

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Wasilla City Council was held on Monday, April 11, 2011, at the Wasilla City Council Chambers, Wasilla, Alaska. Mayor Verne E. Rupright called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Council Members present and establishing a quorum were:

Ms. Taffina Katkus, Seat A
Deputy Mayor Doug Holler, Seat B
Ms. Leone Harris, Seat C (*via teleconference*)
Ms. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard, Seat D
Ms. Dianne Woodruff, Seat E
Mr. Steve Menard, Seat F

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Kristie Smithers, MMC, City Clerk
Ms. Amanda E. Charles, Deputy City Clerk
Ms. Troy Tankersley, Finance Director
Mr. Archie Giddings, Public Works Director
Mr. Gene Belden, Interim Police Chief
Mr. James Hastings, Recreation and Cultural Services Manager
Mr. Marvin Yoder, Interim Deputy Administrator
Mr. Bert Cottle, Temporary Deputy Administrator
Mr. Richard Payne, City Attorney

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Rupright asked Mr. John Luburger, former Council Member, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Rupright asked if there were any changes to the agenda.

MOTION: Council Member Sullivan-Leonard moved to remove Ordinance Serial No. 11-12 from the agenda.

Council Member Sullivan-Leonard spoke regarding her reasons for asking this item to be removed from the agenda, specifically due to a lack of process for administering grants.

VOTE: The motion to remove Ordinance Serial No. 11-12 from the agenda passed unanimously

GENERAL CONSENT: The agenda was approved as amended without objection.

V. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

A. Presentation of City Seal to Mr. Marvin Yoder

Mayor Rupright presented the City Seal to Mr. Marvin Yoder and expressed his thanks for Mr. Yoder's dedication to the City over the past years.

VI. COMMISSION AND AGENCY REPORTS

A. Matanuska-Susitna Borough

There was no report provided.

B. Planning Commission

Mr. Steve Dehart, Commissioner:

- spoke regarding a variance that was granted to the Fred Meyer's parking lot to allow for a new building to be built; and
- noted that the Southcentral Foundation had started clearing land for their new facility at the corner of the Palmer-Wasilla Highway extension and Knik Goosebay Road.

C. Parks and Recreation Commission

There was no report provided.

D. Friends of Wasilla Meta-Rose Public Library

Ms. Jeanne Troshynski, President:

- stated that \$4,600 was raised at their used book sale;
- noted that they are gearing up for the Summer Reading Program;
- commented on AM No. 11-07, regarding increasing the City's sales tax to fund a new library;
- opined that they are not ready to take that step forward and thanked Council Member Menard for his support in the action memorandum; and
- thanked the Council for their joint meeting in March with the City of Palmer regarding library issues.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A. Public Hearings

1. ~~Ordinance Serial No. 11-12: Amending the Fiscal Year 2011 Budget by appropriating \$34,800 for the Wasilla Area Seniors, Inc., nutrition service program. (Sponsored by Council Member Sullivan-Leonard)~~
2. **Ordinance Serial No. 11-13:** Amending the zoning map to change the zoning district from Rural Residential to Residential Multi-Family, for approximately 4.03 acres, consisting of lot 3, Pleasant View Subdivision, Township 17 North, Range 1 West, Section 3, Seward Meridian, Alaska; generally located south of Spruce Street on the west side of Wasilla-Fishhook Road.

Mayor Rupright opened the public hearing.

Mr. Aaron Summers:

- stated that he is the property owner;
- spoke to his reasons for requesting the zoning change;
- stated that he would not be constructing high density multi-family units on the property; and
- responded to two negative comments that were received at the Planning Commission level.

There being no others present who wished to speak the public hearing closed and discussion moved to the Council.

MOTION: Council Member Sullivan-Leonard moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 11-13.

Discussion ensued.

VOTE: The motion to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 11-13 passed unanimously.

B. Persons to be Heard

Ms. Glenda Ledford:

- stated that she is on the Planning Commission but present and speaking as an individual; and
- spoke against raising the sales tax to support a new library and other items noted within AM No. 11-07.

Mr. Mike Chmielewski:

- stated that he is now on the Wasilla Area Seniors, Inc. (WASI), Board; and
- spoke to current sub-committees in place at WASI and projects they are working on.

Mr. Jim Vrooman:

- stated that he has been a WASI board member since 2008;
- commented on the financial improvements that have been made since that time;
- opined that the City Council had an obligation to WASI and the area seniors; and
- noted that he did not understand the Council's view points.

Ms. Elsie O'Bryan spoke regarding a \$50,000 Title III Nutrition Grant which is available to WASI through the State of Alaska.

Ms. Louis Weir:

- stated that several of the WASI seniors will be approaching the Attorney General with concerns related to WASI and how they hold and conduct their meetings; and
- spoke regarding the appointment of two new members to the WASI Board which the members did not have a chance to vote on.

Ms. Sondra Kaplan, Executive Director of WASI:

- thanked the Council for their time;
- noted that WASI supports the withdrawal of Ordinance Serial No. 11-12;
- thanked Council Member Sullivan-Leonard and Mayor Rupright for their work on finding funding for WASI; and
- thanked the Office of the City Clerk for their quick response to their public records requests.

Ms. Anne Killkenny:

- spoke regarding statements by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Mayor, Mr. Larry DeVilbiss, regarding vetoing any Assembly action offering financial support for non-profits; and
- encouraged the City Council to pass an ordinance requiring users to pay \$0.25 for each plastic bag they use at retail stores.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes of Preceding Meetings:

1. Regular Meeting: March 14, 2011
2. Special Meeting: March 7, 2011

B. Introduction of Ordinances: Recommended for Public Hearing on April 25, 2011:

1. **Ordinance Serial No. 11-14:** Amending WMC 16.16.060, Specific Approval Criteria, to remove the limit on number of children Permitted in a day care facility in the commercial zoning district; and amending WMC 16.20.020, District Use Chart, to change the required review from a use permit to an administrative approval.

2. **Ordinance Serial No. 11-15:** Amending the FY11 Police Department Budget by accepting and appropriating funds from the Alaska Highway Safety Office in the amount of \$1,861 for the Problem-Oriented Policing and Crime Analysis Grant.
3. **Ordinance Serial No. 11-16:** Providing for the adoption of the annual budget for the fiscal year 2012 and appropriating funds to carry out said budget.
4. **Ordinance Serial No. 11-17:** Amending the FY11 budget by appropriating \$22,100 of Federal Asset Forfeiture Funds to cover expenditures incurred in continuing the Police Canine Program.
5. **Ordinance Serial No. 11-19:** Authorizing the exchange of City land with the Wasilla Lake Church of the Nazarene, under WMC 5.32, Sale or Lease of Public Lands; authorizing the Mayor to execute and deliver a contract for the land exchange; and providing for related matters.

C. Resolutions

1. **Resolution Serial No. 11-11:** Requesting that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to enter into an agreement with the cities of Palmer and Wasilla that will reimburse the two cities for the use of the Palmer Public Library and the Wasilla Meta-Rose Public Library by non-area-wide residents of the Borough.
2. **Resolution Serial No. 11-12:** Proclaiming April as Alcohol Awareness Month.
(Sponsored by Council Member Sullivan-Leonard)

D. Action Memorandums

1. **AM No. 11-06:** Contract award to Yukon Equipment in the amount of \$811,421 for the purchase of snow removal equipment for the Municipal Airport.
2. **AM No. 11-08:** Authorization to extend one additional term of three years and award contract for insurance broker services and employee benefits consulting and brokerage services to Combs Insurance Agency, Inc., in the amount of \$186,000.

The Clerk read the Consent Agenda into the record.

MOTION: Council Member Menard moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as read into the record by the Clerk.

GENERAL CONSENT: There was no objection noted and the Consent Agenda was approved as read into the record.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

X. NEW BUSINESS

1. **AM No. 11-07:** Supporting a permanent half percent sales tax increase to fund a new library and future community oriented projects. *(Sponsored by Council Member Menard)*

MOTION: Council Member Menard moved to adopt AM No. 11-07.

Discussion ensued.

MOTION: Council Member Katkus called for the question (to stop debate).

GENERAL CONSENT: There was no objection noted.

VOTE: The motion to adopt AM No. 11-07 failed with Council Members Harris, Holler, Katkus, Sullivan-Leonard and Woodruff in opposition and Council Member Menard in favor.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Informational Memorandums

1. **IM No. 11-05:** Monthly financial reports for the period ending January 2011 to include the month-to-date expenditure report and expenditures greater than \$5,000.

B. Commission Minutes

There were no commission minutes presented.

There was no action taken on the communication item.

XII. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Mr. Patrick Brown:

- thanked the City for installing a street light at the corner of Weber Street and Nelson Drive;
- spoke to improvements that could be made to the Wasilla Meta-Rose Public Library by renting out audio books or by installing a sound-studio;
- commented on his volunteer efforts in the community;
- spoke to helping people in need, not necessarily everyone who has wants; and
- thanked the City for its progress towards making the City of Wasilla an easier place to live for those with disabilities.

Ms. Anne Killkenny spoke regarding merits to AM No. 11-07.

Ms. Louis Weir thanked the City of Wasilla, specifically the Public Works Department, for keeping the City clean.

XIII. MAYOR, CLERK AND ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Ms. Smithers:

- reminded the Council that the Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce has invited the Council to their luncheon on April 26, 2011;
- commented on the Redistricting Board's Pre-plan; and
- cautioned the Council against creating serial meetings via email or any social media network.

Mr. Richard Payne:

- commented on upcoming wrestling tournament at the Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center; and
- provided an update on the appeal to the Superior Court regarding the firing range.

XIV. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Harris

- thanked Mr. Yoder for his service;
- welcomed Mr. Cottle; and
- thanked Ms. Kaplan for her hard work with WASI.

Council Member Sullivan-Leonard:

- thanked Mr. Yoder for his service;
- welcomed Mr. Cottle;
- informed the Council that there will be an Alaska Municipal League Board meeting coming up on May 6, 2011, in Anchorage, AK; and
- commented on the Neighborhoods USA 2011 is being held in Anchorage, May 25-26, 2011, which she will be attending.

Deputy Mayor Holler:

- extended his thanks to Mr. Yoder and welcomed Mr. Cottle; and
- said hello to the Wasilla High government class students.

Council Member Woodruff spoke to local clean up days in the near future.

Council Member Katkus:

- thanked the citizens;
- spoke regarding an organized trip to Port MacKenzie;
- noted that she spoke with Mayor DeVilbiss regarding the joint meeting with the Palmer City Council;
- thanked Mr. Yoder for his service; and
- welcomed Mr. Cottle.

Mayor Rupright:

- thanked Mr. Yoder for his years of service;
- welcomed Mr. Cottle to the City staff; and
- spoke regarding possible funding from the State Legislature for the Wasilla Bypass Couplet and the road to the Wasilla Municipal Airport.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session held.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, Mayor Rupright adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.


VERNE E. RUPRIGHT, Mayor

ATTEST:


KRISTIE SMITHERS, MMC, City Clerk

Minutes approved: April 25, 2011