



CITY OF WASILLA

290 E. HERNING AVE.
WASILLA, ALASKA 99654-7091
PHONE: (907) 373-9050
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INFORMATION MEMORANDUM NO. 96-38

FROM: Sarah H. Palin, Mayor

DATE: December 4, 1996

RE: Councilman Carney's request on Administration's position regarding Annexation.

With the City's L.I.D. process, the public comes to City Hall requesting a service. This process works. It is Administration's intent to allow the public to request of City Hall the act of Annexation by Invitation. Council members may want to encourage this option. I am fully supportive of this approach if the citizens you represent, or the citizens you may wish to represent in the future, want to join the Wasilla city limits.

I would encourage council members to consider the philosophical principle of any type of "forced" annexation. Obviously there is much opposition to forcing people into boundaries after they have chosen to reside outside municipal borders.

It is imperative that due deference be given to those property owners living outside of our city limits who have no desire to live within them.

Poorly conceived expansion can lead to expensive services expected without compensating revenues.

Please consider Resolution No. WR96-61 (attached), which outlines the above philosophy and provides a framework that the Council can use if it wishes to adopt a formal annexation policy along these lines.

RESOLUTION NO. WR96-61

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WASILLA, ALASKA, ESTABLISHING THE CITY COUNCIL'S POLICY ON ANNEXATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS AND LAND SURROUNDING THE CITY OF WASILLA, AND RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. WR96-16.

WHEREAS, the Wasilla City Council, with few exceptions, has historically avoided the forced annexation of neighborhoods and lands surrounding the City; and,

WHEREAS, the Council has traditionally encouraged the annexation of neighborhoods and land surrounding the City when such annexation was clearly supported by a majority of the residents representing those area; and,

WHEREAS, the Council has not adopted a formal policy on the issue of annexation in general; and,

WHEREAS, the council now wishes to establish a formal policy for annexation issues, in order to provide clear policy direction to the administration and staff and to provide the interested public with an idea of what actions are required initiate an annexation request with the City of Wasilla.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that; the Wasilla City Council hereby establishes the following policy with regard to annexations to the City of Wasilla:

1. The City of Wasilla does not approve of the forced annexation of neighborhoods and areas surrounding the City of Wasilla.
2. Requests for annexation by the public, as expressed through surveys, informal petitions or other comparable methods should be submitted to the City Council for review and approval prior to staff preparation of a formal annexation petition to the Alaska Local Boundary Commission.
3. ~~Staff may, when directed by Council or Administration, prepare mail out surveys, advertisements or other correspondence to specified areas surrounding the City of Wasilla, in order to determine the level of interest, in-city services and to invite these areas to consider the possibility of annexation to the City of Wasilla.~~
4. The Council will not approve the preparation of a formal petition for annexation unless a clear majority of residents within a specified area are in favor of the investigation.
5. It is the intent of Council to approve preparation of formal annexation petitions when the area proposed for annexation is a contiguous area adjoining the City's boundary that will allow for the efficient and cost effective delivery of City services in the annexation areas.
6. Formal annexation petitions, when authorized for submission to the Alaska Local Boundary Commission, will specify the annexation by election process, unless the petition is supported by 100 percent of the residents in the proposed annexation area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Resolution No. WR96-16, is hereby rescinded, until a determination is made that a majority of residents in the proposed annexation area support the investigation of this proposal, and, should a formal annexation petition be authorized by Council, it shall specify that the annexation by election process will be utilized rather than the annexation by legislative review (i.e. forced annexation) process.

I certify that a resolution in substantially the above form was passed by a majority of those voting at a duly called and conducted meeting of the governing body of the City of Wasilla this _____ day of _____, 1996.

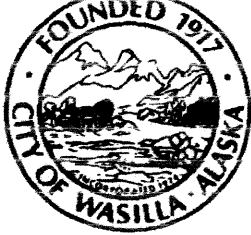
APPROVED:

SARAH H. PALIN, Mayor

ATTEST:

MARJORIE D. HARRIS, CMC
City Clerk

(SEAL)



CITY OF WASILLA

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PHONE: (907) 373-9050
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Requested by: Councilman Carn
Prepared by: Councilman Carn

RESOLUTION NO. WR96-16

A RESOLUTION OF THE WASILLA CITY COUNCIL REQUESTING ADMINISTRATION TO PREPARE A PETITION FOR ANNEXATION.

WHEREAS, Wasilla Lake is a valuable resource of the City of Wasilla and the surrounding area;
and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to maintain the quality of the environment of the lake and lakeshore;
and

WHEREAS, it is unlikely that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough will ever be in a position to correct or forestall a pollution threat to this resource; and

WHEREAS, the City of Wasilla is currently developing an engineering plan for the future expansion of the City sewer and water systems to better serve the entire area; and


WHEREAS, this plan should incorporate the entire Wasilla Lake system; and

WHEREAS, the additional benefits of improved road maintenance, local road improvement and paving districts, lower property taxes, and the desirability of coverage by the City of Wasilla police department makes such an annexation beneficial to the residents of this area.


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Administration of the City of Wasilla is directed to prepare a petition of annexation for the area including Bogard Road on the north, Seward Meridian on the east and the present City boundaries on the south and west for submission to the Local Boundary Commission.

I certify that a resolution in substantially the above form was passed by a majority of those voting a duly called and conducted meeting of the governing body of the City of Wasilla this 26 day of February, 1996.

APPROVED:


John C. Stein, Mayor

ATTEST:


Marjorie D. Harris, CMC
City Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. WR96-61 SUBSTITUTE

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF WASILLA, ALASKA, ESTABLISHING THE CITY COUNCIL'S POLICY ON ANNEXATION OF NEIGHBORHOODS AND LAND SURROUNDING THE CITY OF WASILLA.

WHEREAS, the Wasilla City Council wishes to ensure that the future growth and development in the City of Wasilla is in accord with the values of its residents; and,

WHEREAS, the Wasilla City Council wishes to provide residents, both present and future, fair and equal treatment in the implementation of all City of Wasilla policies; and,

WHEREAS, the Wasilla City Council now wishes to establish a policy for annexation issues in order to provide clear direction on how to best serve the public on this subject;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT; the Wasilla City Council hereby establishes the following policy with regard to annexations to the City of Wasilla;

1. Only territory that is contiguous to the boundaries of the City of Wasilla will be considered for annexation. A territory may not be annexed to the City of Wasilla if essential city services can be provided more efficiently and more effectively by another existing city or by an organized borough. Requests for annexations shall be by petition of no less than twenty-five (25%) of the property owners of the contiguous area. The Council, by resolution, may ~~initiate a plan of annexation to be presented to the public~~. Said plan may include, but is not limited to financial, social, economic and health/safety issues.

2. The Council shall oversee all annexation petitions submitted to the City of Wasilla. The City Clerk, under the direction of the Council, will perform the duties necessary for the administration of the petition process. The City Clerk shall prepare the official petition to facilitate fairness, simplicity, and clarity to reflect most accurately the intent of the property owners. When the Clerk receives an annexation petition, the Clerk shall ascertain that the petition has signatures from no less than twenty-five (25%) of the property owners of the contiguous area. The Clerk shall submit the validated petition to the Council for approval to continue the process.

3. The Council shall forward the approved petition to the Administration for consideration of relevant factors, including:

a) the territory must exhibit a reasonable need for city government;

b) the territory must be compatible in character with the City of Wasilla;

c) The economy within the proposed boundaries must include the human and financial resources necessary to provide essential city services on an efficient, cost-effective level;

d) the population within the proposed boundaries must be sufficiently large and stable to support the extension of city government; and,

e) the proposed boundaries must include all land and water necessary to provide the full development of essential city services on an efficient cost-effective level.

4. The Administration shall submit it's official findings, and recommendations, to the Council for action.

5. The Council, upon acceptance of Administration's findings and recommendations, shall direct the City Clerk to prepare advertisements of the petition process and mail out surveys to all land owners of the contiguous area affected by the request for annexation to the City of Wasilla.

6 With a majority affirmative vote of the property owners within the proposed annexation area the City Council shall then direct Administration to prepare and submit a petition of annexation to the State of Alaska Local Boundary Commission.

I certify that a resolution in substantially the above form was passed by a majority of those voting at a duly called and conducted meeting of the governing body of the City of Wasilla this _____ day of _____, 1997.

APPROVED:

SARAH H. PALIN, Mayor

ATTEST:

MAJORIE D. HARRIS, CMC
City Clerk

(SEAL)