



CITY OF WASILLA

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Council Memorandum No. 97-31

To: Councilmembers
From: Mayor Palin
Date: May 8, 1997
Re: Ballot Propositions

I respectfully ask for your consideration of the August 18th deadline for questions to be put on the 1997 municipal ballot.

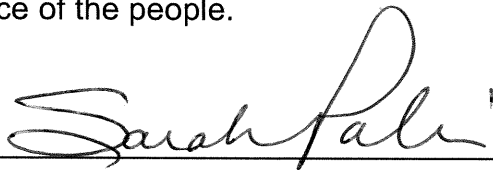
Elected officials in the city have talked about the same high-profile issues for many years...it is time we ask the voters what *they* want and make decisions according to their will. My recommendation is to discuss the following **possible** ballot issues in addition to any of your own ideas:

1. Construction of Public Safety Building in Wasilla (joint effort with the Mat-Su Borough): *The Borough is moving forward with its plans to build this facility. Obviously, Wasilla is the Valley's hub, we are growing up extremely fast and our long-term vision (per our comprehensive plan) includes such a facility. We are seeing the by-products of not preparing for growth and we need to do a better job planning for more inevitable growth. In the area of public safety we can either continue to "take our business" elsewhere, or we can participate in the plans for this facility and attract it to our city. The most logical, convenient and economically beneficial site for this potential home for fire, police, troopers, EMS, EMT, a magistrate, etc. may be within Wasilla's city limits.*
2. Library Funding, including possible construction funds for improved library service, (site to be selected based on long-term solution of funding questions): *Fundamental questions continue to be asked by the public, including: Are city residents expected to pay for a service that is utilized and enjoyed by a majority of non-city residents? In light of the Borough's need/desire for a more centralized library, are we going to allow traditional boundaries and the "ownership" issue to exclude potential inter-governmental cooperation to provide the public improved library service? There evidently is a shared*

sentiment that there may be one too many levels of government involved in the library issue and we will see diminished service or duplication of service if we don't remedy this dilemma soon... which entity should be responsible for improved library services, including possibly a new multi-use facility.

3. Road Improvement/Paving Package to include local collectors, mini-collectors, etc. such as Spruce Ave., Dana Ave., Mystery Ave., etc., and intersections such as Lucille and Nelson. *Wasilla has traditionally fixed our roads one problem at a time. If this is acceptable to residents we should continue, otherwise, we could look at fixing main roads in one fell swoop. This issue, like so many others, has been batted around City Hall for so long without being brought forward for even so much as an advisory vote that many residents have become apathetic towards the local governmental process. I believe our residents deserve to give direction by way of an advisory vote on these issues.*

Please consider the opportunity before us in the October election. Public involvement is at its highest and strongest during an election season. We as elected officials in Wasilla should seize this opportunity to allow a forum for the voice of the people.



Sarah H. Palin, Mayor