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** **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2017**

Joint Assembly/Planning Commission

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, October 24, 2017, 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. ASSEMBLY 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

PLANNING COMMISSION ROLL CALL

Planning Commission Member Mary Anderson, Planning Commission Member Thomas Healy, Planning Commission Member Patricia Chesbro, Planning Commmission Chair Colleen Vague, Planning Commission Member Chris Elder, and Planning Commission Member Vern Rauchenstein.

Excused: Planning Commissioner Glashan.

E. Driveway/Utility Inspection Improvements

Ms. Michelle Olson, Permitting Technician, reported on driveway/utility inspection improvements.

B. Presentation On Implications Of Being Designated An Air Quality Nonattainment District - Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor Karl Kassel

Mayor Karl Kassel, Fairbanks North Star Borough, reported on the implications of being designated an air quality nonattainment district.

C. Marijuana Update

Mr. Alex Strawn, Development Services Manager, reported on the number of marijuana facilities in the Borough and possible regulations from the Alaska State Marijuana and Alcohol Board regarding onsite consumption.

D. Community Council/Census Update

Ms. Jessica Smith, Chief of Planning Services, provided an update regarding communicty council engagement and the coming 2020 census.

VIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Planning Commission Member Chesbro thanked staff for the presentations.

Planning Commission Member Healy spoke in appreciation of the information received this evening.

Planning Commission Member Anderson spoke to concerns with requests for the Planning Commission to amend previously issued conditional use permits. Noted that there is not a lot of guidance on how to proceed with those requests. Stated that the Planning Commission would like to find a way to have it fair to all.

Mr. Spiropoulos advised that code does not address amendments to conditional use permits. Noted that a discussion needs to be had regarding that issue. Advised that standard subdivision zoning would be a significant change, but that it can be looked at to find a way to address it.

Planning Commission Chair Vague noted that the Alaska State Marijuana and Alcohol Control Board will be looking at onsite consumption regulations. Expressed concerns with the possibility of onsite consumption being located in neighborhoods. Spoke to her appreciation of joint meetings. Thanked staff for their support of the Planning Commission.

Assemblymember Sykes thanked Mayor Kassel for sharing his experience. Opined that the message is clear that if a municipality can avoid getting into the same situation as the Fairbanks North Star Borough, then that should be done. Thanked Ms. Munoz for her attendance. Thanked staff for the information provided this evening, which he found very helpful. Noted that the lack of zoning is a long standing issue. Related that marijuana cultivation facilities have been in Borough neighborhoods for a very long time, prior to regulation. Thanked the body for the meeting.

Assemblymember Kowalke thanked the Canvass Board for their hard work. Related that observing the recount process was educational. Thanked the Clerk's Office for their hard work. Thanked Mayor Kassel for his presentation this evening. Thanked Helen Munoz for her participation.

Assemblymember Mayfield spoke to his concerns with air quality of certain areas in the Borough. Spoke to concerns that tax payers would end up shouldering the burden of dealing with particulates in the air in a particular problem area of the Borough. Spoke in opposition of intruding on any resident's constitutional right to burn wood for heat. Spoke in support of launching an educational and possible replacement program.

Assemblymember Doty extended congratulations to Assemblymember Mayfield on his re-election. Spoke in support of the previous comments regarding the need to move forward proactively regarding air quality. Spoke in support of an air quality coalition. Opined that funds for air quality staffing and programs needs to be included in the budget. Spoke to her appreciation of the staff reports.

Assemblymember Leonard extended his congratulations to Assemblymember Mayfield. Thanked staff for the reports that were provided. Thanked staff for their assistance in orienting him in his new position.

Assemblymember Beck stated that he is thankful to be on Assembly. Welcomed new members to the team, which includes new staff and Assemblymember Leonard.

Mayor Halter noted that Planning Commission Members Rauchenstein and Healy might be attending their last joint meeting as they will be terming out this year. Welcomed the new Planning staff and thanked them for attending. Spoke to his appreciation of the Planning Commission and the presentations provided by staff this evening.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Mayoral Signature and Clerk Attestment

For

October 24, 2017, Joint Assembly/Planning Commission Meeting Minutes (5 pages)

VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 11/21/17