

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on November 17, 2012, at the Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center, 1001 S. Mack Drive, Wasilla, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 12 p.m. by Presiding Officer Salmon for the purpose of holding an Assembly Planning Session, taking action on Resolution Serial No. 12-115, and discussing the road trade with the State of Alaska/Seward Meridian Road maintenance.

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*) (*entered telephonically at 3:43 p.m.*)
Mr. Steve Colligan, Assembly District No. 4
Mr. Darcie K. Salmon, Assembly District No. 5
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6
Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk
Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager
Mr. George Hays, Assistant Borough Manager
Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney
Ms. Jamie Newman, Deputy Borough Clerk
Mr. Brad Sworts, Transportation and Environmental Manager

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Assemblymember Salmon 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. Karen Kirk, Synergistic Solutions facilitator.

V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION: Assemblymember Colver moved to enter into the Committee of the Whole.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection and the Assembly entered into the Committee of the Whole at 12:05 p.m.

1. ASSEMBLY PLANNING SESSION

Ms. Karen Kirk, Synergistic Solutions, facilitated the meeting and the Assembly proceeded to establish priorities.

Mayor DeVilbiss entered the meeting at 1:10 p.m.

(The meeting recessed at 1:42 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m.)

MOTION: Assemblymember Salmon moved to exit the Committee of the Whole.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection and the Assembly exited the Committee of the Whole at 2:13 p.m.

Mayor DeVilbiss inquired if there was objection to adopting the 2013 Assembly priorities as follows:

2013 Priorities

- (in order of priority)

Continue:

- Port Expansion
- Rail Extension
- Bridge
- Ordinance Changes
- Address Ferry (removal)

Top 3 2013 Additions:

- Road Infrastructure
 - Parks Highway (Spenard Builders Supply – Big Lake)
 - Glenn Highway Improvements (Long Lake ...)
 - Bogard Road
 - School Access Roads (Pioneer Peak Elementary School)
 - Road / Bond Management
- Tourism Infrastructure
 - Fisheries
 - Enhance
 - Need ‘sideboards’
 - Hatcher pass (address)
 - South Denali project

- Rivers
 - Address Management
 - Address Erosion / Flooding

Additional 2013 Priorities:

- Port Protection
- Legislative Contacts and Relationships
- Coal Impact Assessment
- Health & Social Services
 - Sexual Assault Response Team (SART)
 - Public Housing
- Emergency Services
 - Timeframe (management review)
 - Plan for Development
- Public Water and Sewer Planning (ie: water pipe extension)
- Town Site (re: Bridge)
- **Administrative:**
 - Streamline (re-organize) government processes (ie: receipt of electronic payments)
 - Address need for positive, proactive, professional customer service at Borough

GENERAL CONSENT: The 2013 priorities were approved without objection.

B. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Resolution Serial No. 12-115: A RESOLUTION APPROVING STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2013.
 - a. IM No. 12-228

MOTION PENDING: Assemblymember Keogh moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 12-115.

Mr. Moosey suggested that the Assembly strike the “Permanent EOC Center planning project” from Resolution Serial No. 12-115, as the request is premature at this time.

MOTION: Assemblymember Halter moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 12-115, as follows:

- by striking “Matanuska River Management” and inserting in its place “Mat-Su River Management” and
- by striking the project description and inserting the following in its place: “Many rivers such as the Matanuska and Talkeetna Rivers, and Willow and Montana Creeks, and other rivers are very powerful rivers and over the years have caused damage to property and structures. They have also impacted state bridges and highways with great potential for additional damage. This funding would help address the problems and possible structural and non-structural

solutions to mitigate the erosion, flooding, and damage caused by rivers in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.”

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Halter moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 12-115, by striking the “Permanent EOC Center planning” project in its entirety.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colver moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 12-115, by inserting “Bald Mountain Motorized Use Parking Area and Trailhead Development – 1.25 million” with the following description: “These funds will be used to enhance recreational opportunities for snowmobile use (motorized use) in the Hatcher Pass Management Area. The funds will be used to construct or improve parking and trailheads,” before the South Denali Visitor Center project.

Assemblymember Colver:

- remarked that the plan has been approved by recognized snowmobile advocacy groups;
- noted that the project will open up new access points for recreational motorized use in the Hatcher Pass Management Area; and
- spoke to the benefits of the project in terms of tourism opportunities and economic development.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- whether the Parks and Recreation Commissions approved the plan; and
- how the existence of trailheads will be communicated to the public.

Assemblymember Halter expressed concern with trail development without dedicating funds toward trail grooming.

MOTION: Assemblymember Halter moved a secondary amendment by inserting at the end of the project description: “\$125,000 will be allocated for trail grooming.”

VOTE: The secondary amendment passed without objection.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colligan moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 12-115, Pioneer Peak Elementary Access Road Route 2A, by striking “\$5,000,000” and inserting in its place “\$6.5 million with a priority on the first fifteen percent.”

Mr. Sworts provided a staff report.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Woods moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 12-115, by adding at the end of the list, “The Borough Assembly supports the City of Palmer’s request that the 2013 State Capitol Budget include funding for the Bogard Water Extension in the amount of \$5,000,000.”

Assemblymember Colver opined that as a matter of protocol a resolution of support should be drafted for non Borough projects instead of including the projects in the Borough’s legislative request.

VOTE: The primary amendment failed with Assemblymember Woods in favor.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colligan moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 12-115, by striking the “Mat-Su College Parking Construction” project in its entirety.

Assemblymember Colligan opined the Mat-Su College Parking Construction should be removed as it is not a Borough project.

Assemblymember Colver directed the Manager to prepare a resolution supporting the city of Palmer’s capital request, Mat-Su College Parking Construction, and all other support resolutions discussed.

There was no objection noted.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Keogh moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 12-115, by inserting a “Coal Impact Assessment - \$250,000” project.

Assemblymember Keogh spoke to the benefits of an assessment to address the economic infrastructure and public safety impacts of coal exploration and development in the Borough.

VOTE: The primary amendment failed with Assemblymembers Keogh and Colver in favor.

MOTION: Assemblymember Keogh moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 12-115, by inserting “Glenn Highway, Mile Post 80-92 Rehabilitation: Long Lake to Cascade.”

Assemblymember Keogh spoke to the urgent needs of the Glenn Highway reconditioning as a matter of safety.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

MOTION: Assemblymember Colver moved a primary amendment to the Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP), by placing the “Glenn Highway, Mile Post 80-92 Rehabilitation: Long Lake to Cascade,” as the second priority and the “Parks Highway, Mile Post 43.5 to 52.3 Reconstruction: Lucus Road to Big Lake Cutoff,” as the first priority, and to direct staff to develop a narrative for the projects.

Discussion ensued regarding the appropriate place to list the projects; the State Legislative Priorities for Calendar Year 2013 or the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

MOTION: Assemblymember Salmon moved a secondary amendment by inserting “Knik Goose Bay Road Widening: Centaur Avenue to Settlers Bay,” as the second priority, and to direct staff to develop a narrative for the project, and to move the Glenn Highway project as the third priority.

VOTE: The secondary amendment passed without objection.

VOTE: The primary amendment passed without objection.

VOTE: The main motion passed as amended without objection.

C. ROAD TRADE WITH THE STATE OF ALASKA/SEWARD MERIDIAN ROAD MAINTENANCE

Mr. Moosey provided a staff report.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- the terms of the agreement signed by the Borough and the State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities in 2004;
- the legality of transferring funds between road service areas;
- if a road service area can contract with another road service area; and
- the cost of maintaining Seward Meridian compared to the Borough taking responsibility of maintaining several less traveled roads in other areas of the Borough from the State.

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke to concerns about the road trade with the Borough and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities for Seward Meridian road maintenance: Mr. Jim Norcross.

The following person spoke to the need for a well defined policy regarding road swaps between the Borough and other governmental entities and thanked the Assembly for a productive planning session: Ms. Cindy Bettine.

(Assemblymember Arvin entered telephonically at 3:43 p.m.)

The following person spoke to the benefits of a Coal Impact Assessment in the Borough’s

planning process and expressed disappointment in the Assembly for their opposition to procuring an assessment: Mr. Pete Pratorius and Ms. Alice Ciostek.

The following person spoke to gravel extraction opportunities in the Borough: Mr. Larry Thorpe

The following person spoke to safety concerns with the divided highway on the Parks Highway into Palmer, erosion at Mile 49, and water and sewer infrastructure projects: Ms. Delena Johnson, City of Palmer:

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos:

- spoke to developments in the case of Alaska Survival v. the Surface Transportation Board before the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals related to the Port McKenzie rail extension project; and
- reported that an appeal has been filed over the right-of way-acquisition plan for the design of the Parks Highway expansion.

Mr. Moosey:

- remarked that today's planning session proved very helpful; and
- voiced appreciation with the consistency of the goals approved by the Assembly from 2012 to 2013.

Assemblymember Salmon:

- noted he distributed a publication to the Assembly titled *Soul Shaking Grief Teen Edition* for the purpose of reducing underage drinking through public education and awareness; and
- added he also distributed a document supporting the repeal of Chapter 17.73, multifamily development design standards.

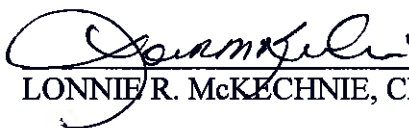
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The regular meeting adjourned at 4:01 p.m.



LARRY DeVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 12/04/12