

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 19-032**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY REQUESTING THAT THE PLANNING COMMISSION UPDATE THE COMMUNITY-BASED COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING PROCESS, AND SUPPORTING THE UPDATE OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH 2005 COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

WHEREAS, Title 29 of the Alaska Statutes requires that all second class borough's prepare a comprehensive land use plan; and

WHEREAS, in the mid 1980's, during the period of time in which MSB 2.76, Community Councils was adopted, the Planning Commission established guidelines for the development or update of community based comprehensive plans; and

WHEREAS, the most recent version of those guidelines was adopted in 2009 but requires extensive staff and citizen planning team resources, and lacks direction on how to best receive input from all stakeholders within the planning area; and

WHEREAS, community-based comprehensive planning efforts should have a well-defined process so that the goals of Borough residents are expressed in a productive manner. In addition, Community Council attendance and membership alone may not represent a full cross section of planning area residents; and

WHEREAS, currently, there are 25 community councils, five of which are inactive. There are 14 community-based comprehensive plans adopted into Borough code, nine of which are currently over 10 years old and in need of an update or rewrite; and

WHEREAS, with current staffing levels and the existing process, regular update of these plans is not realistic; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has adopted Resolution No. 18-04 recommending the creation of a revised community-based comprehensive planning process, to reduce the time needed to amend or create new community comprehensive plans and to utilize planning staff in the most efficient manner possible; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Comprehensive Plan was last amended in 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has experienced significant changes in demographics and economics, as well as major transportation and land use challenges since the plan was amended; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 plan shows an estimated Borough population of 75,000, and the 2017 population estimate for the Borough is 104,166; and

WHEREAS, increased population and the resulting housing and infrastructure needs has placed a burden on the existing transportation system and other public facilities; and

WHEREAS, many of the goals and policies in the 2005 comprehensive plan have been instrumental in identifying acceptable land use regulations and infrastructure needs; however, an update is necessary to revisit those goals and policies; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 comprehensive plan recommends that the plan should be updated at least every seven years; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Commission has adopted Resolution No. 19-07 recommending an update to the 2005 Borough-wide comprehensive plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Assembly requests staff prepare a revised community comprehensive planning process policy for review and adoption by the Planning Commission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this new process should reduce the time needed to create or amend a community comprehensive plan while utilizing Planning staff in the most efficient manner possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly supports an update to the 2005 MSB Comprehensive Plan.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 16 day of April, 2019.


VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk
(SEAL)

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Sykes, Beck, McKee, Leonard, Mayfield, Sumner,
and Boeve