

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on September 9, 2014, at the Borough Assembly Chamber, 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 conducting a joint Assembly/School Board meeting.

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 4 (*arrived at 6:08 p.m.*)
Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7

Assembly members absent and excused were:

Mr. Darcie K. Salmon, Assembly District No. 5
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6

School Board members present and establishing a quorum were:

Deborah Retherford, Seat A
Sarah Welton, Seat B
Ole Larson, Seat D
Tiffany Scott, Seat E
Dr. Donna Dearman, Seat F
Ray Michaelson, Seat G

School Board members absent and excused were:

Susan Pougher, Seat C, President

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Jamie Newman, Deputy Borough Clerk
Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager
Mr. George Hays, Assistant Borough Manager
Ms. Shannon Bodolay, Assistant Borough Attorney
Ms. Brenda J. Henry, Assistant Clerk
Ms. Tammy Clayton, Finance Director
Mr. Michael Brown, Capital Projects Director

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Deputy Mayor Arvin 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. John Moosey, Borough Manger.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person opined that the Borough should not schedule meetings on the same days that the cities of Houston, Palmer, and Wasilla have meetings scheduled: Mr. Eugene Haberman.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Building Construction Progress and Review Capital Construction Plan *[per MSB 2.12.075(A)]*

Mr. Mike Brown, Capital Projects Director, provided a presentation regarding building construction progress.

(Mayor DeVilbiss entered the meeting at 6:14 p.m. and assumed the duties of the chair.)

B. Iditarod Elementary School Building *(Requested by the School District)*

Dr. Deena Paramo, Superintendent:

- spoke to possible uses of the old Iditarod Elementary School; and
- noted a few charter schools have expressed interest in acquiring the space.

(Assemblymember Beck exited the meeting at 6:54 p.m.)

VII. SCHOOL BOARD, MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

School Board Member Larson:

- spoke to his appreciation of joint Assembly/School Board meetings;
- spoke to his appreciation of bond project updates as the information is very helpful when answering questions from the public; and
- stated that the School Board will work hard to determine the best use of the old Iditarod Elementary.

School Board Member Retherford:

- spoke to concerns with France Road access issues; and
- spoke in support of promoting Phase II of the Seward Meridian to Seldon Road project during the upcoming legislative session.

School Board Member Welton:

- thanked the body for the opportunity to conduct joint meetings;
- spoke in support of efforts that are being made to keep communities safe;
- summarized her history of public service;
- stated that the school year is progressing well; and
- noted some of the schools that she has visited this year.

School Board Member Scott:

- noted that she appreciates the exchange of information during joint meetings; and
- spoke in support of the unified approach to promoting projects jointly to the State Legislature.

School Board Member Dearman spoke to her appreciation of joint meetings and the collaboration that occurs.

School Board Member Michaelson spoke to his appreciation of bond project updates.

Assemblymember Sykes:

- thanked the body for a good meeting;
- spoke to his appreciation for the building construction progress;
- wished School District staff and students a wonderful year;
- spoke to having attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Sutton bike path; and
- wished the body a good autumn.

Assemblymember Arvin:

- thanked Dr. Paramo and the School Board for being the model for delivering public education; and
- spoke to the population growth in the Borough.

Assemblymember Colligan:

- thanked the body for the meeting;
- noted that he was late to the meeting due to an accident;
- opined that it will be a tough budget year;
- stated that he is looking forward to budget discussions with the School District; and
- spoke to his concerns with the upgrade costs to the old Iditarod Elementary School that could potentially be passed on to a new owner.

Assemblymember Halter:

- noted the large number of projects that are being constructed within the Borough; and
- thanked staff for their hard work.

Mayor DeVilbiss:

- apologized for arriving late to the meeting;
- spoke to mailboxes on Clark-Wolverine Road that were destroyed by First Student last winter; and
- expressed concerns with the lack of response from First Student to the mailbox owners.

Dr. Paramo advised that the issue had been taken care of.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.



LARRY DeVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 10/21/14