

Please include these comments in the August 6, 2019 Assembly info. I am out of town and unable to attend.

Respectfully,  
Scott Walden  
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Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members,

Regarding Ordinance 2019-16 (changing from a strong Mayor to an appointed Manager system), I ask each of you to support placing this on the ballot. Citizens deserve consistency in taxation, budgets, personnel management and policy.  
Vote YES on this ordinance.

Consistency provides opportunity to minimize extreme changes, yet allows change. This Ordinance can provide consistency to level otherwise steep costs or deep losses associated with an elected Mayor's preconceived or even party line concepts for change. Consistency provides opportunity for long term planning, replacing abrupt short term "experiments" in balancing revenues/expenditures in budget cycles; budget cycles often occurring immediately following an election.

Having worked under both systems, I've seen community frustration in tolerating learning curves required by most newly elected officials. Conversely, I've witnessed the relative ease of administrative transition under a Manager.

The position requires a Manager's commitment to consistently promote and attain the community's best interests. In support of those efforts, an Assembly has to provide a good, descriptive framework to guide a Manager to success.

With elected officials, some learn and seek advice, some plow through to prove ideas, some cater to special interests and party line theories, some are responsible, some are dodgy. Every three years, the learning curve begins anew.

You were all elected and know full well how that first year feels. Imagine being able to remove that sense of "what happens now" every three years, replacing it with a long range plan developed and regularly improved upon by the Assembly and Manager with direct community involvement.

Under this ordinance, you appoint a Manager to execute long range plans with regular public input, under a defined job description, and without a political platform. You answer to the community. Community input will always be part of the process. That will not be lost under this Ordinance.

As the Assembly, you can choose to exclude party-line nonsense from local management and replace it with management based on best interests and needs of our community. You can reduce infighting and controversy with this Ordinance. You can provide the community consistency in rocky financial times.

The financial impact statement clearly shows a potential higher positional cost. What isn't shown is the distinct potential of budget stability and lower transition costs when there's no longer a need to react to a 3-year election cycle of political whim. Long term, it's likely to result in lower or more stable costs.

The opportunities for stability and consistency in long term planning fostered by this Ordinance are essential.

Vote YES.