

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

Barbara Doty, District 6

Randall Kowalke, District 7

MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, JULY 17, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, July 17, 2018, 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 7 - Assemblymember Jim Sykes, Assemblymember Matthew Beck, Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Ted Leonard, Assemblymember Dan Mayfield, Assemblymember Barbara J. Doty, and Assemblymember Randall Kowalke

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Stu Graham, Wasilla City Council Member.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke to concerns with Ordinance Serial No. 18-028: Mr. Brian Endle.

The following person spoke to Ordinance Serial No. 18-071 and in support of the adoption of police powers for the Borough: Mr. Bruce Walden.

The following persons spoke in support of adding the Smith Road extension (within Assembly District 1) to Ordinance Serial No. 18-078: Ms. Lucy Klebesadel, Mr. Max Shillinger, Ms. Christy Marvin, Mr. Mike Campfield, and Ms. Kimberly Bergee.

The following person spoke to concerns with the public process in regards to the public meetings on crime issues: Mr. Eugene Haberman.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 07/31/18, Assembly Chambers)

[OR 18-078](#) An Ordinance Relating To The Construction, Additions, Improvements, Betterments, Repair, Reconstruction, Or Acquisition Of Public Roads And Facilities Related Thereto In The Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Together With All Necessary Equipment And Transportation Facilities, And The Acquisition Of Lands Or Rights In Lands In Connection Therewith, And A Debt Of The Borough, Authorizing The Issuance Of Areawide General Obligation Bonds Of The Borough In An Amount Not To Exceed The Sum Of Seventy-Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$72,500,000) To Finance The Cost, In Whole Or In Part, Of Such Public Roads, Facilities And Lands, And Providing For The Submission To The Voters Of The Borough Of A Proposition Ratifying The Authorization Of Such Bonds At The October 2, 2018, Regular Borough Election.

Ms. Kilborn read the above legislation into the record.

B. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 08/07/18, Assembly Chambers)

[OR 18-080](#) An Ordinance Eliminating The Sunset Provisions For Distribution Of Motor Vehicle Tax, And Eliminating The Sunset Provisions Of The Permanent Motor Vehicle Registration And Permanent Registration Of Noncommercial Trailers To Allow Such Registrations To Continue.

Sponsors: Sykes

Ms. Kilborn 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 July 31, 2018, and August 7, 2018, respectively. The motion passed without objection by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

[OR 18-071](#) An Ordinance Submitting An Advisory Question To The Voters Outside The Cities On The Issue Of Police Powers.

Sponsors: Sykes

PENDING AMENDMENT: Assemblymember Sykes moved a primary amendment to OR 18-071, by inserting an additional sentence after the first sentence below "Advisory Vote on Police Powers" to read: "The Matanuska-Susitna Borough is experiencing a rise in crime and population, but it does not have police powers. At this time, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough cannot contract for additional State Troopers, extend City Police to extend coverage outside city boundaries, contract directly for police officers, create police service districts, or other possible option to provide police service." The estimated cost to provide police powers in areas of significant population density is roughly 3 to 3.5 mills (\$300 to \$350 for each \$100,000 of assessed property value). Should the Matanuska-Susitna Borough begin the steps to add police powers to its responsibilities in the areas outside the cities?"

The primary amendment failed by the following vote:

No: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

Assemblymember Sykes moved a primary amendment to Ordinance Serial No. 18-071, by inserting the following verbiage below the title "Advisory Vote On Police Powers", to read: "The Matanuska-Susitna Borough does not have police powers. The Borough is experiencing an increase in crime and drugs and a decrease in police response. Without police powers, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough cannot contract for additional State Troopers or City Police coverage outside city boundaries, create police service districts, or other possible options to provide police service. Preliminary cost estimates to provide police powers in areas of significant population density is roughly 3 to 3.5 mills (\$300 to \$350 for each \$100,000 of assessed property value). Any future plan that may be considered would require approval by the voters in an election. Should the Matanuska-Susitna Borough investigate and consider steps to add police powers to its responsibilities in the areas outside the cities?"

Assemblymember Sykes moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 18-071 to a time certain of July 31, 2017. The motion passed by the following vote:

- Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Leonard, and Assemblymember Mayfield
- No:** 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Assemblymember Doty thanked the Assembly for the discussion on the items. Spoke to the AARP Smoke Free Workplace efforts and spoke to the plastic bag ban for the cities. She directed Mr. Moosey to provide a detailed presentation on the road bonds projects at the July 31 special meeting.

Assemblymember Kowalke referred to a corrected statement directed to Mr. Sykes. He spoke in support of better, safer communities. He urged the Manager to include current, accurate information on the amendments to the road bond projects.

Assemblymember Leonard thanked Mr. Sykes for his efforts on the police powers issue. He voiced concern that the amount estimated for the road bond projects had increased. He advocated moving forward with the transportation plan.

Assemblymember McKee opined that the Borough could do better at providing details to citizens related to various issues which included assessment rates.

Assemblymember Sykes agreed that the Borough could do better at disseminating detailed information to citizens. He spoke to comments from Mr. Endle regarding information relayed to the community council. He appreciated the discussion on the police powers issue and encouraged working with other agencies on efforts towards Borough police powers. He spoke to the position of the Alaska State Troopers when related to community issues.

Assemblymember Mayfield opined that the State Legislature needed to listen to the public regarding crime and safety issues. He asked for public opinion on how to resolve and change the priorities for the betterment of the citizens.

Mayor Halter spoke to the mission of the Alaska State Troopers and numerated the issues that they were faced with, placed on them by the circumstances of the state, which included in part, the decrease in the number of active troopers, salary issues, and Senate Bill 91.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.