

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

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2017

Budget Public Hearing

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, April 26, 2017, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Vern Halter.

II. ROLL CALL

Present 5 - Assemblymember Dan Mayfield, Assemblymember Jim Sykes, Assemblymember Matthew Beck, Assemblymember George McKee, 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 Ms. Rebecca Johnson, a member of the audience.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was no one present who wished to testify.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Mr. Moosey provided an overview of 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 persons spoke in support of full funding for the School District and in support of funding for Phase II for the Government Peak Recreational Area: Mr. Ed Strabel, Mr. Dave Musgraves, and Mr. Tom Smayda,

The following persons spoke in support of full funding for the School District: Ms. Brenna Rentsma, Big Lake Elementary School Principal; Ms. Jenny Bachelder, Wasilla Middle School Teacher; Mr. Eric Wade, Cyberlynx Correspondence Program Executive Director; Ms. Elizabeth Watchus, student; Ms. Avery Thompson, student; Ms. Aui Tzuski, student; Mr. Tim Walters, Mat-Su Education Association President; Mr. Dan Michael, Sherrod Elementary Principal; Mr. Brad Allen, Palmer Junior Middle School Principal; Ms. Coalette Watchus, Wasilla High School Special Education Teacher; Ms. Kim Evans, Swanson Elementary Teacher; Mr. Paul Reid, Palmer High School Principal; Ms. Jill Showman, Wasilla High School Teacher; Mr. Sean Riley, Teacher; Ms. Karen Saulisbury; and Mr. Ernie Kirby, School District Employee.

Assemblymember Beck moved to continue the public hearing to a time certain of April 27, 2017. The motion passed without objection by the following vote:

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

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Mr. Spiropoulos provided an update on the Sockeye Fire trial.

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the budget amendment forms and process.

Assemblymember Mayfield thanked the public for their testimony. Spoke to the need to increase revenue. Spoke to his support for education. Noted that this will be a tough budget year.

Assemblymember Kowalke thanked the public for their testimony. Stated that tough choices will have to be made during this budget cycle.

Assemblymember Sykes thanked the public for their testimony. Spoke to the State budget cuts that were made last year by Governor Walker. Spoke in support of increasing revenue. Spoke to the code requirement for adoption of the budget.

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

Assemblymember Beck thanked the public for their heartfelt testimony. Spoke to his history of being a teacher. Spoke in support of education. Summarized the funding for the school district over the last few years. Noted that the Assembly priorities have changed drastically in the last two years. Stated that if a sales tax was approved by the voters, that he would like to see it solely allocated to education. Thanked Mr. Moosey for his hard work on putting together a reasonable budget.

Mayor Halter 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 7:34 p.m.

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