

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on December 29, 2011, at Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Mayor Larry DeVilbiss for the purpose of holding an Assembly Planning Session.

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. Steve Colligan, Assembly District No. 4
Mr. Darcie K. Salmon, Assembly District No. 5
Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6 (*arrived at 10:08 a.m.*)
Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7

Assembly members absent and excused were:

Mr. Ronald Arvin, Assembly District No. 3 (*Deputy Mayor*)

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Jamie Newman, Deputy Borough Clerk
Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager
Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor DeVilbiss stated that he would like to conduct an executive session concerning some potential personnel issues.

Mr. Spiropoulos:

- noted that an executive session was not advertised; and
- advised that if the body were to discuss a specific person in executive session, that the particular person has the right to individualized notice and the right to request that the executive session be conducted in public, if they so choose.

Mayor DeVilbiss queried if that means that an executive session definitely needs to be advertised.

Mr. Spiropoulos:

- spoke to executive sessions that can occur without prior notice; and
- advised that the Borough always specifically advertises executive session due to the injunction held against the Borough by the Frontiersman.

Discussion ensued regarding the most appropriate way to conduct executive sessions.

GENERAL CONSENT: The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Ms. Terry Snyder, a member of the audience.

V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

1. ASSEMBLY PLANNING SESSION

MOTION: Assemblymember Salmon 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 10:08 a.m.

(The Assembly recessed at the following times during the Committee of the Whole: recessed at 11:38 a.m. and reconvened at 11:52 a.m. and recessed at 1:05 p.m. and reconvened at 1:20 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 2:03 p.m.

VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person opined that the Planning Session was productive and encouraged the Borough to lobby in Juneau with the city of Palmer on projects: Mayor Delena Johnson, city of Palmer.

The following person spoke in support of the Borough and the city of Palmer lobbying as partners, opined that the Planning Session was productive, spoke to the need to have a volunteer fair to engage volunteers on Borough boards and commissions, and spoke to the need to educate the public on services they receive as a result of the mill rate: Ms. Terry Snyder.

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Keogh:

- spoke to the adoption of Ordinance Serial No. 11-153;
- stated that he was prepared to make an amendment before the final vote;

- noted that he was not aware that the last vote that was taken was the vote on the main motion;
- spoke to the opportunities that have been afforded in the past to Assembly members who may have voted incorrectly, but he was not provided that opportunity; and
- stated that he would like clarification for the future on whether or not the body would strictly adhere to the process of the final vote being truly final, or if the body would accommodate a more informal process of allowing members to vote again when they realize they have voted incorrectly.

Mayor DeVilbiss queried if only one reconsideration is allowed per piece of legislation.

Mr. Spiropoulos affirmed the query.

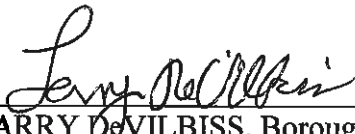
Assemblymember Keogh complimented Assemblymember Woods for his perfect attendance at Assembly meetings.

Assemblymember Woods noted that Assemblymember Keogh has also been in attendance at all Assembly meetings.

Assemblymember Halter thanked Ms. Karen Carswell Kirk, of Synergistic Solutions, for facilitating the meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.


LARRY DEVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 02/07/12