

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

WILLOW COMMUNITY CENTER
MILE 69, PARKS HIGHWAY, WILLOW

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

6:00 PM

THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2019

Budget Public Hearing

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Thursday, May 2, 2019, 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: 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 the members of the Willow Library Association.

Mayor Halter presented the Willow Library Association with his donation to the library project.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following persons spoke in support of full funding for schools: Ms. Jennifer Renaldi; Ms. Breanna Reintsma; Ms. Lisa Shelby, Susitna Valley Jr./Sr. High School Principal; Ms. Becky Moran; and Ms. Marianne Schoppmeyer.

The following persons spoke in support of fuunding for the Willow Library Project: Ms. Carol Goltz, Mr. Bill Mailer, Mr. Ryan Thomas, Ms. Alea Sidelinger, Ms. Teri Petram, Ms. Ann Yadon, and Ms. Sharon Taylor.

The following person spoke in to concerns with the Deception Creek Ecological System being impacted by a fish weir: Mr. Gary Calhoun.

The following person spoke to the need for an ambulance to be located in Willow: Mr. Doyle Holmes.

The following person spoke in support of Resolution Serial No. 19-036: Ms. Chrystal Mayer.

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

The following person spoke to concerns with Borough taxes: Mr. Bert Houghtaling.

The following person spoke to the need for community water in Trapper Creek: Ms. Paula Glenka.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

The meeting recessed at 6:57 p.m. and reconvened at 7:13 p.m.

A. RESOLUTIONS

[RS 19-036](#) A Resolution Stating Non-Objection To The Trapper Creek Fire Department Being Recognized As A Volunteer Fire Service To Provide Fire Protection In The Trapper Creek Area.

Sponsors: Boeve

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Boeve moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 19-036. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS

[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 reopened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in support of community enrichment programs: Ms. Kathleen Fleming, Mr. Steve Charles, and Ms. Melita White.

The following person spoke in support of funding for the Willow Cabin project: Ms. Teri Webb.

The following person noted that he was attending the meeting to relay a meeting summary back to Governor Dunleavy: Mr. Todd Smolden, Executive Director of Governor Dunleavy's valley office.

The following persons spoke to concerns with the Mat-Su Convention and Visitor's Bureau: Mr. Fernando Salvador and Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

The following persons spoke in support of full funding for education: Mr. Bill Johson, Ms. Virgie Thompson, Mr. Bert Houghtaling, Mr. Jack Walsh.

The following person noted that the Mat-Su Convention and Visitor's Bureau has had a recent audit: Ms. Bonnie Quill, Mat-Su Convention and Visitor's Bureau Executive Director.

Assemblymember Beck moved to cancel the May 13 and May 14, budget deliberation meetings. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Assemblymember Beck moved to continue the public hearing for Ordinance Serial No. 19-019, to a time certain of May 16, 2019, at 6 p.m. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

[OR 19-033](#) An Ordinance Authorizing The Borough Manager To Enter Into An Agreement With M Stitt Barns And Restorations To Restore The Willow Log Cabin, Fund 435, Project No. 10182, And To Extend The Completion Date Of Project No. 10182, And To Approve A Reappropriation Of \$65,500 From The Fiscal Year 2019 Community Development Department, Land Management Operating Budget 203.170.141 To Fund 435, Project No. 10182.

RS 19-034: A Resolution Amending The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Willow Log Cabin Rehabilitation Project, Fund 435, Project No. 10182.

Sponsors: Boeve

Mr. Eric Phillips, Community Development Director, provided a presentation regarding the history of the Willow log cabin.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in support of funding for the Willow log cabin restoration project: Ms. Lindi Oxley, Mr. Mark Merrill, Mr. Jim Huston, Ms. Kathleen Huston, Ms. Madeline Gocke, Mr. Hank Gocke, Mr. John Nelson, Mr. Doyle Holmes, and Ms. Brenda McCain.

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

Assemblymember Boeve moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 19-033 and Resolution Serial No. 19-034. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

[OR 19-055](#) An Ordinance Amending MSB 3.70.050, Service Area Sales Tax, To Add Exemptions For Specified Utilities When Used Exclusively For Residential Purposes, Within The Talkeetna Sewer And Water Service Area.

Sponsors: Boeve

The following persons spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 19-055: Ms. Whitney Wolff, Ms. Molly Wood, and Mr. Mike Wood.

Assemblymember Boeve moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 19-055. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve

No: 2 - Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Sumner

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Mr. Spiropoulos noted that while doing the Talkeetna tax legislation research, he discovered that in the state of Washington, the propane used to heat chicken coops is exempted from taxation.

Mr. Moosey thanked the Willow Community for their hospitality.

Assemblymember Sykes opined that the body will work through the school bond debt reimbursement. Urged members of the public to contact their legislators regarding full funding for education. Thanked the Willow Community for dinner.

Assemblymember McKee noted that if one item is fully funded that an alternative item will not be funded. Spoke to concerns with the budget process.

Assemblymember Mayfield noted his appreciation and love of the Willow Community. Thanked the community for the delicious dinner.

Assemblymember Sumner spoke to his enjoyment of the meeting.

Assemblymember Leonard thanked the community for their hospitality. Noted the importance of the Assembly hearing from all residents of the Borough during the budget public hearing process. Thanked the body for the meeting.

Assemblymember Beck spoke to his appreciation of the Willow

Community. Noted that the Borough has strong leadership, which will serve the Assembly well in crafting a balanced budget. Stated that he enjoyed the tshirts that were worn that read “Quilting is My Therapy.” Spoke in support of testimony provided by a young member of the Willow community.

Assemblymember Boeve thanked the Willow Community for their testimony and hard work on behalf of their community.

Mayor Halter spoke in support of community enrichment programs. Noted his pleasure with the Assembly action regarding the Willow cabin restoration project. Stated that he likes the idea of it being a museum and alternative meeting space for the community. Spoke to the tenacity required to bring a library project to fruition. Summarized his intent for school bond debt reimbursement. Stated that this is a difficult budget cycle. Spoke in support of a 10.33 areawide mill rate. Thanked the Willow Community for dinner and for hosting the meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.