

Minutes of the Public Hearing
Denali Borough Assembly
McKinley Community Center
March 08, 2017

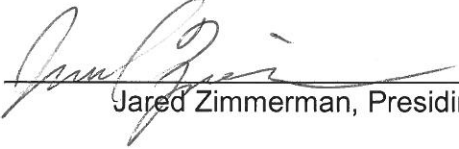
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7 CALL TO ORDER: The public hearing was called to order by Presiding Officer Jared Zimmerman at
8 6:03 p.m.
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10 ROLL CALL: Assembly members present: Jared ZIMMERMAN, Patrick KELLY, Krista ZAPPONE,
11 Don DEBLAUW and Joe CHATFIELD. Absent: Paddy TATUM, David EVANS, Tallon SHREEVE
12 and Jill BOELSMA.
13

14 ORDINANCE 16-12, Version C: An ordinance amending Denali Borough Code of Ordinances Title
15 4, Real Property Acquisition, Management and Disposal
16

17 There were no public comments.
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21 ADJOURNMENT: The public hearing was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.
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26 APPROVED:  _____
27 Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer
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32 ATTEST:  _____ Date Approved: APRIL 12, 2017
33 Gail Pieknik, Borough Clerk
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**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Denali Borough Assembly
McKinley Community Center
March 08, 2017**

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7 CALL TO ORDER: Presiding Officer Jared Zimmerman called the regular meeting to order at 6:06
8 PM. Mayor Clay Walker led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.
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10 ROLL CALL

11 Assembly members present: Jared ZIMMERMAN, Don DEBLAUW, Joe CHATFIELD, Krista
12 ZAPPONE, and Patrick KELLY. Absent: David EVANS, Tallon SHREEVE, Paddy TATUM and Jill
13 BOELSMA. Mayor Clay Walker was also present.
14

15 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to excuse Ms. Tatum, Mr. David Evans, Mr. Shreeve and Ms. Boelsma.
16 The motion was seconded. The vote by show of hands was unanimous.
17

18 PUBLIC COMMENTS

19 Dave Decaro, McKinley Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief speaking for Denali Emergency
20 Services Association (DESA), commented that DESA will be requesting additional non-profit
21 contribution grant funds in the amount of \$15,400 to cover increased fire departments dispatch
22 services costs.
23

24 AGENDA

25 Don DEBLAUW MOVED to approve the meeting agenda as presented. The motion was seconded.
26 The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.
27

28 MINUTES

29 February 08, 2017 Denali Borough Assembly Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
30

31 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2017 Public Hearing and
32 Regular Meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands
33 was unanimous.
34

35 REPORTS

36 January 2017 Financial Report
37

38 Patrick KELLY MOVED to receive the January 2017 financial report. The motion was seconded.
39 The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.
40

41 MATCHING GRANT COMMITTEE

42 Krista Zappone, Matching Grant Committee Chair, reported that two applications for matching grants
43 had been received from the Tri-Valley Volunteer Fire Department and the Native Village of Cantwell.
44 A request for additional information was made to one applicant. Recommendations of the committee
45 and information received will be forwarded to the assembly for consideration at the next assembly
46 meeting.
47
48

1
2 DENALI BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

3 Baxter Mercer, Planning Commissioner, reported that the planning commission has been working to
4 develop amendments to Title 9 regarding subdivisions and road easement standards. On March 21,
5 the planning commission will hold their second public hearing on the proposed Healy Transfer
6 Station location at 5:00 PM, after which there will be an abbreviated meeting of the planning
7 commission where the Mayor's Annual Work Plan will be considered. Following the meeting, a work
8 session will be held with Agnew::Beck, where steps toward a Land Use Strategic Plan will be
9 discussed.

10
11 LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT (LEPC)

12 Chris Noel, LEPC Coordinator, reported that the committee is tasked with advising local government
13 regarding hazards in the community. Initially, the focus of LEPCs was on chemical hazards, but the
14 current focus has expanded to include all hazards. Mr. Noel reported that a letter from the committee
15 will be going out to the public asking for feedback on the idea of establishing addresses within the
16 Denali Borough. Such a project would require leadership from the assembly.

17
18 SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT

19 Denali Borough School District (DBSD) Superintendent Dan Polta

20 Superintendent Polta verbally highlighted events included in a written report, including the following.

- 21
22
- 23 • Programming of equipment for the Cantwell Sprinkler System will be done soon.
 - 24 • Proposals were scored last week for design work on the Cantwell School Roof. Northform
25 was the leading proposer, and has been issued notice of intent to award.
 - 26 • Cost estimates to convert the Anderson School heating system from oil to coal have been
27 updated, with a current estimate of \$600,000 for the project.
 - 28 • DBSD's Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 budget was passed at the February School Board meeting.
29 The budget is based upon updated enrollment figures, and requests \$2,658,588 from the
30 Borough.
 - 31 • The School Board approved the opening of a PEAK office in the Palmer/Wasilla area, and a
32 decision of an office location may be made by April.
 - 33 • Staff will be attending the Job Fair in Anchorage to fill several openings.

34 MAYOR REPORT

35 Mayor Clay Walker verbally highlighted activity included in a written report, including the following:

- 36
37
- 38 • Mayor Walker thanked Caspian Schieber and Sky Bear Productions for help with a new
39 sound system for meetings.
 - 40 • Mayor Walker, Jared Zimmerman, and Tallon Shreeve attended the AML Legislative
41 Conference in February, and had meetings with the Alaska delegation, as well as other
42 legislators. The budget deficit was front and center during the conference, with concern that
43 costs are shifting from the state to the municipalities. The opioid epidemic was another topic
44 of concern, with some ideas from the conference brought back for implementation.
 - 45 • Winterfest was a success, with Kris Capps the recipient of the Mayor's Community Service
46 Award.
 - 47 • Mayor Walker attended the National Association of Counties conference, which was
excellent, with the most value gained from congressional meetings.

- 1 • Gail Pieknik submitted her resignation effective June 1, 2017. A vacancy announcement has
2 been posted.
- 3 • Staff has been working on the FY 2018 budget and capital improvement program.
- 4 • The new borough website is up. Mayor Walker thanked Marsha Lambert and Chris Noel for
5 their work on its development.
- 6 • A request for proposals will go out soon for professional audit services.
7

8 ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

9 Assembly members thanked those in the audience for attending the meeting, and thanked Mayor
10 Walker and Superintendent Polta for providing written reports in addition to verbal highlights.

11
12 Don DEBLAUW commented positively on the new sound system.

13
14 Patrick KELLY commented that he would need to leave the meeting by 8:00 PM due to other
15 commitments.

16
17 Jared ZIMMERMAN congratulated Borough Clerk Gail Pieknik on her upcoming retirement, and
18 commented positively on the new sound system and the borough website. Mr. Zimmerman
19 further commented that while in Juneau for the AML conference, he felt welcomed at the capitol
20 building, spent time with Representative Dave Talerico, and attended U.S. Senator Dan
21 Sullivan's address to the legislature.

22
23 Joe CHATFIELD congratulated Borough Clerk Gail Pieknik on her coming retirement, and
24 commented that borough addresses are an important topic of discussion.

25 26 COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCES

27 Lauren Little, Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT), update on changes
28 to the Parks Hwy MP 231 Enhancement Project

29
30 David Jensen, DOT Design Engineer, provided an update of highway enhancements planned near
31 Milepost 231 of the George Parks Highway that were developed through a process including public
32 comment and discussion with the National Park Service. The original design was to replace a
33 highway bridge with a four lane structure with a pedestrian walkway across the Nenana River. The
34 revised design relocates access, replaces the highway bridge with a two lane structure that includes
35 a pedestrian walkway, raises the grade of the highway at the Nenana River, and includes a tunnel
36 under the highway to access Grizzly Bear Cabins. The rest area will be on the west side of the
37 Nenana River, with trails that will tie in to existing trails. Construction is not planned until 2018.

38
39 Bill Couthran, Executive Director and Jessica McKay, Doctoral Intern, Hope Counseling Center,
40 Inc, Fairbanks, Alaska, desire to open an office and recruit for a satellite board based in the
41 Denali Borough.

42
43 Bill Couthran, Executive Director of Hope Counseling, introduced himself and Doctoral Intern
44 Jessica McKay, and explained that the counseling center is looking to expand services to areas
45 in Interior Alaska, and would like to assess need and interest for a satellite location in Healy. The
46 center would be community owned, with a local board or steering committee that would work
47 with Railbelt Mental Health to provide expanded outpatient services, and would look to offer tele-

1 psychiatry services in cooperation with patients' primary care physician, and to meet the mental
2 health needs of the community.

3
4 Donna Mears, PE, Environmental Management Inc., Clear View Monofill

5
6 Donna Mears, Design Engineer for Clear View Monofill, provided assembly members with an
7 updated landfill permit application that had been submitted to the Alaska Department of
8 Environmental Conservation (DEC). Central Recycling Services is working to establish
9 infrastructure for recycling in Interior Alaska, with facilities in the Fairbanks area that have
10 received a 100 percent score on DEC inspections. About a year ago, Central Recycling Services
11 (CRS) engaged in conversations with the Alaska Railroad Corporation regarding improvements
12 at Clear Air Force Station (CAFS) and the opportunities they presented for recycling of material.
13 The Denali Borough landfill has limits on the amount of material it can accept, and the debris
14 from the CAFS project would exceed that limit.

15
16 Ms. Mears stated her confidence that the application she provided to assembly members is
17 comprehensive in its scope. CRS has been to meetings in all the communities affected by the
18 proposed landfill, and would like to move forward with the project. Denali Borough Code
19 6.10.020 calls for the assembly to act on any new landfill by ordinance, and Ms. Mears
20 requested that the assembly hold a public hearing in Anderson on the application. CRS would
21 also like to have an open house at the proposed facility location prior to the Anderson assembly
22 meeting on May 10. CRS would like information on the Borough's timeline and procedures, as
23 well as more information regarding public hearings, open house meetings, and the landfill
24 application process. Ms. Mears expressed her understanding that waste facilities are rarely
25 welcome, but that through the public process, citizens will be given the opportunity to raise
26 concerns, and to evaluate concerns based on factual information.

27
28 DRAFT ORDINANCES

29 ORDINANCE 17-03: An ordinance amending the budget for fiscal year 2017

30
31 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to introduce Ordinance 17-03. The motion was seconded. Mayor Walker
32 explained the budget has been adjusted to remove the budgetary reserve amount, and drew the
33 assembly's attention to the narrative section for an explanation of notable changes. The fund
34 transfers are adjusted to reflect the use of Permanent Investment Fund revenue earned in FY 2016
35 in the amount of \$23,992. A significant change to the Solid Waste budget is an increase in the
36 consultant fee line item to cover the landfill redesign, DEC application document, and rewrite of the
37 operations plan. The roll call VOTE was unanimous.

38
39 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to postpone Ordinance 17-03 to the next meeting. The motion was
40 seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

41
42 RESOLUTIONS

43 There were no resolutions for consideration on the agenda.

44
45 OTHER BUSINESS

46 Liquor License Application Approval:

47 Grande Denali Hotel – Alpenglow Restaurant

48 License No: 4099

1 Mile 238.2 Parks Hwy
2 Beverage Dispensary-Tourism - Seasonal
3 Licensee: Little Norway, Inc
4
5 Denali Bluffs Hotel
6 License No: 4280
7 Mile 238.2 Parks Hwy
8 Beverage Dispensary-Tourism - Seasonal
9 Licensee: Little Norway, Inc
10
11 White Raven Liquor
12 License No: 1850
13 Mile 238.6 Parks Hwy
14 Package Store - Seasonal
15 Licensee: Shawn Peterson, White Raven, LLC
16
17 Denali River Cabins
18 License No. 3920
19 Mile 231.1 Parks Hwy
20 Beverage Dispensary Tourism – Seasonal
21 Licensee: ARAMARK Sports & Entertainment Services, LLC
22
23 McKinley Village Lodge – Lucky Miss Saloon
24 License No. 5209
25 Mile 231.1 Parks Hwy
26 Beverage Dispensary Tourism – Seasonal
27 Licensee: ARAMARK Sports & Entertainment Services, LLC
28 Package Store – Seasonal
29 Licensee: David Coleman

30
31 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to approve the above listed liquor license applications. The motion was
32 seconded. It was noted that there have been no comments or complaints regarding any of the
33 businesses. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

34
35 Chris Beck, Agnew::Beck, Denali Borough Land Use and Economic Development Strategic Plan
36 proposal

37
38 Mayor Walker explained that both the planning commission and the assembly have requested a
39 proposal for a land use/strategic development plan, which was provided to the assembly. The scope
40 of work would result in the production of a land use and economic strategic plan. The work plan
41 looks to move at a brisk pace through the summer and fall, involving much listening and
42 communication, and developing a team to move the plan forward. Points of discussion included the
43 importance of listening to local communities, the critical need to develop a land use plan for all
44 lands, not just those that are owned by the borough, past experience with Agnew::Beck, and the fact
45 that this would be a good first step in land planning.
46

1 Patrick Kelly MOVED to approve the Agnew::Beck Land Use and Economic Development Strategic
2 Plan contract as proposed. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was
3 unanimous.

4
5 ANCSA 14 (c)(3) trust land settlement offer for Cantwell lands
6

7 Mayor Clay Walker explained that ANCSA 14(c)(3) provides for the conveyance of certain land to
8 the State of Alaska to hold in trust for a future city in Cantwell. Recently, the State of Alaska began
9 acting upon an offer from Ahtna, Inc. for lands identified for this purpose, and requested comment
10 from the borough on the action. The minimum acreage identified by ANCSA for this purpose is 1,280
11 acres, and the current offer is for 820 acres. If both parties agree to the lesser acreage, it would
12 satisfy the requirements of ANCSA 14(c)(3). There is a meeting in Cantwell on March 27 where a
13 resolution concerning the proposal will be voted on by bona fide residents of Cantwell.
14

15 In its municipal land entitlement process, the Denali Borough was not able to select much land in the
16 southern portion of the borough due to over selection of lands by Ahtna, Inc., and there may be no
17 mechanism for conveyance of southern borough lands other than this offer. Residents have made
18 comment regarding some access concerns with the identified areas. The focus of comment should
19 be the feasibility of these lands to support the functions of a future municipality. There is some
20 concern that the process is being rushed to completion.
21

22 The parcels that have been identified include several that the State would consider conveying
23 directly to the borough. These are parcels containing the Cantwell School, the Cantwell Transfer
24 Station, and the Cantwell shooting range. Because these lands fall within an organized municipality
25 (the Denali Borough) they may be conveyed directly.
26

27 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED that Mayor Walker submit comment in support of the Denali Borough
28 receiving title to the Cantwell School and Cantwell Transfer Station lands, which are already in use
29 by the borough. The motion was seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.
30

31 PUBLIC COMMENTS

32 There were no public comments.
33

34 ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

35 Assembly members thanked those in the audience for their attendance.
36

37 Krista ZAPPONE thanked Donna Mears for her efforts to develop a landfill application, and
38 thanked Hope Counseling for their presentation.
39

40 Patrick KELLY thanked fellow assembly members for working effectively and quickly through the
41 meeting.
42

43 Don DEBLAUW commented that Borough Clerk Gail Pieknik will be missed, and further
44 commented that not all residents want their address to be known, but it would be helpful for
45 emergency services.
46

47 Jared ZIMMERMAN commented that the opioid abuse epidemic is a problem in Alaska, and that
48 citizens should engage in open discussion and do what they can to combat the problem.

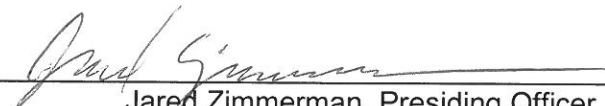
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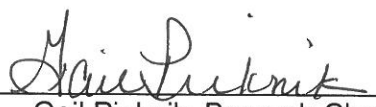
Joe CHATFIELD thanked Caspian Schieber for his work on the sound system.

NEXT ASSEMBLY MEETING

The next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 12, 2017 at the Tri-Valley Community Center in Healy; Public Hearing 6:00 PM with the Regular Meeting following the Public Hearing.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

APPROVED: 
Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer

ATTEST:  Date Approved: APRIL 12, 2017
Gail Pieknik, Borough Clerk