

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

Michael Brown

BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Nicholas Spiropoulos



Tim Hale, District 1
Stephanie Nowers, District 2
George McKee, District 3
Robert Yundt, District 4
Mokie Tew, District 5
Jesse Sumner, District 6
Tam Boeve, District 7

MEETING MINUTES

SUSITNA VALLEY JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
GYMNASIUM
42748 SOUTH PARKS HIGHWAY, TALKEETNA

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

6:00 PM

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 2021

Budget Public Hearing

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Thursday, May 6, 2021, at the Susitna Valley Junior/Senior High School Gymnasium, 42748 South Parks Highway, Talkeetna, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Mayor Vern Halter.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Robert Yundt, Assemblymember Mokie Tew, Assemblymember Jesse Sumner, and Assemblymember Tam Boeve

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Ms. Linda Oxley, a member of the audience.

Mayor Halter and Assemblymember Boeve presented a proclamation to the Susitna Valley High School Girls Basketball Team in recognition of their placement at state.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke to concerns with exemptions in the tall tower ordinance for temporary structures and opined that there should be no exemptions and that they should all go through the conditional use permit process: Ms. Ruth Wood.

The following person thanked the Assembly for their support and for funding many projects in District 7 and spoke in support of funding for the community enrichment program: Ms. Linda Oxley.

The following persons opined that the Big Dipper Balloon Company should have to go through the conditional use process and thanked staff for their assistance with an ongoing quarry issue: Ms. Kathleen Trump; and Mr. Doug Smith, Talkeetna Community Council Chairperson.

The following person spoke in support of funding for the community enrichment program: Ms. Whitney Wolf.

The following person spoke in support of the continued use of masks and to concerns with the public process: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC HEARING (Three Minutes Per Person)

[OR 21-021](#)

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, 2021, And Ending June 30, 2022; And Setting The Surcharge Rate For The Wireline And Wireless Enhanced 911 Systems For The Period Of July 1, 2021, Through June 30, 2022.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor Halter reopened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in support of full funding for the community enrichment program: Ms. Ruth Wood, Ms. Kathy Trump, Mr. Doug Smith, and Ms. Kathy Oxley.

The following person spoke to concerns with the public process, opined that Port MacKenzie should no longer be developed, and that the Assembly should not be having any off-site meetings: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

Assemblymember Boeve moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 21-021.

Assemblymember Boeve moved to continue Ordinance Serial No. 21-021 to time certain of May 11, 2021, at 6 p.m. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Mr. Brown advised that a copy of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) is in the Assembly's red folders and will be available to the public on the Borough's website.

Ms. McKechnie requested that if the Assembly has any budget amendments to please get them to her by Monday in order to allow her time to get them compiled for the public and for the Assembly for Tuesday's budget deliberations.

Assemblymember Hale apologized for arriving late to the meeting.

Assemblymember Nowers noted that the last time she was in the gymnasium at Susitna Valley Junior/Senior High School was a sporting event with her daughter. Noted that the vote on the pay increase for the Mayor's salary was not unanimous. Stated that if folks are unable to attend budget meetings in public that they can always call in.

Assemblymember Boeve thanked the residents of her district for their support and patience. Stated that she is proud to represent District 7.

Mayor Halter stated that this is the last budget process he will participate in. Spoke to his long history of participation in the Borough's budget process. Noted that his term will be up this year. Spoke in support of term limits. Related that the upper valley has always been special to him as he lived in Moose Creek for 26 years. Spoke to his pride in the Susitna Valley Girls Basketball Team. Thanked the School District staff for recording the audio of the meeting. Thanked Borough staff for their assistance with the meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.