding broader priorities of the Borough;
- noted the need to address flooding concerns within the Borough;
- opined that a discussion needs to occur regarding risk assessment; and
- stated that he would like to know how property taxes impact the cost of services.

Assemblymember Arvin:

- spoke to concerns with the Parks Highway alternative corridor possibly diverting traffic past services within the Borough; and
- opined that more funds need to be dedicated to fish protection.

## VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

  
LARRY DEVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 08/26/14