

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on November 20, 2010, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Deputy Mayor Ronald Arvin for the purpose of discussing filling the vacancy of the Borough Manager.

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
- Mr. Mark Ewing, Assembly District No. 4
- Ms. Cindy L. Bettine, 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. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney
- Ms. Elizabeth Gray, Acting Borough Manager
- Ms. Brenda J. Henry, Executive Assistant to the Borough Clerk
- Ms. Sonya Conant, Human Resources Manager
- Ms. Shannon Post, Chief Information Officer
- Ms. Christine Nelson, Planning and Land Use Director

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Deputy Mayor Arvin inquired if there were any changes to the agenda.

MOTION: Assemblymember Woods moved to hear audience participation prior to the executive session.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Kathy Wells, a member of the public.

V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. INTERVIEWS FOR THE BOROUGH MANAGER POSITION

Deputy Mayor Arvin spoke to the process for conducting candidate interviews.

The Assembly conducted the interview of Mr. Young.

(The special meeting recessed at 12:10 a.m. and reconvened at 12:15 p.m.)

Deputy Mayor Arvin spoke to the process for conducting candidate interviews.

The Assembly conducted the interview of Mr. Don Baird.

(Assemblymember Bettine exited the meeting at 12:50 p.m.)

(The special meeting recessed at 1:10 p.m. and reconvened at 2:01 p.m.)

Deputy Mayor Arvin spoke to the process for conducting candidate interviews.

The Assembly conducted the interview of Mr. Desmond Mayo.

(Assemblymember Bettine re-entered at 2:40 p.m.)

VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke regarding her departure as Executive Director of Friends of Mat-Su: Ms. Kathy Wells.

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, CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS, AND HIRING OF THE BOROUGH MANAGER

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved to enter into executive session to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person provided the person may request a public discussion. Specifically to discuss the candidates for manager, candidate qualifications, and hiring of the Borough Manager. Those present during the executive session were the members of the Assembly, the Attorney, the Clerk, the acting Borough Manager, and the Human Resources Manager.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection and the Assembly moved into executive session at 2:53 p.m.

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved to exit executive session.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection and the Assembly exited executive session at 3:45 p.m.

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved to have Deputy Mayor Arvin and Assemblymembers Bettine and Halter initiate negotiations with Mr. Young.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection.

(The special meeting recessed at 3:50 p.m. and reconvened at 4:12 p.m.)

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved to enter into executive session to discuss subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person provided the person may request a public discussion. Specifically to discuss the candidates for manager, candidate qualifications, and hiring of the Borough Manager. Those present during the executive session were the members of the Assembly, the Attorney, the Clerk, the acting Borough Manager, and the Human Resources Manager.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection and the Assembly moved into executive session at 4:13 p.m.

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved to exit executive session.

VOTE: The motion passed without objection and the Assembly exited executive session at 4:26 p.m.

VIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos:

- reported that it was good to attend the conference in Juneau; and
- stated that it was good to meet with other municipal attorneys from around the State.

Ms. Gray:

- stated that she also attended the Alaska Municipal League Conference; and
- spoke to enjoying attending the conference.

Deputy Mayor Arvin queried if there was discussion regarding the \$55 million in the Governor's budget for the rail spur.

Mr. Gray:

- advised that discussion was non-committal;
- stated that it was asked if the Borough is looking at alternative funding;
- related that it was also asked if the Borough truly needed \$55 million for the project; and
- stated that she advised yes to both.

Ms. McKechnie:

- spoke to attending the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerks Conference;
- advised that she runs the Clerk's election for Board members;
- queried if the Assembly would like to schedule a joint meeting with the State Delegation on December 20 or 21; and
- advised that she recommends December 20, as plans often change very close to the holidays.

There was no objection noted to the December 20, 2010, meeting date.

Ms. McKechnie:

- spoke to the November 30, 2010, special meeting regarding interim materials district; and
- stated that there was a request to look at changing that date.

Deputy Mayor Arvin stated that he requested the meeting date change, as he will not be available on November 30 and would like to participate in the discussion.

Assemblymember Colver:

- stated that he thought the purpose of the meeting was to provide staff with direction;
- opined that some of the Assembly were not favorable to the large omnibus ordinance; and
- spoke to concerns with staff time and effort being focused on an ordinance that could be ultimately changed.

Discussion ensued regarding setting a special meeting for the interim materials district legislation.

MOTION: Assemblymember Ewing moved to change the special meeting date regarding the interim materials legislation to January 25, 2011.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- postponing the November 30, 2011, special meeting to January 25, 2011; and
- concerns that the amendment would be made on the legislation on December 7, 2010, prior to the special meeting taking place.

MOTION: Assemblymember Ewing called for the question (to stop debate).

VOTE: The motion failed with Assemblymembers Colver, Halter, Ewing, and Bettine in favor (required two-thirds vote).

MOTION: Assemblymember Bettine moved a primary amendment by striking "January 25, 2011," and to insert in its place "January 18, 2011, at 3 p.m."

WITHDRAWAL: Assemblymember Bettine moved to withdraw her amendment.

There was no objection noted.

WITHDRAWAL: Assemblymember Ewing moved to withdraw his motion.

There was no objection noted.

Ms. McKechnie:

- noted that the legislation will be before the Assembly on December 7, 2011; and
- suggested that the Assembly could discuss the scheduling of a special meeting to discuss the legislation at that time.

MOTION: Assemblymember Halter moved to cancel the November 30, 2011, special meeting.

VOTE: The motion passed with Assemblymembers Keogh and Bettine opposed.

Assemblymember Keogh:

- spoke to the benefits of attending the Newly Elected Officials Training at the Alaska Municipal League Conference in Juneau;
- spoke to being pleased with the fish symposium that was recently held;
- stated that he attended the annual meeting of the Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureau; and
- noted that the Assembly has been very busy within the last month.

Assemblymember Woods:

- spoke to his attendance at the Alaska Municipal League Conference;
- stated that the discussion regarding the use of lobbyist was of particular interest to him;
- spoke to concerns with lobbyist appearing on behalf of municipalities;
- opined it is better for municipalities to lobby on their own behalf; and
- stated that he appreciated the opportunity to attend the conference.

Assemblymember Ewing:

- spoke to attending the 235th Anniversary of the Marine Corps celebration in Wasilla; and
- stated that it was an honor to attend the event.

Assemblymember Bettine:

- spoke to attending the town hall meeting with local legislators;
- related that there was a strong contingency in support of road issues;
- stated that there was a comment that the problem with our Borough road bonds is that there was no overall plan;
- advised that the Borough does have a long range transportation plan; and
- spoke to attending the Rasmussen Foundation luncheon;
- opined that the Borough needs a grant writer on staff; and
- stated that the meeting today was very productive.

Assemblymember Colver:

- spoke to attending the Salmon Symposium;
- related some of the issues that were discussed at the symposium;
- spoke to the qualified members of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Sportsmen's Committee;

- related that the committee is meeting twice per month;
- spoke to legislation that will be coming before the Assembly which will change the seat designation for the committee;
- stated that he will be going to Washington, D.C. as he has been appointed to the National Transportation Committee for the National Association of Counties; and
- spoke to presentations that were made at the Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureau annual meeting regarding economic activity in the Borough.

Assemblymember Halter:

- commended Ms. Gray and Mr. Rick Mystrom for answering the tough questions regarding the rail spur while in Juneau;
- opined that the rail spur stands a good chance of being in the Governor's budget to the expressed interest;
- opined that the road bond legislation from 2008 needs to be rescinded or cancelled in whatever manner available, as the 70/30 split is not being well received;
- opined that the Assembly needs to work with the Borough lobbyist regarding the legislative priorities; and
- stated that the Assembly needs to look at funding for the Land Management Division.

Deputy Mayor Arvin queried if Ms. McKechnie had any direction for the Assembly regarding the possible rescission of the 2008 road bond legislation

Ms. McKechnie:

- advised that the legislation was approved by the voters and cannot be rescinded; and
- stated that the only way is to refrain from bringing it to the forefront in conversation.

Deputy Mayor Arvin:

- thanked Ms. Conant for her hard work regarding filling the vacancy of the Manager;
- stated that there would likely be a mayoral run-off due to the number of candidates; and
- queried how that would be addressed.

Ms. McKechnie stated that she would be bringing legislation before the Assembly that would address that issue.

Deputy Mayor Arvin:

- spoke to an off-shore contract management consultant position that would be taking a fair amount of his time out of the country;
- stated that he advised them that he is an elected official and that they noted that they would work with him; and
- further added that he does not see it as an issue and plans to participate telephonically.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting adjourned at 5:18 p.m.



RONALD ARVIN, Deputy Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved: 12/07/10