

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on August 12, 2014, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Deputy Mayor Ron Arvin for the purpose of discussing the M/V Susitna. (Mayor DeVilbiss attended telephonically.)

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 6:06 p.m.*)
- Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6 (*attended telephonically*)
- Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

- Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk
- Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney
- Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager
- Mr. George Hays, Assistant Borough Manager
- Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director
- Mr. Marc VanDongen, Port Director
- Ms. Patty Sullivan, Public Affairs Director

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

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

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Garvin Bucaria, a member of the audience.

V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. EXECUTIVE SESSION (*For Matters, Which The Immediate Public Knowledge Of Which Would Clearly Have An Adverse Effect Upon The Finances Of The Borough; And Matters Which By Law, Municipal Charter, Or Ordinance Are Required To Be Kept Confidential; And Discussion Of Matters Subject To The Attorney Client Privilege.*)

1. Legal and Financial Impacts Of Various Administrative Responses To The Letter Received From The Federal Transit Authority Regarding the M/V Susitna

MOTION: Assemblymember Halter moved to enter into executive session for matters, which the immediate public knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough; and matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be kept confidential; and discussion of matters subject to attorney client privilege. In particular, to discuss the legal and financial impacts of various administrative responses to the letter received from the Federal Transit Authority regarding the M/V Susitna. Those present during the executive session were the Mayor, the members of the Assembly, the Attorney, the Clerk, the Finance Director, and the Port Director.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection and the Assembly entered into executive session at 6:06 p.m.

MOTION: Assemblymember Halter moved to exit executive session.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection and the Assembly exited executive session at 6:52 p.m.

B. M/V Susitna Discussion and Provide Direction To The Manager

(There was no discussion or direction provided.)

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke to concerns with expenses associated with the M/V Susitna: Mr. Garvin Bucaria.

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie:

- advised that the discussion was to continue this meeting to a time certain of August 21, 2014; and
- queried what time the body would like the meeting to begin.

Assemblymember Colver suggested 3 p.m.

Deputy Mayor Arvin queried if there was any objection.

There was no objection noted.

Deputy Mayor Arvin:

- spoke to the demand letter from the Federal Transit Authority (FTA);
- noted that there are several potential responses as a solution to that;
- stated that more information is required from staff before a final decision can be made; and
- advised that will be the basis of the meeting on August 21.

Assemblymember Sykes:

- opined that the public should be able to know the potential liability of the M/V Susitna;
- spoke to the content of the letter from the FTA;
- opined how the debt is paid to the FTA should be public information; and
- requested staff bring that information forward at the next meeting.

Assemblymember Halter:

- spoke to his skepticism of the ferry performing when he was first elected to the Assembly;
- opined that it is not able to perform due to the lack of the ability to construct ferry landings on either side of the inlet;
- noted that more information is needed before a course of action can be taken; and
- spoke to the ferry terminal being a positive thing to come out of the situation.

Assemblymember Beck:

- opined that the issue before the body has been coming for some time; and
- thanked the public for providing testimony this evening.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was continued to a time certain of August 21, 2014, at 3 p.m.



LARRY DeVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 08/26/14