

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on December 11, 1997, at the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly Chambers, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Mayor Darcie K. Salmon. The purpose of the meeting was to meet jointly with the Wasilla City Council.

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. Larry DeVilbiss, Assembly District No. 1
Ms. Janet Kincaid, Assembly District No. 2
Mr. James Colberg, Assembly District No. 3
Mr. John Hartrick, Assembly District No. 4
Ms. Jay Nolfi, Assembly District No. 5
Mr. Jim Turner, Assembly District No. 6 (excused at 8:07 p.m.)
Mr. Doyle Holmes, Assembly District No. 7 (Deputy Mayor)

Staff in attendance were:

Mr. Donald Moore, Borough Manager
Mr. Michael Gatti, Borough Attorney (portion)
Ms. Sandra Dillon, Borough Clerk
Mr. Jim Swing, Public Works Director
Mr. Desi Mayo, Finance Director
Mr. Kevin Koechlein, Public Safety Director
Mr. Jack Krill, Wasilla-Lakes Fire Service Area Chief

Wasilla City mayor in attendance was:

Ms. Sarah Palin

Wasilla City Council Members in attendance were:

Mr. Norm Fuller
Ms. Dianne Keller (entered at 6:10 p.m.)
Mr. Dave Chappel (excused at 7:30 p.m.)
Ms. Judy Patrick (entered at 6:48 p.m.)

Wasilla City staff in attendance were:

Mr. John Cramer, Deputy Administrator

Ms. Kristie VanGorder, Clerk

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There was no objection to the agenda as presented.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Wasilla Mayor Palin.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. PERSONAL PROPERTY

Mr. Mayo:

- Explained the allocation of the vehicle registration tax that will take effect January 1, 1998.
- Reported that the allocation would: (1) encourage the cities to exempt personal property, (2) reimburse service areas, the non-areawide fund to the fullest extent possible and to partially reimburse the areawide fund, and (3) Allocate money to a road paving program that could be used as a match for paving roads within the borough, including within the cities.

(Wasilla Council Member Keller entered the meeting at 6:10 p.m.)

Discussion followed.

B. ROAD PAVING

Mr. Moore:

- Spoke about air quality control measures needed and supported paving roads as a legitimate program for air quality control.
- Commented on the program established for paving borough roads, and that there are more roads nominated for paving than funds are available.
- Stated that there is a category of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) that has funds available for air quality control.

Mr. Swing:

- Explained that residential road paving is funded at a 25 percent match and that major roads are funded at a 50 percent match from the areawide fund.
- Stated that the total funding available through the program was \$1,320,000, and that approximately \$955,000 is currently available.
- Announced that the deadline for accepting road paving candidates was December 1, 1997; one project, Spruce Avenue, which is partially within the city of Wasilla, is on the list to be determined for program eligibility.

(Wasilla Council Member Patrick entered the meeting at 6:48 p.m.)

Discussion followed.

C. PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY

Wasilla Mayor Palin:

- Stated that the borough and city had shared the cost of the conceptual/architectural rendering of a public safety building.
- Announced that the city planning commission has chosen their ideal site, which will be considered by the council.
- Inquired if the borough was interested in committing to a jointly constructed public safety services building to be shared by the city.

Mr. Moore:

- Commented that the basic concept was to relocate the Central Mat-Su Fire Station and the ambulance storage which are located within the Wasilla City boundaries.
- Spoke regarding ownership issues of a building.

Mr. Krill:

- Stated that the site selection committee researched four areas for the feasibility of construction of a public safety building.
- Explained that the four areas were graded, and the old Wasilla airport and land at the Church Road and Parks Highway intersection were the top two choices; the Church Road and Parks Highway intersection was chosen for Wasilla City Council consideration.

Discussion followed.

(Wasilla Council Member Chappel was excused from the meeting at 7:30 p.m.)

Discussion continued.

The joint assembly/city of Wasilla meeting recessed at 7:35 p.m. and reconvened at 7:53 p.m.

D. LIBRARIES

Wasilla Mayor Palin:

- Stated that the city is formulating their 1998 budget and requested suggestions regarding library funding from the assembly.

Assemblymember Colberg:

- Spoke about a per capita funding for libraries and suggested that the borough finance director and city financial officer meet.

Discussion followed.

Ms. Mary Ellen Emmons, Wasilla Public Librarian:

- Stated that the Anchorage Library instituted a non-resident library user fee.
- Commented that the user fee could have an impact on borough libraries and the inter-library loan program available through borough and Anchorage libraries.

(Assemblymember Turner was excused from the meeting at 8:07 p.m.)

Discussion followed.

VI. MAYOR, COUNCIL, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Wasilla Council Member Patrick:

- Voiced support of economic and resource development within the borough as well as the city.

Wasilla Council Member Keller:

- Commented that the borough and city should work together for economic development that would benefit all residents through lower taxes.

Wasilla Mayor Palin:

- Echoed Wasilla council members' comments about economic development.

Discussion followed.

Assemblymember Nolfi:

- Appreciated the joint meeting.

Assemblymember Colberg:

- Supported the city of Wasilla's position on a personal property tax exemption.
- Supported economic development.

Assemblymember Hartrick:

- Appreciated the joint meeting.

Assemblymember Kincaid:

- Thanked the city for having a representative at the assembly meetings to keep the assembly apprised of city business.
- Commented that a presentation regarding a possible juvenile detention center was given at the Palmer City Council meeting.
- Announced that the Palmer Colony Christmas celebration will start on December 13, 1997, with the Christmas tree lighting at 5 p.m. followed by caroling to the Colony Inn II, and December 14, 1997, a parade at 11 a.m. and fireworks at 6 p.m.

Assemblymember DeVilbiss:

- Appreciated the team spirit shown at the meeting.
- Stated that business inventory tax could be eliminated to attract business and industry to this borough.
- Commented about the public hearing process associated with the oil and gas lease sales for parcels within the borough.
- Supported the snow machine corridor as a tourism destination and suggested that the borough work with the trails committee as well as other recreational organizations.
- Stated that he will be touring the Wasilla Police facility.

Assemblymember Holmes:

- Spoke regarding business licensing fee.
- Commented about the elimination of personal property tax within the cities.
- Supported the cities and borough showing a united front by working together.
- Remarked that the borough should research revenue bonding for public infrastructure.
- Suggested that the borough review the current land disposal policies.

Mr. Moore:

- Wished all a Merry Christmas.

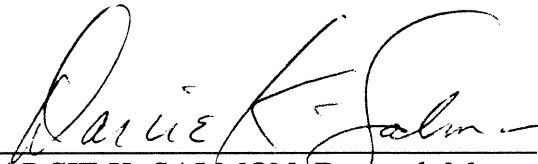
Mayor Salmon:


- Spoke regarding the snow machine trail corridor issue.
- Thanked the assembly for discussion on issues that also bring out his questions and concerns.
- Supported economic development within this borough.
- Stated that a proposed juvenile detention center could be built adjacent to the Palmer City boundaries and in the future be annexed into the city.
- Announced that Mr. Moore will be scheduling a meeting with Anchorage Mayor Mystrom to inform the Anchorage Municipality of this borough's projects to enable a working relationship with that area.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The joint assembly/city of Wasilla meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

ATTEST:


DARCIE K. SALMON, Borough Mayor


SANDRA A. DILLON, Borough Clerk

Minutes approved January 6, 1998.