

Introduced By:
Date:
Action:
Vote:

City Manager
July 13, 2016
Adopted
6 Yes, 0 No

CITY OF SOLDOTNA
RESOLUTION 2016-028

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH (KPB) ORDINANCE
2016-25 WHICH WOULD REDUCE THE NUMBER OF KPB PLANNING COMMISSIONERS
FROM THIRTEEN TO NINE

WHEREAS, the City of Soldotna Planning and Zoning Commission (Commission) was given a staff report on proposed Kenai Peninsula Borough ordinance 2016-25, which ordinance proposed to reduce the number of Borough Planning Commissioners from 13 to 9 by, in part, combining the seats held by the cities of Kenai and Soldotna; and

WHEREAS, the Commission stated findings which supported opposing the proposed KPB ordinance 2016-25; and

WHEREAS, the findings supporting opposition identified the diversity among the affected cities, historical differences between Kenai and Soldotna, and areas outside of the cities having individual representation; and

WHEREAS, the commission felt the proposed ordinance does not sufficiently account for meaningful city representation; and

WHEREAS, at the regular Planning and Zoning Commission meeting of July 6, 2016 the Commission voted without objection to oppose to KPB Ordinance 2016-25;

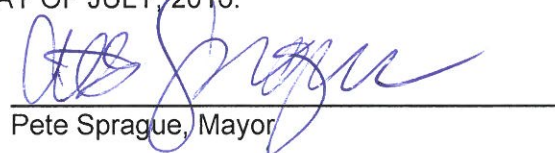
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOLDOTNA, ALASKA:

Section 1. The Soldotna City Council opposes the KPB Ordinance 2016-25.

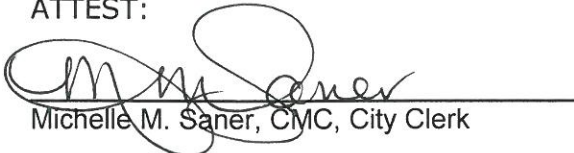
Section 2. That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly and Mayor Navarre.

Section 3. This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL THIS 13TH DAY OF JULY, 2016.


Pete Sprague, Mayor

ATTEST:


Michelle M. Sauer, CMC, City Clerk

Ayes: Murphy, Baxter, Whitney, Daniels, Manley, Cashman
Noes: None

16RES028

TO: MARK DIXSON
FROM: JOHN CZARNEZKI
DATE: JULY 7, 2016
SUBJECT: SOLDOTNA PLANNING COMMISSION REVIEW OF KPB ORDINANCE 2016-25

At the July 6, 2016 meeting of the Soldotna Planning and Zoning Commission, Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) Ordinance 2016-25 was discussed as an informational item. The proposed ordinance would amend Borough code and reduce the number of Borough planning commissioners from thirteen to nine. This would be accomplished in-part by requiring Kenai and Soldotna to share a seat and Homer and Seldovia to share a seat.

The Soldotna Planning and Zoning Commission heard a staff report on the mechanics of the proposed ordinance, and heard from KPB Planning Director Max Best. A motion was made to oppose KPB Ordinance 2016-25, and was supported unanimously. In their discussion of the proposed ordinance and of the motion, the following findings were made:

- The diversity among the affected cities is too great for a single representative to adequately represent Soldotna, Kenai and the other affected cities respective interests in a meaningful way. The current and historical differences between Kenai and Soldotna would also pose an issue if they were to be represented by a single commissioner.
- While there may be rapid population growth in areas outside the city borders, many of these areas have populations that are still below that of Soldotna, Kenai and Homer yet will have individual representation.
- It is unclear whether other boroughs face this same issue or whether state officials have been approached to facilitate the revision of state statutes that would more equitably provide representation without growing the number of commissioners to an unsustainable level.

In summary, the Soldotna Planning Commission understood and appreciated the implications of the growing Borough Commission, but felt the proposed ordinance doesn't sufficiently account for meaningful city representation on the KPB Planning Commission. Commissioners commented that other solutions should be explored, including the revision of state statutes to provide equitable representation.