



MAYOR

Dianne M. Keller

COUNCIL

Greg Koskela, Seat A

Douglas W. Holler, Seat B

Steven Menard, Seat C

Marty Metiva, Seat D

Ron Cox, Deputy Mayor, Seat E

Mark A. Ewing, Seat F

WASILLA CITY COUNCIL

MEETING AGENDA

WASILLA CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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

SPECIAL MEETING

5:30 P.M.

APRIL 23, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

V. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

VI. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

A. Establishment of a Visitor and Tourism Bureau

B. Possible Sales Tax Exemptions

C. Salary Structure for the Position of Mayor

D. Valley Recycling Program (Requested by Council Member Menard)

E. Funding Support for Wasilla Area Seniors (Requested by Council Member Ewing)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT (No later than 6:50 p.m.)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Wasilla City Council was held on Monday, April 23, 2007 at the Wasilla City Council Chambers, Wasilla, Alaska. Mayor Dianne M. Keller called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Council Members present and establishing a quorum were:

Mr. Greg Koskela, Seat A
Mr. Doug Holler, Seat B
Mr. Steve Menard, Seat C (arrived at 5:40 p.m.)
Mr. Marty Metiva, Seat D
Mr. Ron Cox, Deputy Mayor, Seat E
Mr. Mark Ewing, Seat F

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Kristie Smithers, City Clerk
Ms. Jamie Newman, Deputy Clerk
Mr. Tom Klinkner, City Attorney
Ms. Susan Colligan, Deputy Director of Finance
Ms. Sandra Garley, Deputy Administrator
Mr. Archie Giddings, Director of Public Works
Ms. Angella Long, Police Chief
Mr. Bruce Urban, Recreation and Cultural Services Manager

Mayor Keller noted that Council Member Steve Menard was not in attendance, however, she expected him soon.

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Jay Nolfi led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Keller asked if there were amendments to the agenda.

Council Member Ewing requested to amend the agenda by moving Audience Comments before the Committee of the Whole.

GENERAL CONSENT: The agenda was approved, as amended, with no objection raised.

V. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Ms. Jay Nolfi:

- testified in support of an increase in the mayor's salary;
- stated that a base salary for the position of mayor needs to be set prior to the next election;
- talked about the importance of setting a salary that will attract highly experienced and qualified candidates for the position of mayor; and
- encouraged the council to establish lucrative incentives to entice the highest caliber of leaders.

Ms. Robin Hall, Executive Director, Wasilla Senior Center:

- stated she gathered signature from over sixty senior citizens who are in favor of exempting senior citizens from sales tax; and
- encouraged the city to again fund the Wasilla Senior Center.

Ms. Sue Thompson:

- spoke in support of the enactment of a senior citizen tax exemption; and
- request additional enforcement of handicapped parking laws.

Mr. Gordon Clare:

- spoke in support of the enhancement of a senior citizen tax exemption;
- talked about how many senior citizens live on marginal incomes;
- requested that Wasilla designate itself as a City that honors senior citizens; and
- requested financial support of the Wasilla Senior Center.

Mr. Colleen Hamilton:

- spoke in support of the enactment of a senior citizen tax exemption; and
- talked about various communities in Alaska who successfully exempt senior citizens and disabled persons from sales tax.

Mr. Harold Ward:

- spoke in support of the enactment of a senior citizen tax exemption; and
- encouraged Mayor Keller to send a representative to monthly senior citizen meetings.

Mr. Dale Hall:

- talked about the need to support elderly persons.

Ms. Pat Hjellen:

- spoke favorably about the City.

Ms. Jeanne Gardner:

- spoke in support of a senior citizen sales tax exemption; and
- spoke in favor of the City of Wasilla partnering with the Senior Center.

Ms. Diane Woodruff:

- spoke in support of senior citizens;
- noted that a sales tax exemption may not be the best way to show support of senior citizens;
- spoke about the average income for families in the Valley; and
- stated that the position of mayor is compensated fairly when you consider the entire benefit package of the position.

Ms. Dixie Banner:

- talked about the need for professional jobs versus service industry jobs in the City of Wasilla; and
- talked about advanced education that should be mandatory for persons holding the position of mayor.

Ms. Colleen Cottle:

- spoke in support of a sales tax exemption for senior citizens;
- encouraged the city to financially support the senior center; and
- talked about how many senior citizens are unable to make ends-meet due to inflation.

Ms. Nancy Hall, District Manager, American Red Cross:

- spoke in support of the establishment of a Visitor and Tourism Bureau in the City of Wasilla.

VI. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOTION: Council Member Metiva moved to enter into a committee of the whole to discuss all matters without time specific time limits.

GENERAL CONSENT: The motion passed without objection.

The council entered committee of the whole at 6:04 p.m.

- A. Establishment of a Visitor and Tourism Bureau
- B. Possible Sales Tax Exemptions
- C. Salary Structure for the Position of Mayor
- D. Valley Recycling Program (Requested by Council Member Menard)

E. Funding Support for Wasilla Area Seniors (Requested by Council Member Ewing)

The Council briefly discussed items A and B on the agenda and suggested that another meeting be scheduled at their earliest convenience to discuss these topics.

MOTION: Council Member Ewing moved to exit the committee of the whole due to time constraints and to discuss the agenda topics at another meeting to be scheduled as soon as possible.

VOTE: The motion passed with Deputy Mayor Cox, Council Members Ewing, Holler, and Koskela in favor and Council Members Menard and Metiva opposed.

The council exited the committee of the whole at 6:48 p.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT (No later than 6:50 p.m.)

With no further business at hand, Mayor Keller adjourned the meeting at 6:49 p.m.


DIANNE M. KELLER, Mayor

ATTEST:


KRISTIE SMITHERS, MMC
City Clerk

Adopted by the Wasilla City Council on May 14, 2007