

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on November 5, 2013, at the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Building, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. by Mayor DeVilbiss for the purpose of a discussion regarding economic development.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. Jim Sykes, Assembly District No. 1  
Mr. Matthew Beck, Assembly District No. 2  
Mr. Ronald Arvin, Assembly District No. 3 (*Deputy Mayor*)  
Mr. Steve Colligan, Assembly District No. 4  
Mr. Darcie K. Salmon, Assembly District No. 5

Assemblymembers absent and excused:

Mr. Jim Colver, Assembly District No. 6  
Mr. Vern Halter, Assembly District No. 7

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Brenda J. Henry, Assistant Clerk  
Mr. Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney  
Mr. Don Dyer, Economic Development Director  
Mr. Larry Macknicki, Director of Information Technology  
Ms. Sonya Conant, Human Resources Director  
Mr. Eric Phillips, Community Development Director  
Mr. Terry Dolan, Public Works Director  
Mr. Marc VanDongen, Port Director

**III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor DeVilbiss 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 Mr. Dan Kennedy, a member of the audience.

**V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

## A. Economic Development

Mr. Don Dyer, Economic Development Director; Ms. Kim Ford, Economic Development Advisory Council Chair; Mr. Jake Libby; Ms. Roxie Mayberry; Mr. John Klapperich; Ms. Julia Renfro; Mr. James Hastings; Mr. Marty Metiva; Ms. Luanne Urfer; Ms. Beth Fread; Mr. Thane Humphrey; and Mr. Chris Gates provided a joint presentation regarding economic development within the Borough.

*(The meeting recessed during the presentation at 5:29 p.m. and reconvened at 5:40 p.m.)*

Mayor DeVilbiss queried if there was any objection to proceeding with audience participation and asking questions regarding the presentation during comments.

There was no objection noted.

## VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke to food being the common denominator for all Alaskans: Ms. Terry Snyder.

The following person spoke in support of economic development and to the need for a regional wastewater facility: Ms. Helen Munoz.

## VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Arvin:

- stated that he found it interesting that the two bottom priorities from the survey were the Denali Visitor Center and the Gateway Visitor Center;
- spoke to the groundbreaking for the Denali Visitor Center being well attended;
- spoke to his confusion regarding those being two low priorities in the community; and
- noted that perhaps that was due to awareness.

Mr. Dyer:

- agreed that awareness is the key in engaging the community; and
- noted that communication and community involvement are central to economic development.

Mayor DeVilbiss noted that it was time to start the next meeting; therefore, if there was no objection, the meeting would adjourn.

There was no objection noted.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

  
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LARRY DeVLBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 12/03/13