

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

350 East Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska 99645 - 907-861-8683

BOROUGH MAYOR

Vern Halter

BOROUGH CLERK

Lonnie R. McKechnie, CMC

BOROUGH MANAGER

John Moosey

BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Nicholas Spiropoulos



BOROUGH ASSEMBLY

Jim Sykes, District 1

Matthew Beck, District 2

George McKee, District 3

Ted Leonard, District 4

Dan Mayfield, District 5

Barbara J. Doty, District 6

Randall Kowalke, District 7

MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

6:00 PM

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2018

Budget Deliberations and Possible Adoption

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Thursday, May 3, 2018, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Vern Halter.

II. ROLL CALL

Present 7 - Assemblymember Jim Sykes, Assemblymember Matthew Beck, Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Ted Leonard, Assemblymember Dan Mayfield, Assemblymember Barbara J. Doty, and Assemblymember Randall Kowalke

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Halter queried if there were any changes to the agenda.

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Marian Charles, a member of the audience.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke in opposition to funding community councils for civil patrols: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

The following person spoke in support of funding the Willow library project: Ms. Marian Charles.

The following person spoke in support of the Borough's budget public hearing process and reported on the activities of the city: Mayor Bert Cottle, city of Wasilla.

The following person spoke in support of full funding for the School District and spoke to the upcoming high school graduation schedule: Mr. Luke Fulp, School District Assistant Superintendent.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. DELIBERATIONS AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2019 BUDGET

[OR 18-018](#)

An Ordinance Appropriating Monies From The Central Treasury For The Borough Operating Funds, Enterprise Funds, Education Operating Fund And Capital Funds, Establishing The Rate Of Levy For All Borough Functions For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2018 And Ending June 30, 2019; And Setting The Surcharge Rate For The Wireline And Wireless Enhanced 911 Systems For The Period Of July 1, 2018 Through June 30, 2019.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

The meeting recessed at 7:19 p.m. and reconvened at 7:24 p.m.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Amendment No. 1, Technical Corrections to Ordinance
Serial No. 18-018**

Assemblymember Beck moved to amend Ordinance Serial No. 18-018, as follows:

- **Tab B, Page 71, Department 000, Division 000, Account 445.220 – Transfer to Educational Operating, by inserting \$463,356 for a new total of \$58,374,918;**
- **Tab J, Page 437, Department 000, Division 000, Account 367.110 – Transfer from Areawide, by inserting \$463,356 for a new total of \$58,374.918; and**
- **Tab J, Page 438, Department 000, Division 000, Account 406.1 – Education Operating, by inserting \$463,356 for a new total of \$247,489,086.**

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Kowalke

Excused: 1 - Assemblymember Doty

Amendment No. 2

Areawide – Capital Projects (Tab O)

Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to Areawide, Capital Projects, as follows:

- **By striking \$30,000 from Community Transportation Grant Match; and**
- **Inserting \$30,000 into a Capital Project for safety improvements on the fish passage project on Beaver Lake Road over Meadow Creek to install guard rails.**

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck,
Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield,
and Assemblymember Kowalke

No: 1 - Assemblymember McKee

Excused: 1 - Assemblymember Doty

Amendment No. 3

Areawide – Capital Projects (Tab O)

**Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to
Areawide, Capital Projects, as follows:**

- **by striking \$50,000 from Community Transportation Grant Match; and**
- **inserting \$50,000 into a Capital Project for West Lake access repairs.**

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck,
Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard,
Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Kowalke

Excused: 1 - Assemblymember Doty

Amendment No. 4

Areawide – Capital Projects (Tab O)

**Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to
Areawide, Capital Projects, as follows:**

- **by striking \$50,000 from Community Transportation Grant Match; and**
- **inserting \$50,000 into a Grants/Pass Through/Match to support neighborhood watch programs and civil patrols.**

**The motion failed with a tie vote. The Mayor invoked his
voting privilege in the affirmative and the vote passed by
the following vote:**

Yes: 4 - Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield,
Assemblymember Kowalke, and Mayor Halter

No: 3 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, and
Assemblymember McKee

Excused: 1 - Assemblymember Doty

Amendment No. 5

Areawide – (Tab O, Page 513)

**Areawide – Planning Department – Development Services
(Tab B, Page 124)**

Assemblymember Leonard moved a primary amendment to Areawide, Planning Department - Development Services, as follows:

- **by striking \$150,000 from Capital Projects, Community Transportation Grant Match; and**
- **inserting \$150,000 into Development Services, 100.130.139.429.900, Other Contractual, to either hire a contractor or a new code compliance officer, at the discretion of the Manager.**

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Kowalke

No: 1 - Assemblymember McKee

Excused: 1 - Assemblymember Doty

Amendment No. 6

Areawide – (Tab O, Page 512 and 513)

Assemblymember Kowalke moved a primary amendment to the areawide fund, as follows:

- **by striking \$900,00 from Capital Projects, Community Transportation Grant Match; and**
- **inserting \$900,000 into the Willow Library project.**

Assemblymember Sykes moved a secondary amendment as follows:

- **by striking \$900,00 and inserting \$700,000 in its place.**

The motion failed with a tie vote. The Mayor invoked his voting privilege in the negative and the secondary amendment failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, and Assemblymember McKee

No: 4 - Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Kowalke, and Mayor Halter

Excused: 1 - Assemblymember Doty

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Kowalke

No: 2 - Assemblymember Sykes, and Assemblymember Leonard

Excused: 1 - Assemblymember Doty
Assemblymember Doty entered the meeting telephonically prior to Amendment No. 7 being moved.

Amendment No. 7

Areawide – Fund 100

Areawide – Law Department (Tab B, Page 89)

Assemblymember Beck moved a primary amendment to the Areawide Fund, Areawide - Law Department, as follows:

- **By striking \$150,000 from Areawide, Fund 100, in a source to be determined by the Manager; and**
- **Inserting \$93,000, Permanent Wages, 100.110.111.411.100; and**
- **Inserting \$57,000, Benefits, 100.100.111.412s.**

Assemblymember Mayfield moved a secondary amendment by striking the language "in a source to be determined by the Manager" and inserting "from the Community Transportation Grant Match" in its place. The secondary amendment passed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

No: 3 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, and Assemblymember McKee

The primary amendment passed as amended by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

Amendment No. 8

**Areawide – Assembly (Tab B, page 73)
(100.100.101.414.400)**

Assemblymember McKee moved a primary amendment to the Areawide fund, Assembly, Travel Tickets, by striking \$3,500, leaving a balance of \$7,750. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, and Assemblymember Doty

No: 2 - Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Kowalke
Amendment No. 9

**Areawide – Assembly (Tab B, page 73)
(100.100.101.414.200)**

Assemblymember McKee moved a primary amendment to the Areawide fund, Assembly, Expense Reimbursement Outside Borough, by striking \$3,500, leaving a balance of \$9,250. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, and Assemblymember Doty

No: 2 - Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Kowalke
Amendment No. 10

**Areawide – Administration (Tab B, page 84)
(100.100.101.414.900)**

Assemblymember McKee moved a primary amendment to the Areawide fund, Administration, Other Professional Charges, by striking \$80,000, State Lobbyist, leaving a balance of \$120,000.

Assemblymember Sykes moved a secondary amendment to strike \$80,000 and inserting \$40,000, in its place.

Assemblymember McKee called for the question (to stop debate). The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Kowalke

No: 4 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Leonard, and Assemblymember Doty

The secondary amendment failed by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Assemblymember Sykes, and Assemblymember McKee

No: 5 - Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

The primary amendment failed by the following vote:

Yes: 1 - Assemblymember McKee

No: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

Amendment No. 11

**Areawide – Planning (Tab B, page 118)
(100.130.130.429.300)**

Assemblymember McKee moved a primary amendment to the Areawide fund, Planning, Planning Studies, by striking \$67,500, State Lobbyist, leaving a balance of \$100,000. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 1 - Assemblymember McKee

No: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

Amendment No. 12

**Areawide – Public Works Administration (Tab B, page 125)
(100.150.150.426.200)**

Assemblymember McKee moved a primary amendment to the Areawide fund, Public Works Administration, Legal, by striking \$12,000, leaving a balance of \$0.

Assemblymember Sykes moved a secondary amendment to insert the following language: "And to transfer that amount to the Law Department budget." The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

The primary amendment passed as amended by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

Amendment No. 13

Areawide – Information Technology – Geographic Information Systems (Tab B, page 97) (100.115.116.429.900)

Assemblymember McKee moved a primary amendment to the Areawide Fund, Information Technology, Geographic Information Systems, Other Contractual, by striking \$20,000, leaving a balance of \$90,000. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Leonard

No: 5 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

Amendment No. 14

Areawide – Assembly (Tab B, page 73) (100.100.101.426.200)

Assemblymember McKee moved a primary amendment to the Areawide Fund, Assembly, Legal, by striking \$5,000, leaving a balance of \$0. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

No: 1 - Assemblymember McKee

Amendment No. 15

(Amendment requested by the Mayor)

Areawide – Mayor (Tab B, page 95 (100.110.104 and 412s)

Assemblymember Beck moved a primary amendment to the Areawide fund, Mayor, as follows:

- **By reducing wages by \$10,650, leaving a balance of \$19,325;**
- **Reducing benefits by \$3,800, leaving a balance of \$30,340; and**
- **Inserting \$14,450 to the Willow Library project. The motion passed by the following vote:**

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

Assemblymember Beck moved to reconsider Amendment No. 12. Amendment No. 12 passed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, and Assemblymember Doty

No: 3 - Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Kowalke

Amendment No. 16

Areawide – Capital Projects (Tab O, page 513)

Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to the Areawide fund, Capital Projects, Community Transportation Grant Match, by striking \$1,170,000, leaving a balance of \$0.

Assemblymember Mayfield moved a secondary amendment to strike \$1,170,000 and inserting \$585,000 in its place leaving a balance of \$585,000. The secondary amendment passed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

No: 3 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, and Assemblymember McKee

The primary amendment failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Doty

No: 4 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Kowalke

Amendment No. 17

Areawide – Grants/Pass Through/Match (Tab O, page 513)

Assemblymember Sykes moved a primary amendment to the Areawide fund, Grants/pass through/match, Mat-Su Convention and Visitor’s Bureau, by striking \$32,500, leaving a balance of \$715,000 and directing the Manager to issue a 1-year contract extension to the current agreement in the amount of \$715,000. Should the bed tax revenues exceed projections, the Assembly may consider a supplemental appropriation at a later time. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Assemblymember Sykes, and Assemblymember McKee

No: 5 - Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

Amendment No. 18

Areawide – Grants/Pass Through/Match (Tab O, page 513)

Assemblymember Mayfield moved to amend Ordinance Serial No. 18-018, by inserting a new Section 12 and to renumber the section thereafter, to read: “Section 12. Notwithstanding MSB 3.04.110(C) and Ordinance Serial No. 17-017, the School District may carry over 100 percent of their unassigned fund balance for fiscal year 2018, ending June 30, not exceeding the amount allowed by A.S. 14.17.505.” The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Doty

No: 2 - Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Kowalke

Assemblymember Beck moved to set the mill rates at 10.331 areawide and .548 nonareawide. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

The main motion passed as amended by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Mr. Spiropoulos opined that it is nice there are no meetings next week. Thanked the body for a lively discussion.

Ms. McKechnie advised that she would not cancel the May 8th and 10th meetings until after 5 p.m. on May 4th to be sure there are no reconsiderations filed.

Mr. Moosey thanked the Assembly for adopting the budget. Thanked the Directors for their hard work on their budgets. Opined that the Finance Department is doing a great job under Ms. Heidel's leadership. Thanked the body for the meeting.

Assemblymember Sykes thanked the public for attending. Stated that he has enjoyed the lively debate. Thanked Ms. Heindel for being on hand and for answering questions. Noted that he feels good about the work the Assembly has done on the budget. Thanked the body for the meeting.

Assemblymember Kowalke thanked the Assembly for supporting the Willow library project. Thanked Mayor Halter for his personal monetary donation to the project.

Assemblymember Mayfield spoke to a letter he wrote to the legislature regarding moving Bree's Law forward and requested Assembly support.

Assemblymember Mayfield moved for Assembly approval of the letter to the Legislature regarding Bree's Law and requested to have the Mayor and the Manager sign it. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

Assemblymember Mayfield stated that he feels good about the work the Assembly has done on the budget this evening.

Assemblymember Leonard thanked the Directors and the Manager for their hard work on the budget. Spoke to his concerns on some nonareawide projects being funded. Opined that it was a very efficient budget cycle this year.

Assemblymember Doty thanked Mayor Halter for his monetary donation to the Willow Library project. Apologized for not being present at the meeting. Noted that she is dealing with family issues that required her to be out of town. Thanked staff for their hard work on the budget.

Assemblymember Leonard noted that he is happy that the Willow Library project is moving forward.

Assemblymember Beck stated that he is humbled to be a member of the Assembly. Spoke to having a celebration if there was a way to do it without violating the Open Meetings Act. Opined that the Assembly did a good job on behalf of the citizens. Noted that the members may disagree on things, but that does not mean that they are enemies. Stated that he considers the Assembly members friends, as well as colleagues. Thanked Assemblymember Doty for calling in during a personal trying time. Thanked Mayor Halter for his monetary donation to the Willow Library project. Spoke to his fondness of the Willow Community. Spoke to the upcoming Palmer High School graduation.

Mayor Halter opined that it is nice to get the budget adopted. Stated that there were good amendments and a lively debate. Stated that he is happy that the Willow Library project is funded and that he appreciates the Assembly supporting that. Stated that he has a lot of respect for the Assembly. Noted that their diversity and opinions are a good balance. Thanked the Directors for their hard work on the budget.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.