

**CITY OF WASILLA
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 11-11**

A RESOLUTION OF THE WASILLA CITY COUNCIL REQUESTING THAT THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITIES OF PALMER AND WASILLA THAT WILL REIMBURSE THE TWO CITIES FOR USE OF THE PALMER PUBLIC LIBRARY AND THE WASILLA META-ROSE PUBLIC LIBRARY BY NON-AREAWIDE RESIDENTS OF THE BOROUGH.

WHEREAS, the mission of the Wasilla Meta-Rose Public Library is to contribute to building a sense of community and provide opportunities for improving quality of life by providing access to a broad range of resources designed to meet the educational, professional, intellectual, cultural and recreational needs of the area's diverse, rapidly growing population; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Palmer Public Library is to provide residents of Palmer and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough access to a broad collection of materials, in a variety of media, that records human knowledge, ideas, and cultures, provide guidance and encouragement in the use of library materials, and provide community access to reliable and available sources of information and reference; and

WHEREAS, the public libraries of Palmer and Wasilla are economic engines and social gathering places that provide training, experience, socialization and education to Matanuska-Susitna residents, keeping human resources within the community and providing a safe and positive atmosphere for citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough collects non-areawide property taxes from borough residents who live outside of city limits which fund the five borough libraries located in Big Lake, Sutton, Talkeetna, Trapper Creek and Willow; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the non-areawide property taxes are paid by residents who live in the core area surrounding Wasilla and Palmer; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough does not have any library services located in the core area; and

WHEREAS, over three-quarters of the use of the Palmer and Wasilla libraries comes from borough residents who live in the core area of the borough, outside of city limits; and

WHEREAS, from 1979-1985 the Matanuska-Susitna Borough funded approximately 75 percent of the Palmer and Wasilla libraries operating budgets; and

WHEREAS, from 1985-1993 the Matanuska-Susitna Borough funded approximately 60 percent of the Palmer and Wasilla libraries operating budgets; and

WHEREAS, in 1993 the Matanuska-Susitna Borough decreased the amount of funding to the Palmer and Wasilla libraries by almost half; and

WHEREAS, over the next ten years the Matanuska-Susitna Borough contribution continued to increase to approximately 50 percent of the Palmer and Wasilla library budgets; and

WHEREAS, in January 2003 the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the City of Wasilla and the City of Palmer agreed to a funding formula that provided funding in a fair and equitable manner to the two city libraries for services provided to non-city borough residents at the two libraries; and

WHEREAS, this funding formula was used for Fiscal Years 2004 and 2005; and

WHEREAS, in Fiscal Year 2006 the Matanuska-Susitna Borough eliminated the funding formula and once again provided funds to the city libraries for library services through a block grant; and

WHEREAS, for Fiscal Year 2008 the amount of monies given to the cities was unilaterally reduced by the Matanuska Susitna Borough 20 percent from the previous Fiscal Year and has been reduced by 20 percent each successive year; and

WHEREAS, as of July 1, 2011, the cities will no longer receive any funding for libraries from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, seven public libraries (five within the Borough and the two City libraries) formed the Matanuska-Susitna Library Network which purpose is to share a library automation system to provide better public library service to library users; and

WHEREAS, each City pays the borough approximately \$20,000 each year to participate in the Matanuska-Susitna Library Network Program; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Cities to continue to be in the Mat-Su Library Network, and continue to provide all residents access to large collections and services, and is not an effort to take away from existing borough libraries; and

WHEREAS, it is NOT the desire of the Cities of Palmer or Wasilla to charge a non-resident fee for the use of the Palmer Public Library or the Wasilla Meta-Rose Public Library, or to reduce hours of operation of these libraries; and

WHEREAS, for the Fiscal Year 2012 Borough budget, discussions are taking place about the possibility to reduce school district library staff and if this happens, it will be more important for the borough to fund the city libraries as many students who

cannot afford computers and books will find the need to use the city libraries which are open for extended hours in comparison with school libraries; and

WHEREAS, the city libraries provide a variety of programs and services for all ages including, but not limited to, various information resources in many formats, wireless internet, traditional computer access, government forms and information, including tax and Permanent Fund Dividend forms, and literacy programs for all ages; and

WHEREAS, the Cities expect the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to pay for borough residents who are taxed for library operations and use the services of the libraries located within the City limits of Palmer and Wasilla; and

WHEREAS, one option is for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to pay the cities of Palmer and Wasilla for the borough residents who use the City libraries by being charged on a monthly basis for the usage of borough residents who use the City libraries.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palmer City Council and the Wasilla City Council request the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to enter into an agreement with the cities of Palmer and Wasilla that will reimburse the cities on a monthly basis for the borough residents who use the Palmer Public Library and the Wasilla Meta-Rose Public Library.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this request to the borough will be adopted by Wasilla City Council Resolution Serial No. 11-11 and Palmer City Council Resolution Serial No. 11-018, and if one resolution is not adopted by the respective City Councils, no adopted resolution will be forwarded to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly.

ADOPTED by the Wasilla City Council, on April 11, 2011.



VERNE E. RUPRIGHT, Mayor

ATTEST:



KRISTIE SMITHERS, MMC, City Clerk

[SEAL]

VOTE: Harris, Holler, Katkus, Menard, Sullivan-Leonard and Woodruff in favor.