

SUBJECT: Home Rule

PREPARED BY: Administration

DATE: January 14, 2000

FOR AGENDA OF: January 24, 2000

SUMMARY: Council: You all know that Wasilla is the heart of the fastest growing area in Alaska. We have great potential to become as self-determined and self-sufficient as our community wants to be.

It was more than 25 years ago that Wasilla voted to incorporate as a first class city. In speaking with former mayors and decision makers from that time, and in conducting my own research on this issue, it is evident that the intent with the decision to become a first class city was to eventually move towards becoming a home rule city, if in fact the advantages that come with the home rule status help us more adequately meet our goals to provide necessary services to Wasilla residents.

Wasilla is an ideal, centrally located community with two important factors that guarantee continued growth and progress: a strong work force and a great expanse of surrounding land. More and more people recognize these facts and are attracted to the fine quality of life we enjoy here. Undoubtedly not everyone will be enthused with the realization that much more growth is on our horizon and Wasilla's destiny is to probably become a relatively large, active Alaskan city. But, to be empowered for more management control over our own growth, I feel we need to explore home rule status.

Entering the 21st Century is the perfect time to explore this. Our present degree of authority and accountability could be addressed with the exploration of this issue, as could the role we play in State and Borough government.

Granted, this is very visionary, but hopefully the thought of considering a possible change in local government's status is not so unsettling that you would want to shelve the idea until changes occur around us that force us to "react and resist" instead of being pro-active for the good of Wasilla's future.

My intent is to gather information on home rule status' advantages and disadvantages, and to learn the process a city must go through to become home rule if the community so desires. My request is that you make a motion supporting this intent, understanding that I will need to work with staff members, our attorney, the AML, our legislators, etc., on this issue.

In very simplistic terms, the difference between a first class city and a home rule city is:

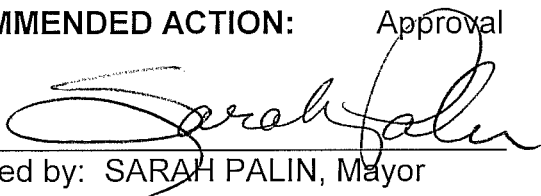
First Class can only do what the law says they can do (AS 29.35) whereas

Home Rule allows the city all legislative powers not prohibited by law or charter. Home Rule adopts a charter through an election (Article X, Section 11 - Constitution of Alaska), like Fairbanks, Kenai, Kodiak, and other established cities have.

(Please see attached list of Alaska's first class and home rule cities.)

FISCAL IMPACT: X No ___ Yes, amount requested: \$ Fund:

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Approval



Reviewed by: SARAH PALIN, Mayor

Presented to council on 1/24/2000

Action taken: Approved Denied

other: Amended to support intent of admin
Verified by PL to gather info on advantages, disadvantages, + to work w/ staff +

legislators etc on the issue. CM No. 00-04

Larsen Bay..... Second Class
 Old Harbor..... Second Class
 Ouzinkie..... Second Class
 Port Lions..... Second Class

Kotzebue..... Second Class
 Noorvik..... Second Class
 Selawik..... Second Class
 Shungnak..... Second Class

HOME RULE CITIES

Cordova
 Fairbanks
 Kenai
 Ketchikan
 Kodiak
 Nenana
 North Pole
 Palmer
 Petersburg
 Seward
 Valdez
 Wrangell

FIRST CLASS CITIES

Barrow
 Craig
 Dillingham

CITIES

Bettles	Newhalen
Brevig Mission	Nightmute
Buckland	Nikolai
Chefornak	Nondalton
Chevak	Noorvik
Chignik	Nuiqsut
Chuathbaluk	Nulato
Clark's Point	Nunapitchuk
Coffman Cove	Old Harbor
Cold Bay	Ouzinkie
Deering	Pilot Point
Delta Junction	Pilot Station
Diomedede	Platinum
Eagle	Point Hope
Eek	Port Alexander
Egegik	Port Heiden
Ekwok	Port Lions
Elim	Quinhagak

Galena	Emmonak	Ruby
Haines	False Pass	Russian Mission
Homer	Fort Yukon	St. George
Hoonah	Gambell	St. Michael
Hydaburg	Golovin	St. Paul
Kake	Goodnews Bay	Savoonga
King Cove	Grayling	Saxman
Klawock	Holy Cross	Scammon Bay
Nome	Hooper Bay	Selawik
Pelican	Houston	Shageluk
St. Mary's	Hughes	Shaktoolik
Sand Point	Huslia	Sheldon Point
Seldovia	Kachemak	Shishmaref
Skagway	Kaktovik	Shungnak
Soldotna	Kaltag	Stebbins
Tanana	Kasaan	Teller
Unalaska	Kiana	Tenakee Springs
Wasilla	Kivalina	Thorne Bay
SECOND CLASS CITIES	Kobuk	Togiak
Akhiok	Kotlik	Toksook Bay
Akiak	Kotzebue	Unalakleet
Akutan	Koyuk	Upper Kalska
Alakanuk	Koyukuk	Wainwright
Aleknaiik	Kupreanof	Wales