

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



Jim Sykes, District 1

Matthew Beck, District 2

George McKee, District 3

Ted Leonard, District 4

Dan Mayfield, District 5

Jesse Sumner, District 6

Tam Boeve, District 7

MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2019

Budget Public Hearing

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, 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 Jesse Sumner, and Assemblymember Tam Boeve

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Ms. Barbara Gerard, a member of the public.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke in support of the actions and accomplishments of the School District: Ms. Dianne Shibe

The following person spoke to the proposal to shift school debt reimbursement to the School District: Ms. Monica Goyette, School District Superintendent

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

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC HEARING

OR 19-019

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, 2019 And Ending June 30, 2020; And Setting The Surcharge Rate For The Wireline And Wireless Enhanced 911 Systems For The Period Of July 1, 2019 Through June 30, 2020.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in support of full funding for the school district: Ms. Rachael Gerard, Mr. Peter Olson, Ms. Andrea Everett, Mr. Paul Reid, Ms. Teresa Johnson, Ms. Tamela Kile, Ms. Stacy Molina, Ms. Susan Steele, Ms. Lisa Vrvilo, Ms. Britt Flansburg, Ms. Barbara Gerard, Ms. Kathy Swartz, Ms. Mary Fulp, Ms. Madeline Ortiz, Mr. Steven Ramirez, and Ms. Emily Ramirez

The following person spoke in opposition of the proposal to shift school debt reimbursement costs to the School District: Ms. Austin Grimes, Ms. Andrea Everett, Ms. Teresa Johnson, Ms. Tamela Kile, Ms. Susan Steele, Ms. Lisa Vrvilo, Ms. Britt Flansburg, Ms. Verona Berg, Ms. Kara Krsche, and Mr. Sean Reilly

The following person spoke in support of funding for the Mat-Su Visitor and Convention Bureau and in support of the tourism industry and destination promotion: Mr. Wes Tegcler, Ms. Roberta Warner, and Ms. Margaret Adsit

The following person spoke in support of researching other options to make up the money needed by the School District to fully fund education: Mr. Bert Houghtaling

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

Assemblymember Beck moved to continue the public hearing on Ordinance Serial No. 19-019 to Thursday, May 2, at 6 p.m., at the Willow Community Center. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Mr. Spiropoulos provided an update on tax assessment appeals recently considered by the Board of Equalization and noted that the tax rolls were to be confirmed by the May 1 deadline.

Ms. McKechnie spoke to a scheduling conflict for the June 3 tentative budget deliberation meeting.

Mayor Halter queried if there was any objection to changing the time of the meeting from 6 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, June 3.

There was no objection noted and the meeting was rescheduled.

Mr. Moosey commended Mr. Brad Pickett, Borough Assessor, on the department's efforts to fairly assess and tax the property owners after the earthquake disaster. He also announced that the Popular Annual Financial Report was available on the Borough's website.

Assemblymember Leonard thanked the audience for their testimony on the budget. He urged the Assembly to reconsider the scheduled budget deliberation meetings for May 13 and 14, as the state of Alaska budget was not scheduled to be adopted until May 15.

Assemblymember Sykes spoke in favor of moving the budget deliberation meetings closer to the June 4 date. He thanked the public for its testimony on the School District funding and encouraged the public to contact their state legislators to urge full funding for education. He spoke to the budget process and explained the effect on the community.

Assemblymember McKee spoke to the budget process, the involvement of the Assembly, and that of the community members in relation to funding the budget.

Assemblymember Boeve addressed a public member's comments opposing the efforts of the Assembly to engage the public by holding budget public hearings in locations outside of the Palmer area. She encouraged the Assembly members when traveling to the budget public hearing in Willow on May 2 to observe the devastating effects the spruce beetles have had on the spruce trees along the Parks Highway.

Assemblymember Mayfield thanked all attendees for their participation and attendance at the meeting. He spoke to consequences of the state budget cuts in relation to local governments.

Assemblymember Beck applauded the administration, teachers, and staff of the School District for their efforts to educate. He thanked the young persons who testified during the meeting and commended them on stepping up now to make a difference for the future. He praised the testimony on tourism.

Mayor Halter spoke to and clarified his memo to the Assembly regarding the school debt reimbursement. He noted another memo would be issued at a future date regarding the budget.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.