



MAYOR
Sarah Palin

COUNCIL
Howard O'Neil, Seat A
Dianne M. Keller, Seat B
Noel H. Lowe, Seat C
Judy Patrick, Seat D
Colleen G. Cottle, Seat E
Don Bennett, Seat F

**WASILLA CITY COUNCIL
MEETING AGENDA**

WASILLA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Wasilla City Hall, 290 East Herning Avenue, Wasilla, AK 99654 (907) 373-9090

SPECIAL MEETING

6 P.M.

JULY 11, 2001

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **ROLL CALL**
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
5. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. State Reapportionment
 1. Sandra Garley, Planning Director, Matanuska-Susitna Borough
 2. Bill Greene, Anchorage Municipal Attorney
 3. Honorable Bert Cottle, Mayor, City of Valdez
6. **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**
7. **MAYOR, CLERK, AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**
8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Palin announced that Council Member Lowe was caught in traffic and would arrive shortly and suggested that the presentations begin in a work session format until a quorum is established. There was no objection. At 6:18 p.m. the council began the presentations.

A. State Reapportionment

1. Sandra Garley, Planning Director, Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Ms. Garley informed the council how the borough planning department evaluated the plan currently issued in the proclamation of redistricting dated June 18, 2001. She explained the significance of the borough's plan that was submitted to the redistricting board, which was not incorporated in the redistricting boards plan. The assembly met on July 10, 2001 and has decided not to file a lawsuit at this time.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Wasilla City Council was held on Wednesday, July 11, 2001, at the Wasilla City Council Chambers, Wasilla, Alaska. Mayor Sarah Palin called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the state reapportionment/redistricting plan.

2. ROLL CALL

Council Members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. Howard O'Neil, Council Seat A
Ms. Dianne Keller, Council Seat B
Mr. Noel Lowe, Council Seat C
Ms. Colleen Cottle, Council Seat E

Council Members Bennett and Patrick were absent and excused.

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Kristie VanGorder, City Clerk
Mr. Thomas Klinkner, City Attorney

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Palin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Palin requested to add audience participation to the agenda. There was no objection.

5. NEW BUSINESS

A. State Reapportionment

1. Sandra Garley, Planning Director, Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Ms. Garley gave her presentation during the work session portion (see page 1).

2. Bill Greene, Anchorage Municipal Attorney

Mr. Greene gave information to the council regarding the current state redistricting plan and believes there are major constitutional issues between south Anchorage and Valdez, which currently share a district. He informed the council that the Anchorage Assembly voted not to fund additional money to file a lawsuit regarding state redistricting and that the money used to work on this issue would be from the current legal budget.

3. Honorable Bert Cottle, Mayor, City of Valdez

Mayor Cottle informed the council that they will be filing a lawsuit by the deadline and have agreed to spend \$100,000 at this time. Their lawsuit will name individual council members as residents of the city. He answered questions of the council.

6. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

June Burkhart, Willow resident, stated that she was disappointed with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly's decision not to file a lawsuit during their meeting held on July 10, 2001. She gave background information on this issue to the council.

Roy Burkhart, Nancy Lake resident, spoke regarding the redistricting plan and commented that the borough's motion was in relation to Senate Seat F representation.

Ken Jacobus, Anchorage resident, commented on funding of a lawsuit and if an amicus brief were filed, the city would not be able to be reimbursed for expenses as you would by filing a lawsuit if the state lost.

Jay Nolfi, Big Lake resident, inquired about funding in the Valdez case to Mayor Cottle.

Bill Greene commented that most money appropriated for a lawsuit would be spent in staff time in the planning department not with the legal department. The level of opposition is based upon adverse effects of local representation.

NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

Mr. Klinkner informed the council that he has been retained by the City of Cordova to work on the state reapportionment lawsuit. He gave the council information on the process of filing a lawsuit, which would have to be filed by July 18, and estimated that \$30,000 would be a reasonable amount to work on this case.

MOTION: Council Member Lowe moved to enter into a lawsuit on the state redistricting plan in the amount not to exceed \$30,000 and to name Dianne Keller, Noel Lowe, Howard O'Neil and Taunnie Boothby, Wasilla residents and voters, as individuals in the lawsuit.

Discussion followed.

VOTE: The motion failed with Council members Keller, Lowe and O'Neil voting in favor and Council Member Cottle opposed. (Four votes needed for approval.)

Council Member Keller inquired to Council Member Cottle why she was opposed. Council Member Cottle declined to answer.

Council Member Keller requested to schedule a special meeting on Monday, July 16th at 6 p.m. to discuss state redistricting. There was no objection. (The meeting time was later changed to 7 p.m., see page four).

The council recessed at 8:21 p.m. and reconvened at 8:37 p.m.

7. MAYOR, CLERK, AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Lowe:

- Urged Council Member Cottle to reveal her reason that she was opposed to this issue.
- Thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting.

Council Member O'Neil thanked Mayor Cottle for attending the meeting this evening.

Council Member Keller:

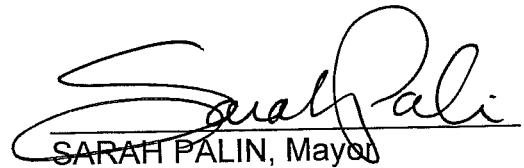
- Requested that the attorney prepare a list of the pros and cons of filing a suit and having our attorney represent the city or have another firm handle this issue.
- Thanked Taunnie Boothby for interest as a personal citizen on this issue.

Ms. VanGorder:

- Requested that the time be changed to 7 p.m. on the special meeting on July 16 regarding state redistricting. There was no objection.
- Announced that two special meetings need to be set regarding the issue of the sports complex being placed on the ballot, Wednesday, August 1 at 6:30 p.m. and Monday, August 6 at 6:30 p.m. There was no objection.


8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



SARAH PALIN, Mayor

ATTEST:



KRISTIE L. VANGORDER, CMC
City Clerk

Adopted this 23rd day of July 2001