

Introduced by: Mayor, Blakeley
Date: 09/04/18
Action: Adopted
Vote: 5 Yes, 4 No, 0 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2018-036**

**A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE CITY OF SOLDOTNA PLAN TO ANNEX
ADJACENT PROPERTY WITHOUT SEEKING VOTER APPROVAL**

WHEREAS, the City of Soldotna (“City”) began meeting with interested stakeholders and collecting information about potentially changing its boundaries by annexing adjacent property in 2014; and

WHEREAS, the City had a fiscal impact analysis prepared evaluating the cost of delivering city services to areas near the existing City limits and estimating the overall fiscal effect on the City of annexing certain additional areas into the City; and

WHEREAS, the City hired The Athena Group, a consulting agency, to design and facilitate a process for public communication about the proposed annexation; and

WHEREAS, the City and The Athena Group held numerous meetings providing opportunities for the public to obtain information about, and provide input on, the issues surrounding annexation and delivery of city services inside and outside the City’s current boundaries in 2017; and

WHEREAS, in its final report to the City Council, The Athena Group indicated that community engagement in the annexation process was low, the vocal and passionate opposition to annexation appeared to be a powerful influence on the community at large, that if the City decides to pursue annexation distrust may grow further, and proposed options to limit negative impacts including only annexing areas that garner the most support, creating a process before the formal annexation petition to allow all affected residents, property owners, and businesses to “vote”, or retain annexation as a possible future strategy for managing growth; and

WHEREAS, state law provides that a municipality may legally annex property through either the legislative review process or with voter approval; and

WHEREAS, the City Council recently approved Substitute Resolution 2018-013 which directs the City Administration to prepare a draft petition for annexation of seven areas according to the policies and procedures of the Local Boundary Commission for Annexation by Legislative Review, which would not allow the residents to vote on this issue; and

WHEREAS, the question of whether adjacent property should be included in a municipal boundary is an important issue directly affecting current City residents and residents proposed to be included in the city; and

WHEREAS, many residents have intentionally chosen to reside outside of the City for their own reasons, some of whom have invested substantial funds and hard work in their property, and deserve the opportunity to vote on this important issue; and

WHEREAS, the affected residents of the city and the areas proposed to be annexed are all also borough residents, a number of whom have testified before the assembly in opposition to the annexation process of bypassing voter approval, asking the borough to weigh in on the proposed annexation and on the importance of allowing voters to approve the annexation;

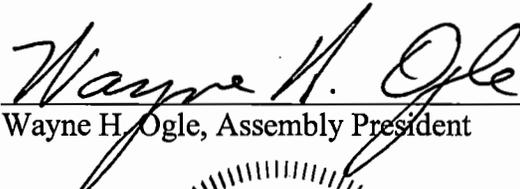
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the assembly of the Kenai Peninsula Borough opposes the City of Soldotna's proposed annexation for the reason that it has chosen to follow the process that excludes voter approval and respectfully encourages the City Council to seek voter approval on this issue.

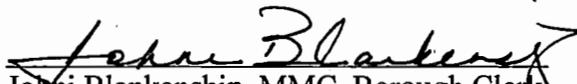
SECTION 2. That copies of this resolution shall be sent to Mayor Nels Anderson, Soldotna City Council members Paul Whitney, Tyson Cox, Vice Mayor Linda Murphy, Tim Cashman and Lisa Parker.

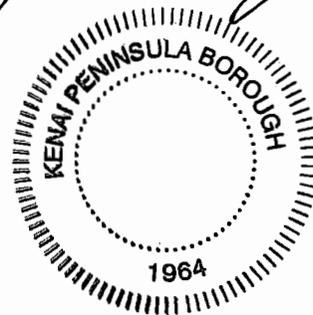
SECTION 3. That this resolution takes effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 4TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2018.


Wayne H. Ogle, Assembly President

ATTEST:


Johni Blankenship, MMC, Borough Clerk



Yes: Blakeley, Carpenter, Cooper, Fischer, Ogle
No: Bagley, Dunne, Hibbert, Smalley
Absent: None