



MAYOR

Verne E. Rupright

COUNCIL

Taffina Katkus, Seat A

Douglas W. Holler, Deputy Mayor, Seat B

Leone Harris, Seat C

Nancy R. Hall, Seat D

Dianne Woodruff, Seat E

Kristofer Larson, 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

6 P.M.

JANUARY 27, 2010

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A. Committee of the Whole

1. Wasilla Meta Rose Public Library and Associated Issues

VI. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

VII. MAYOR, COUNCIL AND CLERK COMMENTS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Special Meeting of the Wasilla City Council was held on Monday, January 27, 2010, at the Wasilla City Council Chambers, Wasilla, Alaska. Mayor Verne E. Rupright called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. for the purpose of discussing Wasilla Meta Rose Public Library and associated issues.

II. ROLL CALL/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Council Members present and establishing a quorum were:

Ms. Taffina Katkus, Seat A
Deputy Mayor Doug Holler, Seat B
Ms. Leone Harris, Seat C
Ms. Nancy R. Hall, Seat D
Ms. Dianne Woodruff, Seat E
Mr. Kristofer Larson, Seat F

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Kristie Smithers, City Clerk
Ms. Amanda E. Charles, Deputy Clerk
Mr. Joan Miller, Controller
Mr. Archie Giddings, Public Works Director
Mr. James Hastings, Recreation and Cultural Services Manager
Mr. Marvin Yoder, Interim Deputy Administrator
Ms. Kathy Martin-Albright, Library Director

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Rupright led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. TOPIC OF DISCUSSION

A. Committee of the Whole

1. Wasilla Meta Rose Public Library and Associated Issues

MOTION: Council Member Larson moved to enter into a Committee of the Whole at 5:02 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the Wasilla Meta Rose Public Library and Associated Issues.

VOTE: The motion to enter Committee of the Whole passed without objection.

Discussion ensued regarding the Wasilla Meta Rose Public Library and associated issues. Those persons taking place in the discussion were the entire Council; the Mayor; Ms. Miller; Mr. John Duffy; Borough Manager; Mr. Mark Ewing, Assemblymember, District 4; Friends of the Library, the Library Steering Committee, and current tenants of the Meta-Rose Square.

(The special meeting recessed at 7:18 p.m. and reconvened at 7:30 p.m.)

Discussion resumed.

[CLERK'S NOTE: Another meeting regarding the Wasilla Meta-Rose Library was scheduled for February 24, 2010, at 6 p.m.]

MOTION: Council Member Hall moved to exit the Committee of the Whole at 7:55 p.m.

VOTE: The motion to exit of the Committee of the Whole passed without objection.

V. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Mayor Rupright opened comments to the entire body and audience.

John Duffy, Borough Manager, stated that if there is a way for the Borough to work with the City they would be willing to look at the possibilities.

Mr. Mark Ewing, Assemblymember, District 4:

- spoke regarding government entities being landlords; and
- spoke against selling Meta-Rose square.

Council Member Woodruff:

- encouraged everyone to contact their legislators if they want to seek funding for the library;
- noted a need to make a decision on Meta-Rose Square and what it will be used for; and
- stated that she would like to see an amendment to Ordinance Serial No. 09-76 which would incorporate her original intent, which would be to have all net profits from Meta-Rose Square go towards a new library, including the monthly rents.

Ms. Miller stated that she would like a decision on Meta-Rose Square made not only for the merchants, but also so that the City may have some clarity.

Council Member Larson:

- spoke to the economic stability of the City;
- opined that the City should not be landlords to retail spaces; and
- asked Ms. Smithers if there was any pending legislation which would reinstate the Library Steering Committee.

Ms. Smithers stated that legislation could come forward on the February 22, 2010, regular meeting reinstating the Library Steering Committee.

Council Member Larson spoke regarding the work before the Library Steering Committee.

Ms. Marci Hawkins:

- stated that she did not want the library at the Meta-Rose Square;
- commented on the need for the Library Steering Committee to be reinstated; and
- spoke to her desire to help make this new library progress.

Ms. Jeanne Troshynski spoke to her optimism at making the new library a possibility in the near future.

Ms. Randi Robinson spoke to the cooperation needed between the committees and the City as the quest for a new library proceeds.

Council Member Harris:

- stated that the Friends of the Library don't want the building, so there is no purpose in forcing it upon them;
- spoke to the approximate time lines for a new library;
- noted the need for the tenants of the Meta-Rose square to have an answer and a sense of direction towards the future;
- suggested that Mr. Giddings get a commercial realtor and get their opinion on what it would cost and what would have to be done in order to make the best return on investment on Meta-Rose Square.

Deputy Mayor Holler:

- agreed that Meta-Rose Square was a good investment; and
- spoke to the possibilities for the future as it pertains to a new library.

Council Member Katkus spoke regarding goals and planning for the new library and the necessity for both.

Ms. Margaret Heaven queried whose job it was to approach Mr. Pat Carney about purchasing his property near the corner of Wasilla-Fishhook and Bogard Road.

Mayor Rupright stated it was the Friends of the Library's responsibility if they wished to use it as a site for a new library.

Ms. Julia Ede thanked the City for keeping the Library at the top of the "to do" list year after year.

Ms. Pam Ockerlander spoke regarding the perceptions of the new library and noted that if it is built it will last for the next 50 years.

Mr. Colleen Carter-Scott:

- noted that she was a long time library user;
- spoke to the changing of the library name to include the name "Meta-Rose"; and
- commented on the Library Steering Committee and their work and effort.

Mr. Dave Nyberg:

- stated that if the opportunity was given to them, they would gladly keep their store "All I Saw Cookware" at the Meta-Rose Square; and
- reported that he had already started looking at other options for relocating their business.

Ms. Jennifer Lesh spoke regarding the importance of the retail businesses in downtown Wasilla, specifically to the Meta-Rose Square.

Ms. Jane Slaughter thanked the City Council for discussing the issues around Meta-Rose Square with the people.

Mayor Rupright asked that the Friends of the Library come up with a list of suggested names for the new Library Steering Committee members and noted that they should be turned into the City Clerk.

VI. MAYOR, CLERK AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

[CLERK'S NOTE: The Mayor, Clerk and Council comments were incorporated throughout the audience comments.]

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, Mayor Rupright, adjourned the meeting at 8:16 p.m.



VERNE E. RUPRIGHT, Mayor

ATTEST:



KRISTIE SMITHERS, MMC, City Clerk

Minutes approved: February 8, 2010