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Comment:	8/14/06
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WASILLA CITY COUNCIL INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

IM No. 06-16

TITLE: ORDINANCE OF THE WASILLA CITY COUNCIL *AMENDING* WMC CHAPTER 13.20, WASILLA MUNICIPAL AIRPORT, CONCERNING THE APPOINTMENT AND AUTHORITY OF THE AIRPORT MANAGER.

Agenda of: August 14, 2006

Date: August 9, 2006

Originator: Archie Giddings, Public Works Director

Route to:	Department	Signature/Date
	Police Chief Youth Court, Dispatch, Code Compliance	
	Culture and Recreation Services Director Library, Museum, Sports Complex	
X	Public Works & Recreation Facility Maintenance Director	<i>[Signature]</i> 8/9/06
	Finance, Risk Management & MIS Director Purchasing	
X	Deputy Administrator Planning, Economic Development, Human Resources	<i>S. Hardy</i> 8/9/06
X	City Clerk	<i>(James Numa)</i> 8/9/06

REVIEWED BY MAYOR DIANNE M. KELLER:

Dianne M. Keller

FISCAL IMPACT: yes\$ or no

Funds Available yes no

Account name/number:

Attachments:

SUMMARY STATEMENT: The proposed change to WMC 13.20 reinforces the current authority provided to the airport manager to issue citations at the Wasilla Municipal Airport.

The airport manager's current duties include the enforcement of regulations that pertain to the airport and the issuance of citations as needed. This is consistent with the definition found in Alaska Statute 11.81.900 for a peace officer, "means a public servant vested by law with a duty to maintain public order or to make arrests, whether the duty extends to all offenses or is limited to a specific class of offenses or offenders". In the context of the airport regulations, there is no need for the airport manager to make arrests. Airport regulations are largely a matter of safety, recognizing air and ground traffic safety rules and providing a safe environment for the airport users.

The City of Wasilla is currently enjoying a funding stream from FAA that will continue to build more infrastructure at the airport over the next 5 years. The amount of air and ground traffic will likely double in that time. As the airport grows and gets busier, the

increase in air and ground traffic provides greater opportunity for accidents. It is in the City's and users' best interest to avoid personal injuries and damage to property at the airport. Without strict enforcement of air and ground safety regulations, the potential for a life threatening accident will increase as activity increases. Therefore, the need for WMC 13.20 to clearly define the authority of the airport manager to issue citations is critical.

The proposed legislation does not authorize the use of a weapon. There is no airport regulation that requires the use of weapon for enforcement and the proposed change to WMC 13.20 will not make this a requirement. The current airport manager carries a weapon as a method of self defense only. The airport manager has the proper permit and training to carry a weapon and the administration supports this method of self defense.

The proposed legislation does not add the full range of peace officer powers to the position of the airport manager. This legislation simply recognizes that the current authority in the Wasilla Municipal Code for the airport manager meets the definition of "peace officer" found in Alaska Statute 11.81.900, and the proposed legislation uses the definition of peace officer to reinforce the limited enforcement duties of the airport manager.