

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on September 27, 2010, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. by Deputy Mayor Lynne Woods for the purpose of discussing Ordinance Serial No. 10-089 and reviewing applications for the position of Borough Manager.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Ms. Lynne Woods, Assembly District No. 1 (*Deputy Mayor*)
Mr. Pete Houston, Assembly District No. 2
Mr. Ron Arvin, Assembly District No. 3
Ms. Cindy L. Bettine, Assembly District No. 5
Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6 (*arrived at 4:27 p.m.*)

Assembly members absent and excused:

Mr. Mark Ewing, Assembly District No. 4

Borough staff in attendance were:

Ms. Elizabeth Gray, Acting Borough Manager
Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney
Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk
Ms. Brenda J. Henry, Executive Assistant to the Borough Clerk
Ms. Sonya Conant, Human Resources Director
Ms. Christine Nelson, Planning Director
Ms. Frankie Barker, Environmental Planner II

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Deputy Mayor Woods 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 Ms. Frankie Barker, Environmental Planner II.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Ordinance Serial No. 10-089: AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE MATANUSKA RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN 2010 AND AMENDING MSB 15.24.030, COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND PURPOSES.

1. IM No. 10-148

MOTION PENDING: Assemblymember Woods moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 10-089.

Assemblymember Woods:

- spoke to the reasons the legislation was postponed; and
- noted the memorandum containing staff's suggested amendments.

MOTION: Assemblymember Woods moved a primary amendment to the Matanuska River Plan as follows:

- page 25, 2.8, Land Use: strike "The area downriver remains primary residential, with some framing" and insert in its place "The area downriver includes the Butte community, which has extensive residential development, commercial businesses, public infrastructure, and active farms;"
- page 26, 3.1.1, Structural Options, Bank Stabilization and Protection: by inserting at the end of paragraph four "Strengthening and extending bank protection can have broader community benefits of preventing flood damage for areas downstream beyond the river's edge such as the Butte community;"
- page 28, Relocation: by inserting at the end of the paragraph "Relocation does not resolve ongoing erosion problems that may affect downstream communities;"
- page 28, Regulatory Options: by inserting at the end of the second paragraph "Regulations for development along the river do not necessarily resolve regional flooding hazards;"
- page 35, 4.1.2, Erosion-Specific Considerations, Disaster Policy: by inserting at the end of the paragraph "Disaster determination is made by the state based on circumstances of each event;"
- page 43, 4.23, Buy-out: by inserting at the end of the paragraph: "Properties to be bought out would be determined by buy-out program criteria;" and
- page 51, 3.2, under the column Implementation Responsibility, insert "state of Alaska."

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

Assemblymember Arvin:

- spoke to a presentation regarding the Matanuska River that was previously provided to the Assembly;
- stated that he had concerns with people being able to purchase property that is located in the former riverbed;
- further added that he had concerns that adopting this plan may cause the need to create other plans for natural disaster areas within the Borough; and
- stated that he is unsure where the line should be drawn for making plans to address natural disasters.

Assemblymember Houston:

- stated that he is in favor of conducting discussion to address those types of concerns; and
- noted that they may disagree but that the discussion could be beneficial to the public.

Assemblymember Woods:

- stated that the Alaska Real Estate Commission has been asked to note properties that may be in risk areas;
- spoke to concerns of the public when discussion occurred about the possibility of limiting building within 1,000 feet of the river; and
- opined that when building permits are purchased, it might be beneficial if risk area information is available.

Assemblymember Arvin:

- stated that the plan is only advice; and
- opined that it would be appropriate to have a mechanism to notify people that are in a bad location.

VOTE: The main motion passed as amended without objection.

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION: *(for subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person provided the person may request a public discussion.)*

A. FILLING THE VACANCY OF THE BOROUGH MANAGER: REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS, DISCUSSION OF QUALIFICATIONS AND INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved to enter into executive session for subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. Specifically, to discuss filling the vacancy of the Borough Manager, review of the applications who scored over a six on the Summary of Candidates and Scoring, discussion of qualifications, and interview questions. Those present during executive session were the members of the Assembly, the Acting Manager, the Attorney, the Clerk, and the Human Resources Manager.

Mr. Spiropoulos advised that all candidates have been notified of the executive session.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection and the Assembly moved into executive session at 4:23 p.m.

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved to exit executive session.

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

Deputy Mayor Woods inquired if there was any objection to interviewing the following candidates for manager:

- James Wilson;
- Melinda Carlton;
- Don Baird;
- Gary Adams;
- Phillip Oates;
- Robert Reardon;
- Eric Stahl;
- Charles Whiting;
- Martin Moore;
- Gregory Young; and
- Desi Mayo.

There was no objection noted.

Deputy Mayor Woods inquired if there was any objection to setting up video teleconferencing to conduct interviews on October 11, 2010, at 9 a.m.

There was no objection noted.

(The special meeting recessed at 6:08 p.m. and reconvened at 6:13 p.m.)

Assemblymember Bettine:

- directed Ms. Gray to put out a press release as soon as possible regarding the candidates who have been selected;
- stated that the public deserves to know what the Assembly is doing regarding hiring a manager;
- directed that the language should state that there are 11 qualified candidates;
- added that interviews will begin on October 11, 2010, at 9 a.m.;
- requested that the total number of applicants who had applied be included;
- noted that this is the third meeting the Assembly has conducted regarding the manager vacancy; and
- stated that the list will be further reduced to the top three applicants.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- content of the press release; and
- process of moving forward with hiring a manager.

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved to send the remaining applicants that are not being interviewed a letter thanking them for applying.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

(There was no one present who wished to testify.)

VIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos:

- spoke to a suit against the Borough that is covered by insurance;
- provided a summary of the case;
- stated that there is mediation scheduled for October 25, 2010;
- stated that he will need an executive session with the Assembly; and
- further added that he will request the Clerk to put the executive session on the agenda.

Discussion ensued regarding the law suit.

Ms. Gray:

- spoke to a meeting with Mayor Sullivan of the Municipality of Anchorage;
- advised that they discussed several issues regarding the Port;
- stated that the meeting was good in that it opened up dialogue;
- stated that she attended a meeting with Tyonek;
- noted that they are very enthused about the ferry;
- stated that they are moving forward with projects, and have expressed a need to use the ferry;
- related that routes have been discussed from Tyonek to Kenai to Port MacKenzie; and
- stated that staff is looking into funding for the ferry landing at Port MacKenzie.

Deputy Mayor Woods:

- spoke to attending a meeting at the Governor Parnell's office;
- stated that it was well attended and discussion was good regarding projects for the capital budget;
- stated that the video regarding the rail extension was discussed; and
- related that the Borough wants Governor Parnell's office to know that funds would be used immediately and the project could be finished quickly and efficiently.

(Assemblymember Bettine exited the meeting at 6:37 p.m.)

Assemblymember Arvin queried if it was possible to sell the ferry.

Ms. Gray:

- stated that option has not been discussed; and
 - related that numerous grant funds would have to be repaid should it be sold.
- Assemblymember Arvin queried if there was a list of consultants regarding procurement procedures.

Ms. Gray:

- stated that there is a preliminary list, but she is not sure if it is comprehensive; and
- advised that she also has information regarding how wildfire mitigation funds have been spent that she will provide to the Assembly.

Assemblymember Arvin requested a list of who the consultants are, what they are doing, and how much they are being paid.

Assemblymember Halter queried how the vacancy for Chief Animal Control and Regulation Officer is proceeding.

Ms. Gray stated that the position has been advertised.

Assemblymember Houston opined that the Borough should focus on communities that want to have a ferry landing.

Assemblymember Colver thanked Deputy Mayor Woods for her years of service.

Deputy Mayor Woods:

- stated that she has a couple of projects that she is still working on; and
- noted that the public process is designed to be slow.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.


RONALD ARVIN, Deputy Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: 11/02/10