MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH AD HOC AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 15-001

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH AD HOC AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDING ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGRICULTURE ADVISORY BOARD FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVIEWING ISSUES AFFECTING BOROUGH AGRICULTURE LANDS. (MSB006973)

WHEREAS, Matanuska-Susitna Borough Ordinance Serial No. 14 091 was approved to organize a public forum regarding borough agricultural lands for the purpose of making recommendations to the assembly on setting policy for the use of said lands; and

WHEREAS, as a direct result from the forum, an ad hoc committee was created to 1) define the meaning of agriculture, 2) analyze forum comments with regard for establishing an Agriculture Advisory Board, 3) review similar boards and those responsibilities and membership requirements, and 4) provide comment and recommendation to the Mayor and Assembly regarding these matters; and

WHEREAS, the ad hoc committee has completed their tasks and is prepared to move their findings and recommendations forward to an agriculture advisory board if so established; and

WHEREAS, recommended agriculture advisory board functions would specifically be to 1) deal only with ag issues and make recommendation to the assembly regarding these issues, 2) determine how ag land conservation is to be implemented and how "no net loss" of agricultural lands is defined, 3) review

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the equity of current tax policy on agriculture parcels, 4) explore parcel size allowance of less than the required 40 acres minimum, 5) review agriculture covenants/restrictions within Matanuska-Susitna Borough Titles 13, 15 and 23 and recommend changes, if any, and 6) determine if current subdivision requirements on these parcels is adequate or too restrictive, and 7) other identified topics as requested by the assembly; and

WHEREAS, recommended board membership would include those with knowledge and/or experience in livestock, foraging, horticulture, landscaping, root crops, hoop/green houses, soil & water conservation, farmer associations, and agriculture education.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the ad hoc committee does hereby recommend the establishment of an agriculture advisory board, including the above criteria, for the purpose of reviewing issues affecting borough agriculture lands.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Ad Hoc Agriculture Committee this 24th day of February, 2015.

MATTHEW BECK, Acting Committee Chair

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MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH INFORMATION MEMORANDUM **IM No. 15-088**

SUBJECT: AN ORDINANCE OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY ADOPTING MSB CODE CHAPTER 4.80 ESTABLISHING THE AGRICULTURE ADVISORY BOARD AND ITS COMPOSITION, FUNCTIONS, AND DUTIES.

AGENDA OF: April 7, 2015

ASSEMBLY ACTION:
OR 15-040 was amended & adopted 4-21-15 without objection BSN

MANAGER RECOMMENDATION: Introduction and ~~set for~~ public hearing.

APPROVED BY JOHN MOOSEY, BOROUGH MANAGER: _____

Route To:	Department/Individual	Initials	Remarks
	Originator	MSC	
	Community Development Director	EP	
	Finance Director	DM	
	Borough Attorney	NS	
	Borough Manager	See above	
	Borough Clerk	JN	

ATTACHMENT(S): Fiscal Note Yes X No ___
Ad Hoc Agriculture Committee
Resolution Serial No. 15-001 (2 pp)
Ordinance Serial No. 15-050 (4 pp)

SUMMARY STATEMENT:
In accordance with Matanuska-Susitna Assembly Resolution Serial No. 14-091, an Agriculture Forum was held on November 10, 2014 wherein the agriculture community at large and affiliated agencies came together to discuss ways of establishing clear written policy with uniform provisions for use of borough agricultural parcels.

Consensus of forum participants was to form an ad hoc committee to review and analyze the information from the Forum and to provide feedback to the Mayor and Assembly through an ad hoc committee.

An ad hoc committee was established with membership from representatives of the Borough Assembly and staff, owners of agriculture parcels approved under MSB Title 13, 15, and 23, members of Farm Bureau and Farmers Union, Agricultural and Forestry Experimental Station, State of Alaska Division of Agriculture, and a state agricultural land owner.

The committee completed its task and is prepared to move the recommendation forward to establish an agriculture advisory board. Recommendations as to an advisory board's functions are included in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Ad Hoc Agriculture Committee Resolution Serial No. 15-001.

RECOMMENDATION:
In accordance with Matanuska-Susitna Borough Ad Hoc Agriculture Committee Resolution Serial No. 15-001 and the Agriculture Forum participant wishes, the ad hoc committee respectfully recommends the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly approve establishment of an agriculture advisory board for the purpose of reviewing issues affecting borough agriculture lands.

CODE ORDINANCE

Sponsored by: Borough Manager
Introduced: 04/07/15
Public Hearing: 04/21/15
Adopted: 04/21/15

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
ORDINANCE SERIAL NO. 15-050

AN ORDINANCE OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY ADOPTING MSB CODE CHAPTER 4.80 ESTABLISHING THE AGRICULTURE ADVISORY BOARD AND ITS COMPOSITION, FUNCTIONS, AND DUTIES.

BE IT ENACTED:

Section 1. Classification. This ordinance is of a general and permanent nature and shall become a part of the Borough Code.

Section 2. Adoption of chapter. MSB 4.80 is hereby adopted to read as follows:

AGRICULTURE ADVISORY BOARD

4.80.010 Establishment and purpose

4.80.020 Composition

4.80.030 Functions and duties

4.80.040 Organization; Meetings

4.80.050 Compensation

4.80.010 ESTABLISHMENT AND PURPOSE.

(A) The Agriculture Advisory Board is established pursuant to MSB 4.05.020.

(B) The purpose of the Agriculture Advisory Board is to review issues specifically related to and affecting

borough agriculture lands, and advise the Assembly and Manager on such matters.

(C) All matters pertaining to the Agriculture Advisory Board, unless otherwise specified in this section, shall be governed by MSB 4.05.

4.80.020 COMPOSITION.

(A) The Board shall consist of 12 members, with one member each from the following organizations, groups, or public as follows:

(1) Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District;

(2) Wasilla Soil and Water Conservation District;

(3) Upper Susitna Soil and Water Conservation District;

(4) Alaska Farm Bureau - Mat-Su Chapter;

(5) Palmer Center for Sustainable living (previously called Palmer Agriculture and Forestry Station);

(6) Knowledge and/or experience in production of wool, qiviut (musk ox), fiber (llamas), hair, feathers, etc.;

(7) Knowledge and/or experience in livestock, alternative livestock, dairy, grazing, hay;

(8) Knowledge and/or experience in field crops including potatoes, carrots, lettuce, etc.;

(9) Knowledge and/or experience in floriculture, horticulture, greenhouse/hoop house, beekeeping;

(10) Knowledge and/or experience in agricultural economic development (food security) and/or knowledge and/or experience in prepared foods and value-added product industry;

(11) At-large member; and

(12) Non-voting youth intern.

(B) If any of the above positions cannot be filled as designated, the assembly may appoint an at-large person who has demonstrated an interest or knowledge in Borough agriculture lands.

4.80.030 FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES.

(A) The Agriculture Advisory Board shall have the following functions and duties:

(1) act in an advisory capacity to the assembly and administration on agriculture issues affecting Borough agriculture lands; and

(2) act in an advisory capacity to the assembly and administration regarding agriculture land conservation matters and implementation of conservation measures; and

(3) act in an advisory capacity to the Assembly and Administration on any recommendations or changes to Borough code regarding real property issues affecting current and future Borough agriculture lands; and

(4) act in an advisory capacity to the Assembly and Administration on other agriculture topics identified by the Assembly or Administration.

4.80.040 ORGANIZATION; MEETINGS.

(A) Six members shall constitute a quorum and an affirmative vote of seven is necessary for the Board to take action.

(B) Meetings shall be established by the Board. Minutes may be taken by Borough staff but shall be reviewed and approved by the Board and forwarded to the Clerk for preservation.

(C) The Board shall hold an organizational meeting each year and elect a chairperson and vice-chairperson.

(D) All formal actions and recommendations of the

Board shall be by resolution and transmitted to the assembly or manager as appropriate.

(E) The Board shall be assisted with its work by the Community Development Department.

4.80.050 COMPENSATION.

(A) Board members shall be reimbursed for mileage incurred in connection with meetings of the Board in the same manner as borough employees are compensated for mileage expenses upon presentation of supporting documentation.

Section 3. Effective date. This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 21 day of April, 2015.

LARRY DeVILBISS, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Sykes, Beck, Arvin, Colligan, Mayfield, Doty, and Halter