

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on August 11, 2011, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Presiding Officer Colver for the purpose of discussing the Mayoral veto of Ordinance Serial No. 11-084.

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*) (*attended telephonically*)
Mr. Mark Ewing, Assembly District No. 4 (*attended telephonically*)
Ms. Cindy L. Bettine, Assembly District No. 5
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6 (*Presiding Officer*)
Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk
Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager
Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney
Ms. Brenda J. Henry, Executive Assistant to the Borough Clerk
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director (*attended telephonically*)
Mr. Brad Sworts, Transportation and Environmental Manager

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Presiding Officer Colver inquired if there were any changes to the agenda.

Ms. McKechnie advised that the Assembly had already taken action on Ordinance Serial Nos. 11-085 and 11-085(SUB) and that they could be pulled from the agenda under unfinished business.

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

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Chris Gates, a member of the audience.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS *(The Assembly may have discussed the items listed below at the special meeting on August 9, 2011, and may have already taken action.)*

~~A. Ordinance Serial No. 11-085: 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 \$214,195,000, 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 4, 2011, BOROUGH REGULAR ELECTION.~~

~~(1) Ordinance Serial No. 11-085 (SUB): 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 \$75,455,000, 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 4, 2011, BOROUGH REGULAR ELECTION. *(Sponsored by Assemblymember Colver)*~~

~~(a) IM No. 11-147~~

~~(b) IM No. 11-165~~

~~B. Ordinance Serial No. 11-084: AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE CONSTRUCTION, ADDITIONS, IMPROVEMENTS, BETTERMENTS, REPAIR, RECONSTRUCTION, OR ACQUISITION OF PUBLIC ROADS AND FACILITIES RELATED THERETO IN THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH, TOGETHER WITH ALL NECESSARY EQUIPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES, AND THE ACQUISITION OF LANDS OR RIGHTS IN LANDS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, AND A DEBT OF THE BOROUGH, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF AREAWIDE GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE BOROUGH IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED THE SUM OF THIRTY TWO MILLION DOLLARS (\$32,000,000) \$25,250,000 TO FINANCE THE COST, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, OF SUCH PUBLIC ROADS, FACILITIES AND LANDS, AND PROVIDING FOR THE SUBMISSION TO THE VOTERS OF THE BOROUGH OF A PROPOSITION RATIFYING THE AUTHORIZATION OF SUCH BONDS AT THE OCTOBER 4, 2011, REGULAR BOROUGH ELECTION.~~

~~(1) IM No. 11-146~~

[Clerk's note: Ordinance Serial No. 11-085(SUB) was defeated unanimously on August 9, 2011. Ordinance Serial Nos. 11-084 and 11-085 were amended and adopted on August 9, 2011.]

VI. VETO

- A. MOTION TO OVERRIDE ANY POSSIBLE MAYORAL VETO ON PROPOSITION LEGISLATION FOR THE OCTOBER 2011 ELECTION (*Ordinance Serial No. 11-081, Ordinance Serial No. 11-083, Resolution Serial No. 11-087, Ordinance Serial No. 11-084, Ordinance Serial Nos. 11-085 and 11-085(SUB), Ordinance Serial No. 11-097, and Ordinance Serial No. 11-099*)

[Clerk's note: Mayoral Veto was filed on Ordinance Serial No. 11-084 on August 11, 2011.]

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved to override the mayoral veto of Ordinance Serial No. 11-084.

Assemblymember Bettine requested unanimous support of the override.

MOTION: Assemblymember Arvin called for the question (to stop debate).

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

VOTE: The motion to override the mayoral veto passed with Assemblymember Woods and Ewing opposed.

(Assemblymember Ewing exited the meeting at 6:11 p.m.)

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person thanked the Assembly for overriding the mayoral veto: Ms. Britt Lively.

The following person spoke to concerns with road service areas: Mr. Chris Gates.

VIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Presiding Officer Colver:

- noted for the record that the override of the mayoral veto was on Ordinance Serial No. 11-084, transportation bonds; and
- stated that if the Assembly had not taken action today, that the proposition could not be placed on the ballot due to the Department of Justice requirements.

Assemblymember Keogh:

- noted that he was prepared to debate extensively on the override;
- stated that he agrees with certain arguments that the Mayor made regarding the size of the road bond package;
- noted that he is hopeful that when the body goes through this process again, that it will be in a better more methodical way;

- opined that the Assembly could do a much better job; and
- stated that he will be speaking to community councils and road service areas in order to establish the needs in his district for next year.

Assembly Arvin:

- opined that paved pathways is a huge benefit in assisting with dust control;
- noted that the more traffic that can be moved on trails, be it foot, bike or motorized, helps to alleviate traffic congestion on the main corridors;
- spoke to the large volume of traffic that Borough roads currently have;
- noted that because of that, it is a safety issue;
- opined that the road bond package should have been larger, as it is a core function of Government to provide infrastructure; and
- stated that he will lobby on behalf of the package to voters he comes in contact with.

Assemblymember Halter:

- noted his agreement that paved pathways assist in dust control;
- stated that he does not know why the Mayor had a problem with paved trails;
- opined that the size of the bond is not that important, but that the content is; and
- noted that if the bond should pass, that it will create jobs and stimulate the local economy.

Assemblymember Bettine:

- noted that she is always in favor of paved pathways;
- stated that she had shared with a voter that the veto was because of paved pathways;
- related that the voter had opined that paved pathways are the best local park, as they require little care;
- noted that paved pathways are always used by the community;
- related that she sees organizations and corporations installing more bike racks in their parking lots;
- opined that the Assembly may need to form a working group;
- related a story about a woman who was hit and killed on Seward-Meridian years ago, because there are no pathways and she was walking on the road; and
- spoke to other unfortunate accidents that she opined would not have happened if there were pathways to be used rather than the road.

Assemblymember Colver:

- noted that the process the Assembly uses to put together road bond packages obviously is not perfect;
- opined that it is not appropriate for the Assembly to be addressing ballot proposition so close to election deadlines;
- stated that the number one issue in his district is the Seldon and Lucille intersection;
- noted that overall, the Borough has many substandard roads on which excessive speed often occurs;
- noted that federal funding is becoming less and less;
- opined that the projects in the road bond package will be major economic benefits;
- thanked everyone that came to the meeting;

- stated that the although the Assembly has many differing opinions, that they need to come together; and
- opined that it seems like they are spending a lot of time with little results.

Mr. Spiropoulos:

- advised that the city of Palmer filed a motion seeking to bring the Borough into a case;
- related that the city of Palmer was sued over flooding of a road onto someone's property;
- noted that the City's defense is that they acquired the road from the Borough, so if something is wrong with it, that it was that way prior to the acquisition; and
- stated that he was aware of the lawsuit.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 6:26 p.m.


LARRY DEVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: 09/06/11