

Minutes of the Public Hearing
Denali Borough Assembly
McKinley Community Center
February 12, 2014

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7 CALL TO ORDER: The public hearing was called to order by Presiding Officer Rusty Lasell at 6:10
8 PM.

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10 ROLL CALL: Assembly members present: Jill BOELSMA, Jared ZIMMERMAN, Kimberly
11 BURROWS, Dave TALERICO, David EVANS, Rusty LASELL and Rick WEIBEL. Absent: Paddy
12 TATUM and Don DE BLAUW.

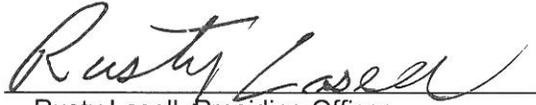
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15 ORDINANCE 13-16, Version D: An ordinance to increase the Mayor's annual salary from \$65,000
16 to \$81,000

17
18 There were no comments.

19
20 ORDINANCE 14-01, Version A: An ordinance amending the Denali Borough Code of Ordinances,
21 Chapter 2.40.060 titled Conflicts of Interest

22
23 There were no comments.

24
25 ADJOURNMENT: The public hearing was adjourned at 6:12 PM.

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29 APPROVED: 
30 Rusty Lasell, Presiding Officer

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34 ATTEST:  Date Approved: MARCH 12, 2014
35 Gail Pieknik, Borough Clerk

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**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Denali Borough Assembly
McKinley Community Center
February 12, 2014**

CALL TO ORDER: Presiding Officer Rusty Lasell called the regular meeting to order at 6:12 PM. Mayor Clay Walker led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Assembly members present: Jill BOELSMA, Kimberly BURROWS, Rusty LASELL, David TALERICO, David EVANS, Richard WEIBEL and Jared ZIMMERMAN Absent: Paddy TATUM and Don DEBLAUW.

Dave TALERICO MOVED to excuse Mr. DeBlauw and Ms. Tatum. Jill BOELSMA seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Denali Borough Assembly received 12 letters of support for Resolution 14-05 dealing with the Stampede State Recreation Area and 8 letters opposed.

Erica Watson, Denali Citizens Council, thanked the assembly for considering of Resolution 14-05, supporting the Stampede State Recreation Area.

Michael Raffaeli, Denali Citizens Council, spoke in favor of Resolution 14-05, which supports traditional use such as dog mushing, skiing, hiking and biking. The area is a nice alternative to the Denali National Park.

Caleb Johnson, Denali Borough resident, agrees with Ms. Watson and Mr. Raffaeli which supports managed uses.

AGENDA

Richard WEIBEL MOVED to approve the agenda as presented. David EVANS seconded.

Jared ZIMMERMAN MOVED to amend by adding under Communications and Appearances, Ketchikan- Gateway Borough request supporting the current lawsuit with the state of Alaska in regards to school funding. Richard WEIBEL seconded. The VOTE to amend was unanimous. The VOTE to approve the agenda by show of hands was unanimous.

MINUTES

January 8, 2014 Public Hearing and Regular Meeting

Richard WEIBEL MOVED to approve the January 8, 2014 public hearing and regular meeting minutes as presented. Jill BOELSA seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

1
2 REPORTS

3 December 2013 Financial Reports

4
5 Richard WEIBEL MOVED to receive the December 2013 financial report. Dave TALERICO
6 seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

7
8 MATCHING GRANT COMMITTEE

9 Matching Grant Committee members: David Evans, Dave Talerico and Don DeBlauw

10
11 Jared ZIMMERMAN volunteered to be the Matching Grant Committee alternate. This was approved
12 by consensus of the assembly members.

13
14 MAYOR'S REPORT

15 Mayor Clay Walker reported that Denali 2014 Winterfest schedule is now available. Winterfest
16 events will take place February 21-23. The Denali Borough will host the Saturday night Chili Feed.
17 The theme for Saturday night activities is the Olympics. The winners of the Olympics will take home
18 a medal. Jennifer Pearson from the Chamber of Commerce helps to organize the events.

19
20 The Denali Borough Mayor's Community Service Award nominations closed on February 1st. There
21 were ten nominations total. The nominations committee met to help choose a winner and to discuss
22 how to make the program sustainable. The award will be given on Saturday night during Winterfest.

23
24 The Fairbanks Arts Association asks the interior mayor's to solicit nominations for the Mayor's
25 Award for the Art's. The mayor has applications for people to nominate someone. The First Lady's
26 Volunteer of the Year awards is now accepting nominations. There are copies of the application
27 available online or at the Denali Borough office. The application deadline is March 3, 2014.

28
29 The mayor met with the Alaska in-state gas pipeline chief engineer and the government relations
30 director regarding their alignment proposal. They determined that to get permits through ANILCA for
31 alignment through Denali National Park makes it too onerous for the spring target date for open
32 season. There will be a new route (number 6) proposed this year.

33
34 Mayor Walker reported that the school maximum valuation by the state of Alaska for FY 2014 was
35 overvalued by \$22,000 and the school has returned the funds to the borough. The FY 2015 school
36 budget is due in the borough office on April 1, 2014.

37
38 The mayor discussed Alaska Department of Transportation (ADOT) projects which include the Riley
39 Creek Bridge replacement project. The mayor brought the draft plans for the project if anyone was
40 interested in reviewing them. The current bridge will stay in place while the contractors build the new
41 one. The ADOT included the resolutions of support for this project in their letter which show the
42 impact Denali Borough resolutions have on state projects.

43
44 Marsha Lambert, Denali Borough Planner, and the mayor went to Fairbanks and met with ADOT to
45 discuss concerns about pedestrian safety at the four corners in Healy. Attending the meeting was
46 David Talerico, Alaska Department of Transportation Healy Camp Foreman. An Alaska State
47 Trooper from Healy was scheduled to attend but because of road conditions, the trooper decided
48 that he needed to stay in the area for public safety reasons. The discussion led to how important it is

1 for the Denali Borough to have further planning in the area which included input from citizens and
2 businesses along with resolutions supporting the planning. The mayor is interested in starting a
3 Mayor's Task Force to involve local citizens and businesses in the planning process for the four
4 corners with a final report and resolution to be presented to the assembly of the final findings of the
5 Mayor's Task Force.

6
7 The Denali Borough currently holding a permit for the Dry Creek area flood control. The mayor is
8 working on a new permit with the Army Corps of Engineers which supports more material being
9 extracted and the Park's Highway upgrade contractor to use the material for the highway
10 construction.

11
12 The Tri-Borough meeting with Mat-Su, Fairbanks North Star and Denali Borough will take place on
13 Sunday, February 23rd 9:00 AM at the Tri-Valley Community Center in Healy.

14
15 Jeremy Johnson, DCRA, is willing to come and do newly elected officials training the first or second
16 week of April. The clerk will be in touch with the assembly members to set a date.

17
18 SCHOOL REPORT

19 Dr. Jim Elliott, Denali Borough School District (DBSD) Superintendent, was not able to attend the
20 meeting.

21
22 ASSEMBLY COMMENT

23 Kimber BURROWS and Jill BOELSMA had no comment.

24
25 Jared ZIMMERMAN was sorry that he missed the last assembly meeting and is planning on
26 attending the Tri-Borough Meeting.

27
28 Richard WEIBEL showed appreciation by thanking the assembly for having him be the presiding
29 officer last year.

30
31 David TALERICO thought the mayor's annual report was very good. He would like the mayor to
32 pursue the Dry Creek project supporting the idea of more material being extracted. He will work
33 with the Borough Clerk on a resolution for the next meeting which will show the details of the
34 project that the borough wants to support.

35
36 David EVANS supports the Dry Creek project. The extraction of material to use on the Park's
37 Highway upgrade will keep from using the gravel pit on the east side of the Park's Highway at
38 Milepost 245.

39
40 Rusty LASELL suggested that the mayor work with DNR on the Dry Creek project because they
41 had a say in the project on the last permit. LASELL thanked David Tomeo for running the
42 McKinley Volunteer Fire Department until a Chief could be found.

43
44 COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCES:

45 Ketchikan-Gateway Borough (KGB) letter to the Denali Borough requesting support in a lawsuit
46 with the state of Alaska on state funding to schools
47

1 Jared ZIMMERMAN reviewed the letter received by the Denali Borough from Ketchikan-Gateway
2 Borough asking the borough to join them in a lawsuit on school funding by the state of Alaska.
3 Mr. Zimmerman informed the assembly that Fairbanks North Star Borough will be voting on this
4 issue February 13th at their Borough Assembly meeting.

5
6 Mayor Walker spoke to this issue feeling that it would be something that we support but on the
7 other hand, it would be a loss of local control. He feels that we need to watch and see what
8 happens with the vote in Fairbanks. We may be able to ask legal counsel about the merits of the
9 KGB lawsuit.

10
11 Dave TALERICO felt that the way the state is doing it right now may be unconstitutional. Dave
12 TALERICO MOVED to ask Jim Gorski, legal counsel, his opinion on this matter. Jared
13 ZIMMERMAN seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

14
15 DRAFT ORDINANCES:

16 ORDINANCE 14-02: An ordinance amending Section 4.07, Article IV of the Denali Borough
17 Charter titled, Salary of the Mayor, and amending the Denali Borough Code of Ordinances
18 2.10.060, titled Compensation of the Mayor.

19
20 Dave TALERICO MOVED to introduce Ordinance 14-02. Kimberly BURROWS seconded.

21
22 Presiding Officer Rusty LASELL relinquished the gavel to Deputy Presiding Officer Jared
23 ZIMMERMAN to speak to the ordinance.

24
25 Rusty LASELL explained that this ordinance affords the current mayor to receive a raise.

26
27 Rick WEIBEL spoke against this ordinance stating that it does not hold to the checks and
28 balances that the Denali Borough Charter was set up to do because it is immediate and direct to
29 the current person in the position. It is about the seat and not the person in the seat. He would
30 like to see it remain the way it is in the Charter.

31
32 Mayor Walker feels that there are checks and balances in place now. If the Charter was changed
33 by this ordinance, the assembly could change the salary of the mayor at anytime, even in
34 midterm. He reiterated that it is the position and not the person. He continued the discussion with
35 the reason why this subject came before the assembly. Mr. Zimmerman brought Ordinance 13-
36 16 forward because the Mayoral seat has not received a raise in 9 years. Ordinance 13-16
37 follows the current Charter and Code by having the raise take place after the Mayoral Election.
38 Mayor Walker suggested that the assembly amend the Code of Ordinances to state that the
39 assembly shall review the mayor's salary every three years to prevent this from happening
40 again.

41
42 Other points of discussion included that this is less than \$1.00 raise per year for the last nine
43 years for the position, to place the salary where it should be and set it in the Code that it will be
44 reviewed of couple of years and the salary increase could be placed in the budget without a
45 need for a separate ordinance.

46
47 The roll call VOTE to introduce was 5 – 2 with Dave TALERICO and Rick WEIBEL opposed.
48 The motion to introduce passes.

1
2 Rusty LASELL MOVED to postpone Ordinance 14-02 to the next meeting. Rick WEIBEL
3 seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

4
5 Presiding Officer Rusty Lasell resumed the chair at 7:32 pm.

6
7 PENDING ORDINANCES:

8 ORDINANCE 13-16, Version D: An ordinance to increase the Mayor's annual salary from
9 \$65,000 to \$81,000

10
11 David TALERICO MOVED to postpone Ordinance 13-16, version D indefinitely. Rick WEIBEL
12 seconded. The roll call VOTE was 6 – 1 with Jared ZIMMERMAN opposed. The VOTE to
13 postpone indefinitely passes.

14
15 VOTE TO RECONSIDER

16 David EVANS MOVED to reconsider a previous action taken on Ordinance 14-02 to postpone to
17 the next meeting. Dave TALERICO seconded. The VOTE by show of hands was unanimous.

18
19 Presiding Officer LASELL relinquished the gavel to Deputy Presiding Officer ZIMMERMANN.

20
21 Dave TALERICO MOVED to postpone indefinitely Ordinance 14-02. Rick WEIBEL seconded.
22 The roll call VOTE was 6-1 with LASELL opposed. The motion passes.

23
24 ORDINANCE 14-01, Version A: An ordinance amending the Denali Borough Code of
25 Ordinances, Chapter 2.40.060 titled Conflicts of Interest

26
27 Dave TALERICO MOVED to adopt Ordinance 14-01, version A. Jill BOELSMA seconded. The
28 roll call VOTE to adopt was unanimous.

29
30 Presiding Officer Rusty Lasell called a meeting recess at 8:10 pm. The meeting resumed at 8:25
31 pm.

32
33 RESOLUTIONS

34 RESOLUTION 14-02: A resolution removing Permanent Seasonal Employees from participation in
35 the Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS)

36
37 Dave TALERICO MOVED to approve Resolution 14-02. Jared ZIMMERMAN seconded. The roll call
38 VOTE on the motion to approve Resolution 14-02 was unanimous.

39
40 RESOLUTION 14-03: A resolution approving unincorporated communities and their respective
41 incorporated non-profit entity for participation in the fiscal year 2015 Community Revenue Sharing
42 program

43
44 Dave TALERICO MOVED to approve Resolution 14-03. Rick WEIBEL seconded. The roll call
45 VOTE on the motion to approve Resolution 14-03 was unanimous.

1
2 RESOLUTION 14-04: A resolution identifying state of Alaska budget requests for Fiscal Year 2015

3
4 David EVANS MOVED to approve Resolution 14-04. Rick WEIBEL seconded. The roll call VOTE on
5 the motion to approve Resolution 14-04 was unanimous.
6

7 RESOLUTION 14-05: A resolution in support of passage of House Bill 148 to create the Stampede
8 State Recreation Area
9

10 Jared ZIMMERMAN MOVED to approve Resolution 14-05. Kimberly BURROWS seconded. The roll
11 call VOTE on the motion to approve Resolution 14-05 was unanimous.
12

13 Points of discussion were on the letters the assembly received from people who spoke against the
14 passage of this resolution and the House Bill. House Bill 148 actually protects what the people that
15 spoke against the House Bill wanted protected. At this time there is no sponsor statement on House
16 Bill 148 and without a sponsor statement, it would be hard to get the Bill forward.
17

18 RESOLUTION 14-06: A resolution supporting the state of Alaska Department of Transportation
19 (DOT&PF) renewal of Alaska Railroad Corporation land lease for the continued operation of the
20 Healy River Airport
21

22 Dave TALERICO MOVED to approve Resolution 14-06. David EVANS seconded. The roll call VOTE
23 on the motion to approve Resolution 14-06 was unanimous.
24

25 OTHER BUSINESS

26 None.

27 PUBLIC COMMENTS

28 There were no public comments.
29

30 ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

31 David EVANS and Rick WEIBEL had no comment.
32

33 Jill BOELSMA thanked the seasoned assembly members for helping her to get up to speed by
34 explaining how all of this works.
35

36 David TALERICO thanked the assembly members for being patient and for their service. He is
37 enjoying being on the assembly and it is because of the current assembly members.
38

39 Jared ZIMMERMAN volunteered to be a member of the Finance Committee.
40

41 Rusty LASELL feels that there is a good balance on the assembly with new assembly members
42 and seasoned ones and thanked everyone who attended the meeting.
43

44 Kimber BURROWS agrees with Ms. Boelsma and thinks that there is a good balance on the
45 assembly.
46

47 NEXT ASSEMBLY MEETING

48 There will be a Tri-Borough Meeting held on Sunday, February 23, 2014 at 9:00 AM. No official

1 action will be taken at this meeting.

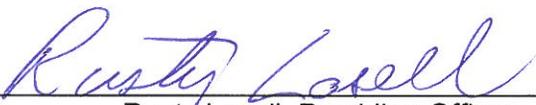
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3 The mayor will contact the school to see if March 25 or 26 would work for a joint work session with
4 the Denali Borough School Board.

5
6 The next regular meeting will be held at the Cantwell School, Cantwell, Alaska on Wednesday,
7 March 12, 2014: Public Hearing 6:00 PM and the Regular meeting to follow.

8
9 The Matching Grant Committee meeting will take place at 6:00 PM on Wednesday, March 5, 2014 at
10 the Tri-Valley Community Center.

11
12 ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

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15
16 ATTEST:  Date Approved: MARCH 5, 2014
17 Gail Pieknik, Borough Clerk

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19
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21 APPROVED: 
22 Rusty Lasell, Presiding Officer
23
24