

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

Steve Colligan, District 4

Dan Mayfield, District 5

Barbara J. Doty, District 6

Randall Kowalke, District 7

MEETING MINUTES

MENARD SPORTS CENTER
1001 S. CLAPP STREET, WASILLA

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

6:00 PM

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2017

Budget Public Hearing

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, April 24, 2017, at the Menard Sports Center, 1001 South Clapp Street, Wasilla, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Vern Halter for the purpose of conducting a public hearing on the budget ordinance, Ordinance Serial No. 17-017.

II. ROLL CALL

Present 6 - Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Dan Mayfield, Assemblymember Randall Kowalke, Mayor Vern Halter, Assemblymember Jim Sykes, and Assemblymember Matthew Beck

Excused 2 - Assemblymember Steve Colligan, and Assemblymember Barbara J. Doty

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

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

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Mr. Moosey provided a brief overview on the fiscal year 2018 budget.

A. PUBLIC HEARING

[OR 17-017](#) 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, 2017 And Ending June 30, 2018 And Setting The Surcharge Rate For The Wireline And Wireless Enhanced 911 Systems For The Period Of July 1, 2017 Through June 30, 2018.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in support of the School District funding request: Ms. Dianna Kashai, Ms. Jenn Dow, Ms. Laura Wick, Ms. Roraka Spatz, Ms. Josie Schuber, Ms. Cassie Nicholson, Ms. Nancy Blake, Mr. Gary Richardson, Ms. Mandy Quimby, Mr. Jason Ross, Ms. Lisa Vervillo, Ms. Lisa Parent, Ms. Susan Steel, Ms. Ayla Turner, Mr. Steve Novak, Ms. Sarah Novak, Ms. Lauree Simms, Ms. Amy Reagan, Ms. Kathy Lovetter, Ms. Diana Wilson, Ms. Peggy Christige, Ms. Hillary Thomas, and Mr. Leslie Thomas.

The following persons spoke in support of the funding for the Phase II Trail Expansion at Government Peak Recreational Area: Mr. Jeff Case and Mr. Chris Thompson.

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

Assemblymember Beck moved to continue the public hearing on Ordinance Serial No. 17-017, to Tuesday, April 25, 2017, at 6 p.m. at the Assembly Chambers, Palmer. The motion passed without objection by the following vote:

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

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Ms. McKechnie noted she would have amendment forms to the Assembly in preparation of budget deliberations.

Mr. Moosy reported that there was no agreement by the Legislature in Juneau and the legislative session would continue.

Assemblymember Beck thanked everyone for coming to speak and participate in the public process. He spoke to his children and their tenure in the public school system. He commented on the seriousness of the budget situation and urged for help in resolving the funding challenges. He spoke to the priorities that had been set by the Borough and the staff. He voiced appreciation for staff and commended their hard work. He spoke briefly in opposition to the idea of an areawide sales tax until more information could be gleaned from the state legislature.

Assemblymember Mayfield thanked the teachers and staff who were present to testify and thanked them for their efforts. He spoke to the connection between students and teachers and personal experiences with education. He opined that education was is a high priority for the Assembly.

Assemblymember Kowalke thanked everyone for being present and testifying. He spoke to challenges with the budget process. He expressed his pleasure for being able to attend the retirement event for Willow Fire Chief Matt Green.

Assemblymember Sykes thanked everyone for being present and testifying. He spoke to his experience as a teacher. He opined that the Assembly had recognized that education was a priority throughout the years. He gave an overview of the budget situation and challenges being faced. He encouraged public outreach by the school district, to provide education on the current budget situation.

Assemblymember McKee spoke against additional funding for the school district. He spoke to the process of Assembly approved funds given to the school district and how the process affected the positions in the district. He commented on the continuous increase of population and loss of secular jobs throughout the state.

Mayor Halter noted the challenges of this budget season. He encouraged better dialogue between the state, cities of Wasilla, palmer, and Houston, and the Borough. He opined that an areawid sales tax wouldn't magically fix the budget. He commented on the need to know what direction the state was heading before addressing an areawide sales tax. He noted that there was the possiblitiy of a state income tax and encouraged the school district and Borough to move cautiously with the process. He commended the school district on its efforts and felt the Borough had a great school system. He briefly spoke to the schools toured by Senator Murkowski and noted she was aware of the funding situation.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

**Disabled Persons Needing Reasonable Accommodation In Order To Participate At An Assembly Meeting Should Contact The
Borough ADA Coordinator At 861-8432 At Least One Week In Advance Of The Meeting.**