

# 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

WILLOW COMMUNITY CENTER  
MILE 69, PARKS HIGHWAY, WILLOW

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

6:00 PM

THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2017

---

### Budget Public Hearing

## I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Thursday, April 27, 2017, 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** 5 - Assemblymember Jim Sykes, Assemblymember Matthew Beck, Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Dan Mayfield, and Assemblymember Randall Kowalke

**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 Mayor Bert Cottle, city of Wasilla.

## 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 reopened the public hearing.

The following person spoke to the need for a new library for the community of Willow: Ms. Melinda Dale.

The following person spoke to the need for funding for the Senior Strong class for the Willow Senior Center: Ms. Kathy Watkins.

The following persons spoke in support of funding for trails in Willow: Mr. Steve Charles, Willow Trail Committee.

The following persons spoke in support of full funding for the School District: Mr. Bill Johnson, Houston High School Principal; Mr. Dan Harold; Ms. Lisa Shelby, Talkeetna Elementary School Principal; Ms. Jennifer Rinaldi, Willow Elementary School Principal; Ms. Daniela Linnell; Ms. Monica Goyette, School District Superintendent; Ms. Bonnie Warner; Mr. Stu Graham; Mr. Ron Jones, Houston Planning Commission Member; Mr. Jim Rink, School District Employee; Ms. Mary McDonald, Big Lake Elementary teacher; and Ms. Brittany Allen, Big Lake Elementary Teacher.

The following persons thanked the Assembly for having several public hearings in different areas and requested funding for the Sexual Assault Response Team: Mayor Bert Cottle, city of Wasilla.

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

The meeting recessed at 6:55 p.m. and reconvened at 7:02 p.m.

The following persons spoke in support of full funding for the School District:  
Mr. Ron Jones.

There being no one else who wished to testify, the public hearing closed.

MOTION: Assemblymember Beck moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 17-017.

**Assemblymember Beck moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 17-017, to a time certain of May 3, 2017.. The motion passed without objection by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Kowalke

## **VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT**

Mr. Spiropoulos reported that the Sockeye Trial is still going on and is expected to last for at least the next two weeks. Stated that he would report back to the Assembly with any breaking developments.

Ms. McKechnie thanked Ms. Tam Boeve for the dinner and thanked the community for their warm welcome.

Mr. Moosey noted that he attends numerous meetings and that the budget public hearing in Willow is always his favorite. He related that it is due in part to the beautiful drive and how welcoming the community is and thanked them for their hospitality.

Assemblymember McKee: spoke in opposition to increased funding for the School District. Spoke to the budget shortfalls at the State level.

Assemblymember Sykes thanked the public for their testimony. Spoke in support of increasing revenue. Noted that the School District needs to engage the public in the possibility of a sales tax.

Assemblymember Mayfield thanked the public for their testimony. Spoke to the need to increase revenue. Commented on his support for education. Advised that he will have an amendment that will increase the amount of funds for the School District, but that it likely will not be the amount that the School District is requesting. Noted that he will need the support of his fellow Assembly Members in order for it to pass.

Assemblymember Beck stated that he agrees with Mr. Moosey that this is the best meeting, as the community is so welcoming. Thanked the teachers for their dedication to students. Summarized his history of being a teacher. Spoke in support of

Assemblymember Mayfield's proposed amendment to the School District budget. Commented that it is not realistic to think that the Assembly could fully fund this year's request. Stated that he is looking forward to deliberating on the budget.

Assemblymember Kowalke thanked his friends and neighbors who attended the meeting. Thanked the Boeve family for a delicious dinner. Spoke in support of funding for the Senior Strong program. Spoke in support of funding for the Sexual Assault Response Team.

Mayor Halter noted that the Willow Community suffered a huge loss with the Sockeye Fire. Stated his belief in the legal system. Related that there are many components to funding a library and that it can be a huge project. Noted that it is Willow's turn to get a new library and that he supports it, but that it is just not feasible at this time. Noted his support of education. Summarized the history of previous sales tax proposals that failed when they went before the voters. Noted that every time the Borough has tried to diversify revenue that it gets voted down by the voters. Noted that comparing our Borough to Anchorage is not appropriate because of the vast differences in population and commercial taxation. Commented that it will be a tough budget year.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 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.**