

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

WILLOW COMMUNITY CENTER
MILE 69, PARKS HIGHWAY, WILLOW

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

6:00 PM

MONDAY, APRIL 30, 2018

Budget Public Hearing

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, April 30, 2018, at the Willow Community Center, Mile 69 Parks Highway, Willow, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Vern Halter.

II. ROLL CALL

Present 6 - Assemblymember Jim Sykes, Assemblymember Matthew Beck, Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Ted Leonard, Assemblymember Dan Mayfield, and Assemblymember Randall Kowalke

Excused 1 - Assemblymember Barbara J. Doty

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

The agenda was approved as presented by the following vote:

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

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Bill Mahler, a member of the audience.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following persons spoke in support of the Willow Cabin remaining in its current location: Mr. Hermann Speagal, Willow Historical Preservation Committee Member; and Mr. Mark Marrill.

The following person spoke to the art made by students with recycling as the subject: Ms. Patty Fisher.

The following person thanked the Assembly for supporting SART (Sexual Assault Response Team), the Youth Court program, and the one time planning grant for My House, through the budget process: Mayor Bert Cottle.

The following person spoke to concerns with the public process: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC HEARING

[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

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor Halter reopened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in support of a new library for the Willow Community: Ms. Linda Dale, Willow Library Association; Ms. Brenda McCain; Ms. Ann Yadon; Ms. Tam Boeve; Ms. Gerri Denkwalter; Ms. Ruthie Strong, Friends of Talkeetna Library; Ms. Peg Voss, Friends of Talkeetna Library; Ms. Diane Hall-Rambo, Friends of Talkeetna Library; Mr. Bill Mailer, Willow Library Association; Ms. Elizabeth Ripley, Mat Su Health Foundation Chief Executive Officer; and Ms. Paige Moore, Big Lake Library Aide.

The following person spoke in support of full funding for the School District: Ms. Lisa Shelby, Susitna Valley High School Principal; Ms. Lisa Shelby; and School District Superintendent Monica Goyette.

The following person spoke in support of the School District retaining all lapsed funds: Ms. Becky Morin, Talkeetna Elementary School Principal.

The following person spoke in support of the willow library, in support of keeping the mill rate low, to the Willow cabin not being moved: Mr. Doyle Holmes.

The following person spoke to concerns with the public process: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

The following person spoke in support of keeping the mill rate at its current rate: Mr. Tom Phillips, Willow Road Service Area No. 20 member.

There being no others present who wished to testify, the public hearing closed and discussion moved to the Assembly.

Assemblymember Beck moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 18-018.

Assemblymember Beck moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 18-018, to a time certain of May 3, 2018, at 6 p.m. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Mr. Spiropoulos thanked the Willow community for their attendance.

Mr. Moosey stated that the Willow budget public hearing is his favorite meeting, as the community is so welcoming.

Ms. McKechnie thanked the Willow community for their hospitality.

Ms. Heindel echoed the previous comments.

Assemblymember Leonard thanked the community for the meeting.

Assemblymember Sykes thanked the community for their attendance. Stated that it is great to see a lot of the public in attendance. Opined that dinner was delicious and the company was excellent.

Assemblymember Mayfield thanked the Willow community for their hospitality. Stated that he always enjoys coming to Willow, as they are a positive and active community.

Assemblymember Beck stated that the Willow budget public hearing is his favorite meeting of the year. Thanked the community for hosting the meeting.

Assemblymember McKee spoke to concerns with the State's budget.

Assemblymember Kowalke spoke to his love of the Willow Community. Noted his support of the Willow Library project. Thanked the public for attending the meeting.

Assemblymember Halter noted that the Willow budget public hearing is always the most well attended. Thanked the community for the food provided this evening. Spoke in support of funding the Willow Library. Spoke to his fondness of the Willow Library project. Stated that he is not hopeful that the state will contribute funding. Spoke to an increase in his salary that was included in the budget last year. Stated that he has never spent it and would like to donate it to the Willow Library project. Spoke to the need for more trooper presence in the borough. Stated that it is a pleasure to be the mayor of the Borough.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.