

# 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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 2019

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### **Tentative Budget Deliberations and Adoption**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

#### **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**

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

#### **IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Ms. Elizabeth Ripley, Mat-Su Health Foundation Chief Executive Officer.

## **V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

The following persons spoke in support of funding for Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) and Youth Court: Mayor Bert Cottle, city of Wasilla and Ms. Krista Masiolek, Youth Court Executive Director.

The following person spoke in support of funding for SART: Ms. Elizabeth Ripley, Mat-Su Health Foundation Chief Executive Officer.

The following persons spoke to concerns with the lack of public in attendance: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

## **VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

### **A. DELIBERATIONS AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET**

[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.

[Clerk's Note: During budget deliberations, the Assembly recessed and reconvened at the following times:

\* Recessed at 7:27 p.m. and reconvened at 7:33 p.m.

\* Recessed at 8:14 p.m. and reconvened at 8:18 p.m.

Ms. Kilborn read the legislation into the record.

**MOTION PENDING: Assemblymember Beck moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 19-019.**

**Amendment No. 10**

**Areawide Fund, Assembly – Travel and Training (Tab B, pages 64-65)**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to the Areawide fund, Assembly, as follows:**

- **strike \$6,000 from Expense Reimbursement Outside the Borough (414.200) leaving a balance of \$0;**
- **strike \$6,000 from Travel Tickets (414.400) leaving a balance of \$0; and**
- **strike \$2,000 from Training/Conference Reimbursements (429.200) leaving a balance of \$0.**

**The motion failed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, and Assemblymember Sumner

**No:** 4 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve

**Amendment No. 11**

**Areawide Fund – Administration – Permanent Wages and Benefits (Tab B, page 73)**

**Assemblymember Boeve moved a primary amendment to the Areawide fund, Administration, Permanent Wages, by inserting the Public Affairs Director position back into the budget in the total amount of \$150,795 in salaries and benefits. The motion passed by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve
- No:** 2 - Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Leonard

**Amendment No. 12**

**Areawide Fund Assembly & Planning & Land Use (Tab B, page 64)(Tab B, pages 106)**

**Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to the Areawide Fund as follows:**

- Planning and Land Use, Planning Studies, by striking \$165,000 and inserting in its place \$158,000 for a reduction of \$7,000;**
- Assembly, Mileage Outside of Borough, by striking \$1,000 and inserting in its place \$2,000 for an increase of \$1,000;**
- Assembly, Expense Reimbursements Outside Borough, by striking \$6,000 and inserting \$9,000 in its place for an increase of \$3,000; and**
- Assembly, Travel Tickets, by striking \$6,000 and inserting in its place \$9,000 for an increase of \$3,000.**

**The motion passed by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve
- No:** 3 - Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Leonard

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Assemblymember Beck stated that he has a conflict of interest with Amendment No. 13 as he has ownership in a veterinarian clinic that does business with the Borough.

RULING: Mayor Halter ruled that he had a conflict of interest and would be recused from voting.

Assemblymember Beck exited the meeting.

**Amendment No. 13**

**Non-Areawide – Assembly – Animal Care and Regulation  
(Tab C, Page 189)**

**Assemblymember Boeve moved a primary amendment to the Non-areawide Fund, Animal Care and Regulation Division, to add a Kennel Manager by increasing permanent wages (200.100.606.411.100) by \$62,478 and total benefits (200.100.606.412.xxx) by \$48,215 for a total increase of \$110,693. The motion failed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 2 - Assemblymember Sykes, and Assemblymember Boeve

**No:** 4 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Sumner

**Recused:** 1 - Assemblymember Beck

Assemblymember Beck re-entered the meeting.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** Assemblymember Beck stated that he has a conflict of interest with Amendment No. 14 as he has ownership in a veterinarian clinic that does business with the Borough.

**RULING:** Mayor Halter ruled that he had a conflict of interest and would be recused from voting.

Assemblymember Beck exited the meeting.

**Amendment No. 14**

**Non-Areawide – Assembly – Animal Care and Regulation  
(Tab C, Page 189)**

**Assemblymember Boeve moved a primary amendment to the Non-Areawide Fund, Animal Care and Regulation Division:**

- **to add a Permanent Animal Care Dispatcher and eliminating two on-call dispatchers;**
- **by reducing temporary wages (200.100.606.411.200) by \$45,562;**
- **by increasing permanent wages (200.100.606.411.200) by \$48,807; and**
- **by increasing total benefits (200.100.606.412.xxx) by \$37,262.**

**The motion failed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 2 - Assemblymember Sykes, and Assemblymember Boeve

**No:** 4 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Sumner

**Recused:** 1 - Assemblymember Beck

Assemblymember Beck re-entered the meeting.

**Amendment No. 15**

**Areawide - Assembly Department - Assembly Division (Tab B, page 64-65.)**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to the Areawide Fund, Assembly, Dues & Fees (426.300), by striking \$41,000 to leave a balance of \$0. The motion passed by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, and Assemblymember Sumner
- No:** 3 - Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve

**Amendment No. 16**

**Non-Areawide - Assembly - Economic Development (Tab C, page 187-188.)**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to the Non-Areawide Fund, Assembly , Economic Development Division (200.100.114.), to decrease the overall budget by \$409,873 to leave a balance of \$0.**

**Assemblymember Sykes moved a secondary amendment by striking "\$409,873" and inserting "\$209,873" to leave a balance of \$200,000. 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
- The primary amendment passed as amended by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve
- No:** 1 - Assemblymember McKee

**Amendment No. 17**

**Areawide - Planning and Land Use Department - Planning Division (Tab B, page 105-106)**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to the Areawide Fund, Planning & Land Use Department, Planning Division (100.130.130.) to decrease the overall budget by \$165,000 to leave a balance of \$1,052,369. The motion failed by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, and Assemblymember Sumner

**No:** 4 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck,  
Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve  
**Amendment No. 18**  
**Areawide Fund, Tab B Page 112-113**

**Assemblymember Leonard moved a primary amendment to the Areawide Fund, Planning Department, Development Services Division to increase the overall budget (100.130.139.4XX.XXX) by \$50,000, to equip the new Code Compliance Officer with a new vehicle, equipment, uniform, office supplies, and training. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck,  
Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield,  
Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**Absent:** 1 - Assemblymember McKee  
**Amendment No. 19**  
**Areawide Fund Planning Department, Planning & Land Use Division (Tab B, page 106)**  
**Non-Departmental (Tab B, Page 63) Capital Projects (Tab M, page 499)**

**Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to the Areawide Fund as follows:**

- Reduce Planning and Land Use, Planning Studies (100.130.130.429.300) by \$50,000;**
- Increasing Capital Projects (100.000.000.446.700) by \$50,000.**

**The motion passed by the following vote:**

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



**Amendment No. 20**

**Capital Projects-Grants/Pass Through (Tab M, page 499)/Areawide Transfers-City of Wasilla Planning Grant and Veterans Memorial Wall Grant (Tab B, page 63)**

**Assemblymember Leonard moved a primary amendment to the Capital Projects-Grants/Pass Through (Tab M, page 499) by adding \$225,000 for a Planning Grant to the City of Wasilla and adding \$100,000 for a Veterans Memorial Wall Grant to the City of Wasilla; Increase Areawide Transfers-City of Wasilla Planning Grant (100.000.000.449.205) by \$225,000; Increase Areawide Transfers-City of Wasilla Veterans Memorial Wall Grant (100.000.000.449.200) by \$100,000; and decrease total areawide expenditures by \$325,000 as determined by the Manager.**

**This amendment will provide the City of Wasilla funding for the City Planning Department which, in turn, will allow the City to fund:**

- \$25,000 for Youth Court**
- \$50,000 for SART**
- \$150,000 for Palmer/Wasilla task force participation**

**This amendment will also provide the City of Wasilla a Veterans Memorial Wall Grant in the amount of \$100,000.**

**The motion passed by the following vote:**

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

**Amendment No. 21**

**Areawide Fund**

**Assemblymember Leonard moved a primary amendment to the Areawide Fund by reducing it by \$519,370, with the reductions in line items to be determined by the Manager, except that reductions may not occur to wages and benefits of Code Compliance Officers. The motion failed by the following vote:**

**Yes: 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, and Assemblymember Sumner**

**No:** 4 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck,  
Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve  
**Assemblymember Beck moved to set the mill rates at 10.386  
areawide and .573 nonareawide. The motion passed by the  
following vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck,  
Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve

**No:** 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, and  
Assemblymember Sumner

**The main motion passed as amended by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck,  
Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve

**No:** 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, and  
Assemblymember Sumner

[RS 19-066](#) A Resolution Establishing The Rate Of Levy For The Fiscal Year  
Beginning July 1, 2019 And Ending June 30, 2020, Establishing  
Dates When Taxes Are Payable And Delinquent, And Setting The  
Surcharge Rate For The Wireline And Wireless Enhanced 911  
Systems For The Period Of July 1, 2019 Through June 30, 2020.

**Sponsors:** Leonard

**Assemblymember Leonard moved to withdraw Resolution  
Serial No. 19-066 and to take no action. 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 cancel the remaining  
budget deliberation meetings scheduled for May 30 and 31  
and June 3 and 10. 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. VETO

**A. Motion To Override Any Possible Mayoral Veto On Fiscal Year 2020 Budget  
Items (Ordinance Serial No. 19-019)**

There were no vetoes presented.

## VIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Assemblymember Sumner spoke to his appreciation of going through the budget deliberation process. Thanked the body for the meeting.

Assemblymember Leonard thanked Mayor Halter for advising the body about funds needed for the Veteran's Memorial Wall. Stated that he appreciates the Borough being a partner with the city of Wasilla in caring for the memorial. Stated that although he supports the process of budget deliberations, he is disappointed that he was unable to keep the mill rate at 10.331. Spoke in opposition to increasing taxes as a way to increase revenue.

Assemblymember Sykes thanked the body for their hard work on the budget. Noted that the Assembly is a diverse group who often see things from different perspectives. Stated he is glad they can work together. Stated that he is hopeful that the State Legislature will support the 70/30 split on debt reimbursement.

Assemblymember Boeve thanked staff for all their hard work on the budget. Opined that it had been challenging and is not likely over yet. Stated that she appreciates staff's perseverance and dedication to working for residents in the Borough.

Assemblymember Mayfield thanked the body for their participation in the budget process. Noted that they did not agree on the final product, but he feels that a good budget was adopted.

Assemblymember Beck stated that he is thankful to have been a part of this year's budget process. Noted that although he did not agree with all of Assemblymember Sumner's amendments, he thought that his points were presented thoughtfully. Thanked staff for all their hard work on behalf of Borough residents. Thanked Ms. Heindel for all her expertise. Stated that he is grateful this is his last budget season.

Assemblymember Sumner recognized Ms. Bonnie Quill, Mat-Su Convention and Visitor's Bureau, who was sitting in the audience. Stated that he does not think they are squandering funds as much as he did before the budget process. Thanked the body for the meeting.

Mayor Halter expressed concern that the State Legislature has not yet adopted a budget. Spoke to how reserve funds could be impacted by 70/30 or 50/50 split. Noted that if it is zero, then the Borough will have problems. Opined that it was a professional amendment process. Spoke in support of the amendments being turned in early. Opined that they were well written

and organized. Stated that Ms. Kilborn and Ms. Henry did a sensational job. Stated that he is happy the budget is adopted. Spoke to the beautiful wreath that Ms. Tiffany Richards, his staff support, ordered for the Memorial Day ceremony at the Veteran's Memorial Wall.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.