



Mayoral Signature and Clerk Attestment

For

November 27, 2018, Work Session Minutes

(4 pages)


VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 01/15/19

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
Jesse Sumner, District 6
Tam Boeve, District 7

MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY WORK SESSION

4:00 PM

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

The work session of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, November 27, 2018, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. by Mayor Vern Halter.

II. ROLL CALL

Clerk's Note: Assemblymember Beck attended telephonically until 4:21 p.m. at which time he entered the meeting physically.

Present 7 - Assemblymember Jim Sykes, Assemblymember Matthew Beck, Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Ted Leonard, Assemblymember Dan Mayfield, Assemblymember Jesse Sumner, and Assemblymember Tam Boeve

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Assemblymember Sumner moved to amend the agenda to add audience participation immediately following the pledge of allegiance. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Randall Kowalke, former Assembly Member.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was no one present who wished to testify.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Alberta to Alaska Railroad Project Discussion

Mr. Moosey summarized what the discussion would be about. Noted that it is his intent to have legislation for introduction on December 11 with the public hearing for December 18, which would put approval of the possible project before the Assembly.

Mr. Shawn McCoshen, A2A Railway Development Corporation Chairman, and Mr. Jon Catchen, Attorney for A2A Railway Development Corporation, reported on the project design and construction of the possible Alberta to Alaska railway.

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Mr. Spiropoulos noted that there had been comments regarding transferring ownership of the Port to a private company. Advised that is impacted due to grants that are still open and is not currently possible.

Assemblymember Mayfield spoke in opposition of the Borough transferring ownership of the Port. Stated that it is an important piece of property and is a considerable investment to the Borough's development. Opined that no member of the Assembly should advocate for transferring the Port's ownership. Spoke in support of moving forward with Alaska to Alberta Railway Development Corporation's (A2A) plan.

Assemblymember Sumner thanked Mr. McCoshen for his presentation. Spoke in favor of the Borough relinquishing ownership of the Port.

Assemblymember Beck noted his excitement regarding a possible partnership with A2A. Stated that the Port is valuable to the Borough as there is great potential for development.

Mayor Halter thanked Mr. McCoshen for his presentation. Noted that the Port has tremendous potential and is a great asset to the Borough. Spoke to the challenges that have been faced during development. Stated that he supports the project but does not want to rush into anything and that details need to be properly sorted out.

Assemblymember McKee spoke to concerns with the timeframe for introduction and public hearing.

Ms. Henry advised that there are no advertising issues with the timeframe.

Assemblymember McKee urged the body to carefully review the term agreement.

Mr. Spiropoulos advised that the document before the Assembly is not the most recent version. Noted that significant changes have been made. Stated that he has focused his attention on this priority and that it has not been rushed.

Assemblymember Sykes opined that there should be more time in between the introduction and public hearing because he has a lot of questions concerning the timeline.

Mayor Halter queried if there was any objection to allowing Mr. McCoshen to answer questions of the Assembly.

There was no objection noted.

Mr. McCoshen stated that it is his intent to begin construction in the spring. Advised that he has been working on this project for nearly two years and it is time to move forward. Noted that there are some items that require approval from the Alaska Railroad, but that should be resolved well ahead of spring.

Mayor Halter advised that the public hearing could always be continued if the body has additional questions.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.