

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on October 11, 2010, at the Mat-Su Career and Technical High School, 2742 N. Seward Meridian Parkway, Wasilla, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by Deputy Mayor Lynne Woods for the purpose of discussing filling the vacancy of the 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
Ms. Cindy L. Bettine, Assembly District No. 5
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6 (*attended telephonically*)
Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7

Assembly members absent and excused were:

Mr. Ronald Arvin, Assembly District No. 3
Mr. Mark Ewing, Assembly District No. 4

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk
Ms. Elizabeth Gray, Acting Borough Manager
Mr. John Aschenbrenner, Deputy Borough Attorney
Ms. Sonya Conant, Human Resources Manager

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. McKechnie, Borough Clerk.

V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. INTERVIEWS FOR THE BOROUGH MANAGER POSITION

The Assembly conducted the following interviews:

- Ms. Melinda Carlton;
- Mr. Eric Strahl;
- Mr. James Wilson;
- Mr. Don Baird;
- Mr. Gary Adams; and
- Mr. Phillip Oates.

(The special meeting recessed at 1 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.)

The Assembly conducted the following interviews:

- Mr. Charles Whiting;
- Mr. Martin Moore;
- Mr. Gregory Young; and
- Mr. Desmond Mayo.

B. INTRODUCTIONS (For public hearing – 11/16/10, 7 p.m., Borough Assembly Chambers)

1. Resolution Serial No. 10-081: A RESOLUTION NAMING THE LAKE LOUISE WARM STORAGE FACILITY THE MATTHEWS PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING.
 - a. IM No. 10-168

Ms. McKechnie read the above legislation into the record.

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and set the public hearings for November 16, 2010.

VOTE: The motion passed 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 CANDIDATES, CANDIDATES 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 candidates for manager, candidate 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.

Assemblymember Colver stated that he is not comfortable moving forward with selecting candidates for the next round of interviews without the newly elected members being included.

Assemblymember Bettine:

- stated that she is not interested in making a short list at this time;
- noted that the applicants were told that a decision would not be made until Wednesday; and
- opined that it is appropriate to move forward with discussing qualifications of the applicants.

Assemblymember Houston:

- opined that the short list has partially been worked on based on current Assembly scoring; and
- further opined that it is appropriate to move forward.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colver moved a primary amendment to make the purpose of the executive session to develop the message that will be disseminated to the persons that were interviewed today.

Mr. Spiropoulos:

- stated that by State law, there are only a couple of reasons the Assembly may go into executive session;
- stated that one of them is discuss a personal characteristics of an employee to be hired, further interviewed or not as the process moves along;
- stated that professional qualifications can also be discussed;
- stated that if the Assembly would only be developing a message to relay to the candidates that it would need to be a public discussion.

WITHDRAWAL: Assemblymember Colver moved to withdraw his primary amendment.

There was no objection noted.

Assemblymember Halter stated that he is in favor of moving into executive session.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection and the Assembly moved into executive session at 3:40 p.m.

MOTION: Assemblymember Halter moved to exit executive session.

(Assemblymember Colver exited the meeting at 4:29 p.m.)

VOTE: The motion passed without objection and the Assembly exited executive session at 4:29 p.m.

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved to add an executive session to the October 19, 2010, regular meeting agenda for the purpose of discussing the seven candidates with the newly elected Assembly members and that the questions to be asked of the candidates be discussed. The candidates moving forward are:

- Mr. Gregory Young;
- Mr. Phillip Oats;
- Mr. James Wilson;
- Mr. Desmond Mayo;
- Mr. Donald Bair;
- Mr. Eric Strahl; and
- Ms. Melinda Carlton.

Assemblymember Halter directed that a thank you letter be sent to the candidates who are not moving forward in the process.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

Deputy Mayor Woods inquired if the Assembly would like to set a date for the next round of interviews.

Discussion ensued regarding selecting a date for the next round of video interviews.

[Clerk's note: The Assembly scheduled the next round of video interviews for October 26, 2010, at 1 p.m. at the Mat-Su Career and Technical High School.]

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

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

VIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Halter stated that he would not be available for the October 19, 2010, regular meeting.

Assemblymember Houston opined that there is a good list of candidates to fill the vacancy of manager.

Deputy Mayor Woods noted her agreement.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.


RONALD ARVIN, Deputy Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: 11/23/10