

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 REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, April 18, 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: 6 - Assemblymember Jim Sykes, Assemblymember Matthew Beck, Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Dan Mayfield, Assemblymember Randall Kowalke, and Mayor Vern Halter

Excused: 1 - Assemblymember Barbara J. Doty

Telephonic: 1 - Assemblymember Steve Colligan

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

The agenda was presented as amended without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Luke Fulp, School District Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

There were no minutes to approve.

VI. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

A. AGENCY REPORTS (MSB 2.12.082; Seven minutes per person)

1. Reports From Cities

Mayor Bert Cottle, City of Wasilla, reported on the activities of the city.

Manager Nathan Wallace, City of Palmer, reported on the activities of the city and requested Assembly support for community grant funding.

2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

Ms. Monica Goyette, School District Superintendent, reported on the activities of the School District.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee On School Issues

Assemblymember Beck noted there had been no recent meeting held.

2. Assembly Public Relations

There were no reports provided.

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

1. State/Federal Legislation

2. Strategic Planning Issues

3. Mat-Su Regional Medical Center Presentation

Mr. John Lee, Mat-Su Regional Medical Center, spoke to activities and future planning of the medical center.

4. Review of Borough Staff Statistics

Mr. Moosey, provided MSB Employee Information packets to the Assembly for consideration during the budget process.

Mr. Moosey inquired if the Assembly would allow 15 minute presentations to review the information in the packets during the budget public hearings of April 24, 25, and 27.

Mayor Halter queried if there was any objection to allowing the presentations. There was no objection noted.

5. E-911 Project Update

Mr. Eric Wyatt, Information Technology Director, provided an update on the E-911 Distpatch project and reported on the Borough's E-Commerce system.

Mr. Moosey, introduced Mr. Otto Feather as the Borough's permanent Emergency Services Director.

Assemblymember Beck queried if there was objection to his co-signing a letter with Mayor Halter, in support of the Pioneer Home. There was no objection noted.

Assemblymember Sykes noted he had attended a local rally in support of the Pioneer Home.

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos reported on the meetings, that were attended by himself, Mayor Halter and Assemblymembers Kowalke and Beck, regarding the M/V Susitna, in Washington, D.C. He spoke to submitting arguments regarding the reduction of payments for the ferry. He reported on House Bill 201, regarding trapping and Senate Bill 100 which would allow municipalities to create liens on properties.

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule. She noted that pertinent election dates had been included in the clerk's report. She spoke to the upcoming deadline to notify the school district of those Assemblymembers who would be attending local graduation ceremonies. She queried if the Assembly would like to schedule the following special meeting dates:

May 16, 2017, 4 p.m., Manager's Annual Evaluation

June 6, 2017, 4 p.m., Attorney's Annual Evaluation

August 1, 2017, 4 p.m., Clerk's Annual Evaluation

Mayor Halter inquired if there was any objection. There was no objection noted.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

17-024

1. Aviation Advisory Board: 01/18/17, Resolution No. 17-01
2. Central Mat-Su FSA Board of Supervisors: 01/09/17
3. Planning Commission: Resolution Nos. 16-42 and 17-10
4. Platting Board: 02/16/17
5. Port Commission: 12/19/16, 02/13/17
6. Talkeetna Sewer and Water Service Area Advisory Board: 12/14/16, 01/04/17, 02/01/17, 03/01/17
7. Transportation Advisory Board: Resolution No. 17-01
8. Willow FSA Board of Supervisors: 01/12/17
9. North Lakes Community Council: 01/26/17
10. Susitna Community Council: 03/02/17
11. Sutton Community Council: 02/22/17
12. Willow Area Community Organization: 02/13/17

The citizen and other correspondence were presented and no comments were noted.

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

There were no informational memorandums presented.

VII. SPECIAL ORDERS

A. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (MSB 2.12.081; Three Minutes Per Person.)

There were no persons to be heard.

The meeting recessed at 6:41 p.m. and reconvened at 6:48 p.m.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)

[OR 17-031](#)

An Ordinance Of The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly Approving The Less Than Fair Market Value Sale Of The Old Iditarod Elementary School Parcel In The Amount Of \$1,500,000 To The City Of Wasilla, Said Parcel Identified As Tract B, Iditarod-Wasilla Schools 2016, Plat No. 2016-112, And Accepting And Appropriating The Sale Proceeds (MSB007256).

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in oppositon of Ordinance Serial No. 17-031: Ms. Patricia Gersich and Mr. Garvin Bucaria.

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

Assemblymember Beck moved to adopt. The motion passed without objection by the following vote:

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

An Ordinance Of The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly Approving The Less Than Fair Market Value Sale Of The Old Iditarod Elementary School Parcel In The Amount Of \$1,500,000 To The City Of Wasilla, Said Parcel Identified As Tract B, Iditarod-Wasilla Schools 2016, Plat No. 2016-112, And Accepting And Appropriating The Sale Proceeds (MSB007256).

Assemblymember Mayfield moved to postpone to a time certain of May 2, 2017. The motion failed by the following vote:

No: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck,
Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Colligan,
Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Kowalke

No: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck,
Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Colligan,
Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Kowalke

[OR 17-034](#)

An Ordinance Approving An Appropriation Of \$300,000 From The Talkeetna Fire Service Area Fund Balance, Fund 254, To Fund 405, Project No. 45243, To Purchase A Pumper/Rescue Vehicle And Related Equipment.

RS 17-020: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Project No. 45243, To Allow For The Purchase Of A Pumper/Rescue Vehicle And Related Equipment For Talkeetna Fire Service Area.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

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

Assemblymember Kowalke moved to adopt. The motion passed without objection by the following vote:

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

[OR 17-037](#)

An Ordinance Approving An Appropriation Of \$250,000 From South Colony Road Service Area No. 16 Fund Balance, Fund 273, To Fund 410, Project No. 30039, For South Colony Road Service Area No. 16 Capital Projects.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

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

Assemblymember Beck moved to adopt. The motion passed without objection by the following vote:

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

[OR 17-038](#)

An Ordinance Reappropriating \$82,100 From Fund 480, Project No. 47511, Payroll Benefits System/Human Resources System, To Fund 480, Project No. 47506, Financial System Enhancements.

RS 17-024: A Resolution Amending The Scopes Of Work And Budgets For Payroll Benefits System/Human Resources System, Project No. 47511 And Financial System Enhancements, Project No. 47506, To Include The Continued Development And Implementation Of The Borough E-Commerce Site.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

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

Assemblymember Beck moved to adopt. The motion passed without objection by the following vote:

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

[OR 17-039](#)

An Ordinance Authorizing The Borough Manager To Transfer And Relinquish Any And All Interest The Borough Has Within West Hawk Lane To The City Of Houston For Maintenance Within The City Boundaries, Located Within Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11 And 12, Township 17 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian, Third Judicial District.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

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

Assemblymember Kowalke moved to adopt. The motion passed without objection by the following vote:

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

C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person.)

There was no one present who wished to testify.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

Note: Action Memorandum No. 17-034 was pulled from the consent agenda and taken up with Ordinance Serial No. 17-013 and Resolution Serial No. 17-009 under Unfinished Business, without objection.

1. RESOLUTIONS

[RS 17-026](#) A Resolution Establishing The Minimum Level Of Funding For The Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District For The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

[RS 17-032](#) A Resolution Supporting The Adoption Of Alaska House Bill No. 178, Regarding Amendments To Alaska Statutes 35.40.035, Veterans' Memorials.

Sponsors: Kowalke

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

[AM 17-032](#) Award Of Bid No. 17-097B To Dirtworks, Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$568,189 For Bodenbug Creek Bridge Upgrades.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

[AM 17-033](#) Acceptance Of Late Filed And Retroactive Senior Citizen And Disabled Veteran Exemption Applications.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Assemblymember Beck moved to approve the Consent Agenda as read into the record by the Clerk. The motion carried without objection by the following vote:

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

[RS 17-031](#)

A Resolution To Approve And Adopt The Fiscal Year 2018 Schedule Of Rates And Fees Effective July 1, 2017.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Assemblymember Mayfield moved to postpone Resolution Serial No. 17-031 to a time certain of May 2, 2017. The motion passed without objection by the following vote:

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

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A.** [OR 17-013](#) An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$169,009.50 From Fund 520 To Fund 450, Project No. 70012 To Fund Repairs To The Port MacKenzie Barge Dock.
RS 17-009: A Resolution Approving The Appropriation Of \$450,000 From The Areawide Capital Reserve And \$400,000 From The Land Management Permanent Fund, For A Total Of \$850,000 To Fund 450, Project No. 70012, As A Loan To Fund 520, To Fund Repairs To The Port MacKenzie Barge Dock.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Main Motion Pending

Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment by striking taking the funds from the Land Management Permanent Fund in the amount of \$400,000 and replacing it with M/V Susitna, fund 367, in the amount of \$400,000 throughout the legislation. The motion passed without objection by the following vote:

- Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Kowalke
The main motion passed without objection by the following vote:
Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Kowalke

[AM 17-034](#) Award Of Bid 17-102B, To Sandstrom & Sons, Inc. For Port Mackenzie Open Cell Dock Repairs/Preliminary Work Package In The Amount Of \$532,357.50

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Action Memorandum No. 17-034 was taken up with Ordinance Serial No. 17-013 and Resolution Serial No. 17-009.

Assemblymember Mayfield moved to adopt. The motion passed without objection by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Kowalke, and Mayor Halter

IX. VETO

(There were no vetoes presented.)

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 04/24/17, Central Mat-Su Public Safety Building; 4/25/17, Assembly Chambers; 4/27/17, Willow Community Center)

[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

B. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 05/02/17, Assembly Chambers)

[OR 17-040](#) An Ordinance Adopting An Update To The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Recreational Trails Plan Component Of The Borough's Comprehensive Plan That Adds, Amends, And Removes Trails And Trail Systems, MSB 15.24.030(B) (16).

Sponsors: Borough Manager

[OR 17-044](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$35,000 From The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management Grant Program, To Fund 425, Project No. 45158, For Continuity Of Operations And Continuity Of Government Plans And Emergency Operations Plan Writing Software.

RS 17-029: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management Grant, Project No. 45158, Fund 425, For Continuity Of Operations And Continuity Of Government Plans And Emergency Operations Plan Writing Software.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

[OR 17-045](#)

An Ordinance Reappropriating \$90,000 From The Fiscal Year 2017 Assessment Division Operating Budget, Fund 100, To Fund 480, Project No. 47523, For The Assessments Mobile Application Project.

RS 17-030: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Assessment Mobile Application Project.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

[OR 17-046](#)

An Ordinance Confirming The Assessment Roll For The Portion Of Stepan Lake Noncontiguous Natural Gas Local Improvement District No. 554, And Establishing The Method Of Terminating Assessments And Making Refunds To Property Owners.

OR 17-051: An Ordinance Providing For The Issuance And Sale Of Not To Exceed \$68,000 Principal Amount Of Special Assessment Bonds For The Portion Of Stepan Lake Noncontiguous Natural Gas Local Improvement District No. 554, And Fixing Details Of Said Bonds.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

[OR 17-047](#)

An Ordinance Confirming The Assessment Roll For The West Rangeview Drive Road Paving Local Improvement District No. 566, And Establishing The Method Of Terminating Assessments And Making Refunds To Property Owners.

OR 17-052: An Ordinance Providing For The Issuance And Sale Of Not To Exceed \$69,000 Principal Amount Of Special Assessment Bonds For The West Rangeview Drive Road Paving Local Improvement District No. 566, And Fixing Details Of Said Bonds.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

[OR 17-048](#)

An Ordinance Confirming The Assessment Roll For The McCombs Road And Melanie Lane Noncontiguous Natural Gas Local Improvement District No. 572, And Establishing The Method Of Terminating Assessments And Making Refunds To Property Owners.

OR 17-053: An Ordinance Providing For The Issuance And Sale Of Not To Exceed \$65,000 Principal Amount Of Special Assessment Bonds For The McCombs Road And Melanie Lane Noncontiguous Natural Gas Local Improvement District No. 572, And Fixing Details Of Said Bonds.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

[OR 17-049](#)

An Ordinance Confirming The Assessment Roll For The 3588 South Dawn Lake Drive Noncontiguous Natural Gas Local Improvement District No. 576 And Establishing The Method Of Terminating Assessments And Making Refunds To Property Owners.

OR 17-054: An Ordinance Providing For The Issuance And Sale Of Not To Exceed \$10,000 Principal Amount Of Special Assessment Bonds For The 3588 South Dawn Lake Drive Noncontiguous Natural Gas Local Improvement District No. 576, And Fixing Details Of Said Bonds.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

[OR 17-050](#)

An Ordinance Confirming The Assessment Roll For The 2207 And 2287 East Carney Road Noncontiguous Natural Gas Local Improvement District No. 577, And Establishing The Method Of Terminating Assessments And Making Refunds To Property Owners.

OR 17-055: An Ordinance Providing For The Issuance And Sale Of Not To Exceed \$24,000 Principal Amount Of Special Assessment Bonds For The 2207 And 2287 East Carney Road Noncontiguous Natural Gas Local Improvement District No. 577, And Fixing Details Of Said Bonds.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

[OR 17-056](#)

An Ordinance Approving A Supplemental Appropriation In The Amount Of \$20,000 From The Sutton Fire Service Area Fund Balance, Fund 253, To The Sutton Fire Service Area Fiscal Year 2018 Operating Budget To Cover Wages And Benefits For The Remainder Of Fiscal Year 2018.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Ms. McKechnie read the above legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Beck moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the clerk and set the public hearings for April 24, 25, and 27, and May 2, 2017, respectively. The motion passed without objection by the following vote:

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

C. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

[17-025](#) Vacancy Report

Sponsors: Borough Manager
Emergency Medical Services Board
Brian Anderson, resignation

Note: Ms. Kelci Boe was not moved forward for confirmation as she had submitted notification to withdraw her application for the Board of Equalization.

Assemblymember Beck moved to confirm the Mayor's appointments and resignations. The motion passed without objection by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck,
Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Colligan,
Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Kowalke,
and Mayor Halter

D. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

There was no other new business.

E. REFERRALS (For Referral To The Planning Commission For 90 Days Or Other Date Specified By The Assembly)

(There were no referrals presented.)

XI. RECONSIDERATION

(There was no reconsideration presented.)

XII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember McKee inquired on the reasons for future funding for the Port as it was not a functioning enterprise fund.

Mr. Moosey provided information on the process and reasons for future funding requests.

Assemblymember Sykes noted appreciation for the comments regarding the Port. He spoke to the retirement party for Fire Chief Greene.

Assemblymember Mayfield congratulated Mr. Feather for his permanent assignment as Emergency Services Director. He recognized Mr. Marc Van Dongen, Port Director, for his years of service with the Borough.

Assemblymember Colligan thanked Chief Green for his service.

Assemblymember Beck spoke in agreement on the sale of Iditarod Elementary School to the city of Wasilla. He opined there were other viable places for the School District business offices. He noted he would be out of town during the budget deliberations. He spoke regarding the trip to Washington, DC and expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Manager and Attorney on behalf of the Borough.

Mayor Halter congratulated Mr. Feather as Emergency Services Director. He congratulated Mayor Cottle on the sale of Iditarod Elementary School property to the City of Wasilla.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (For Matters Which By Law, Municipal Charter, Or Ordinance Are Required To Be Kept Confidential; And To Discuss Matters Involving Consideration Of Borough Records That By Law Are Not Subject To Public Disclosure; And Discussion Of Matters Subject To The Attorney Client Privilege.)

moved to enter into executive session For Matters Which By Law, Municipal Charter, Or Ordinance Are Required To Be Kept Confidential; And To Discuss Matters Involving Consideration Of Borough Records That By Law Are Not Subject To Public Disclosure; And Discussion Of Matters Subject To The Attorney Client Privilege In Particular to discuss pre-decisional and confidential legal analysis of proposed sales tax confined to the talkeetna water service area. Those present in executive session would be the Mayor, the Assembly, the manager, the attorney, and the clerk.

convened executive session at 7:35 pm reconvened at 7:55

A. Pre-Decisional And Confidential Legal Analysis Of Proposed Sales Tax Confined To The Talkeetna Sewer And Water Service Area.

Assemblymember Beck moved to enter into executive session for matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be kept confidential; and to discuss matters involving consideration of Borough records that by law are not subject to public disclosure; and discussion of matters subject to the attorney client privilege, in particular to discuss pre-decisional and confidential legal analysis of proposed sales tax confined to the Talkeetna Water Service Area. Those present in executive session will be the Mayor, the Assembly, the Manager, the Attorney, and the Clerk. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Kowalke, and Mayor Halter

A. Pre-Decisional And Confidential Legal Analysis Of Proposed Sales Tax Confined To The Talkeetna Sewer And Water Service Area.

Assemblymember Beck moved to exit executive session. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Kowalke, and Mayor Halter

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at ____ 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.