

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Meeting of the Wasilla City Council was held on Monday, August 13, 2012, 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
Mr. Douglas Holler, Deputy Mayor, Seat B
Ms. Colleen Sullivan-Leonard, Seat D
Ms. Dianne Woodruff, Seat E
Mr. Brandon Wall, Seat F (*via teleconference*)

Mayor Rupright asked if there was any objection to Ms. Leone Harris, Seat C, being absent. There was no objection noted and Ms. Leone Harris was excused.

Staff in attendance were:

Ms. Kristie Smithers, City Clerk
Ms. Amanda E. Charles, Deputy Clerk
Mr. Troy Tankersley, Finance Director
Mr. Archie Giddings, Public Works Director
Mr. John Combs, Recreation and Cultural Services Director
Mr. Gene Belden, Interim Police Chief
Mr. Richard Payne, City Attorney

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Ms. Kristie Smithers, City Clerk, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Council Member Woodruff requested that Ordinance Serial Nos. 12-24 and 12-27 be removed from the Consent Agenda and addressed separately under New Business; and added that she would have an amendment to the minutes.

Ms. Smithers stated that she would like to pull the executive session from the agenda due to the absence of Council Member Harris and to the fact that Council Member Wall is attending via teleconference.

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

V. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

There were no special orders of the day.

VI. COMMISSION AND AGENCY REPORTS

A. Parks and Recreation Commission

Mr. John Combs:

- stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission supports the creation of the Community Garden Task Force;
- added that the Parks and Recreation Commission has volunteered to assume the duties of the task force;
- noted that they are working on the Snider plaque;
- stated that the sign for Carter Park had been moved;
- reported that Pop Warner Football had entered into a long term lease with the City for the use of Lake Lucile Park fields and will be coming forward in the future with a proposition to lease 10 acres for future football fields;
- commented on the painting of the caboose at Nunley Park; and
- covered several other items regarding business at the Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center ("Sports Center").

B. Planning Commission

Mr. Steve DeHart, Commissioner:

- spoke to the meeting of July 24, 2012; and
- noted that they had approved a rezone and that it had been moved forward to the City Council with Ordinance Serial No. 12-27.

C. Libraries - Lebron McPhail, Director of Education, Matanuska-Susitna School Borough District

Mr. Lebron McPhail:

- spoke regarding the vital need for libraries in communities; and
- commented on the benefits of libraries to students.

D. Friends of Wasilla Public Library

Ms. Jeanne Troshynski, President:

- commented on the summer reading program's success;
- encouraged the City Council to make the City Council meetings more accessible to the public who are not able to attend the meeting, such as via radio or web broadcast;
- suggested that a copy of the City Council meetings should be available at the public library that the public could check out;
- stated that libraries are not just useful for checking out books and provided further explanation;
- expounded upon all the resources that are available at libraries; and
- asked for the council members to step forward and work together with the Friends of the Library on ways to make a new library a reality.

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A. Public Hearings

There were no public hearings.

B. Persons to be Heard

Ms. Crystal Nygard, Chief Executive Office, Mat-Su Business Alliance:

- spoke regarding State Ballot Measure 2;
- opined on the negative aspects of the ballot measure; and
- urged the City Council to support Resolution Serial No. 12-20.

Ms. Diana Straub:

- stated that she supports ballot language which would ask the voters if they would like a new library;
- spoke against Ballot Measure 2 on the State of Alaska's ballot, regarding the Coastal Zone Management Plan;
- encouraged the City to support a process which would align the City and Matanuska-Susitna Borough permitting processes into one person.

Ms. Alice Hollinger:

- spoke to the importance of libraries in communities;
- noted that she would have supported the one percent sales tax increase where it went to build a library and fund City projects; and
- encouraged the City Council to move forward with a plan for building a library earlier than next year.

Ms. Margaret Heaven:

- provided a history of libraries; and
- spoke to the growth of the Wasilla Meta-Rose Public Library.

Ms. Julia Ede:

- stated that the Wasilla Meta-Rose Public Library is the main core library for the Matanuska Susitna Borough, evidenced by the foot traffic and amount of materials at the library;
- noted that she had been working for a new Wasilla library for 13 years; and
- asked the City Council to move forward with a new library in the near future.

Ms. Randy Robinson:

- spoke to her involvement in the community;
- noted that she is a member of the Library Needs Committee;
- stressed that the City needs a new library; and
- provided a few example stories regarding the public's support of a new library.

Ms. Marci Hawkins:

- spoke to the importance of libraries;
- stressed that they are an economic engine; and
- expounded upon the need for a new library in Wasilla.

Ms. Randy Proman:

- spoke to the need for libraries throughout all communities;
- supported the previous speakers' comments;
- noted that new residents to an area look for a library; and
- encouraged the City Council to move forward with building a new library.

Ms. Jeanne Troshynski:

- spoke to the history of funding issues for a new library in Wasilla;
- extended her appreciation for forward thinking on ways to fund a new library; and
- encouraged council members to come forward and ask questions and to work together with the Friends of the Wasilla Public Library.

Mr. Ken Ray:

- spoke regarding the new for transportation in the Wasilla corridor;
- suggested that the Borough Manager and Wasilla Mayor move forward with the Transportation Matrix;
- opined that the City should declare a transportation emergency; and
- commented on the poor condition and usability of State of Alaska roads in the core area.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Minutes of Preceding Meetings:

1. Regular Meeting: July 9, 2012

B. Introduction of Ordinances: Recommended for Public Hearing on August 27, 2012:

1. **Ordinance Serial No. 12-25:** Amending the FY2013 Wasilla Meta-Rose Public Library budget by accepting \$75,000 from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.
2. **Ordinance Serial No. 12-26:** Amending WMC 4.20.041.C, questioned voting, in regard to the voter oath for questioned voters.

C. Resolutions

1. **Resolution Serial No. 12-21:** Creating a Community Garden Task Force and prescribing its duties. *(Sponsored by Council Member Katkus)*
2. **Resolution Serial No. 12-22:** Designating State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation grant funds for sewage treatment plant improvements as the number one local state funding priority for fiscal year 2014.
3. **Resolution Serial No. 12-23:** Accepting seven designated legislative grants for fiscal year 2013 in the total amount of \$1,125,000.

D. Action Memorandums

1. **AM No. 12-29:** Confirmation of Election Officials for the October 2, 2012, Regular City Election.
2. **AM No. 12-30:** Contract award to H Construction for City Hall roof replacement in an amount of \$37,650.
3. **AM No. 12-31:** Contract award to Qap for the construction of Aviation Avenue extension in an amount of \$1,474,158.
4. **AM No. 12-32:** Contract award to McKenna Brothers for E. Susitna Avenue strip paving in an amount of \$43,503.

MOTION: Council Member Woodruff moved to adopt the consent agenda as read into the record by the City Clerk.

Council Member Woodruff requested that the minutes be reviewed to reflect her motion during her comments.

Ms. Smithers stated that the audio would be reviewed.

GENERAL CONSENT: There was no objection noted.

[CLERK'S NOTE: After the conclusion of the meeting the audio was reviewed and the concerns that Council Member Woodruff expressed regarding a motion she had made was not found. Council Member Woodruff was notified and the minutes were not amended.]

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. **Resolution Serial No. 12-20:** Opposing Ballot Measure Two, Coastal Zone Management Program, to be voted upon at the upcoming State Primary Election On August 28, 2012. *(Sponsored by Council Member Sullivan-Leonard) (Continued from July 9, 2012)*

[CLERK'S NOTE: The motion to adopt Resolution Serial No. 12-20 was made at the July 9, 2012, meeting by Council Member Sullivan-Leonard prior to the postponement of the resolution.]

Discussion moved to the City Council.

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

GENERAL CONSENT: There was no objection noted.

VOTE: The motion to adopt Resolution Serial No. 12-20 passed with Council Members Holler, Katkus, Sullivan-Leonard and Wall in favor and Council Member Woodruff in opposition.

X. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Introduction of Ordinances: Recommended for Public Hearing on August 27, 2012:

1. **Ordinance Serial No. 12-24:** Amending the FY2013 Budget for increases in health insurance, workers' compensation insurance and general insurance policies of the City in the net amount of \$323,075.

MOTION: Council Member Woodruff moved to introduce Ordinance Serial No. 12-24 and set it for public hearing on August 27, 2012.

Discussion ensued regarding the introduction of Ordinance Serial No. 12-24.

VOTE: The motion to introduce and set for public hearing passed unanimously.

2. **Ordinance Serial No. 12-27:** Amending the official zoning map of the City of Wasilla, Alaska to change the zoning district from Rural Residential (RR) to Commercial (C), for Lots 1-6, Pioneer Bluff Subdivision, Township 17 North, Range 1 West, Section 10, Seward Meridian, Alaska totaling approximately 8.52 acres. Generally located on the south side of the Palmer-Wasilla Highway between the Parks Highway and Knik-Goose Bay Road.

MOTION: Council Member Woodruff moved to introduce Ordinance Serial No. 12-27 and set it for public hearing on August 27, 2012.

Discussion ensued regarding the introduction of Ordinance Serial No. 12-27.

VOTE: The motion to introduce and set for public hearing passed unanimously.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Informational Memorandums

1. **IM No. 12-13:** Feasibility report for the formation of special assessment districts in accordance with Wasilla Municipal Code 5.20.060 for sewer connections.

A. Commission Minutes

1. Parks and Recreation Commission: June 13, 2012
2. Planning Commission: July 10, 2012: July 24, 2012

There was no action taken on the communication items.

XII. AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Ms. Jeanne Troshynski:

- noted that that September 17, 2012, is the next Friends of the Wasilla Public Library and invited the Council to attend;
- stated that September 20, 2012, is the next used book sale at the American Legion; and
- informed the City Council that January 23, 2013, is the 75th anniversary of the Wasilla Public Library.

Ms. Diana Straub encouraged the City Council to move forward with a new Wasilla Public Library.

XIII. MAYOR, CLERK AND ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Payne:

- provided general information on current litigation; and
- complimented the City Council and administration for their consideration of a new public library.

Ms. Smithers:

- spoke to the Ethics Task Force and noted that no further applicants had submitted applications;
- stated that she would add it as a discussion item at the next agenda which is light; and
- wished the Mayor a speedy recovery.

XIV. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Member Woodruff:

- spoke regarding the Mat-Su Transportation Fair;
- thanked that Matanuska Susitna Borough for their \$75,000 in funding; and
- spoke regarding the predevelopment stages of the public library.

MOTION: Council Member Woodruff moved to instruct staff to set up a Special City Council Meeting between themselves and the Library Needs Committee.

Discussion ensued.

GENERAL CONSENT: There was no objection noted to scheduling a meeting with the Library Needs Committee.

Council Member Woodruff requested a copy of the Public Employees Retirement System Audit Report.

Mr. Tankersley provided an update.

Council Member Woodruff requested that the City Clerk research how to televise the City Council Members.

Council Member Katkus:

- spoke regarding the responsibility of leadership;
- noted the need for a new library;
- commented on Ordinance Serial No. 12-24, regarding the increase of the City sales tax; and
- provided some general statistics on the greater Wasilla area.

Council Member Wall:

- noted that it is hard to make some tough decisions; and
- commented on Resolution Serial No. 12-20, regarding the Coastal Zone Management Plan.

Deputy Mayor Holler:

- expressed his concerns with the need for brush cutters around stop sign areas; and
- spoke regarding the Lake Lucile clean-up efforts.

Council Member Sullivan-Leonard:

- noted that several constituents had called her regarding a disabled person on the side walk outside of McDonalds who is seeking funding; and
- asked Chief Belden if had specifics on the situation, specifically to if he needed some type of assistance

Chief Belden responded that he is aware of the situation and provided some general information.

Council Member Sullivan-Leonard spoke regarding the grand opening of the new South Central Foundation medical center.

Mayor Rupright spoke regarding a recent medical procedure he had.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. ~~Annual Evaluation of City Clerk (Subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion.)~~

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, Mayor Rupright adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.


VERNE E. RUPRIGHT, Mayor

ATTEST:


KRISTIE SMITHERS, MMC, City Clerk

Minutes approved: August 27, 2012

