

eComment
Ordinance 2019-16

Donna Aderhold

Location:

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Dear Assembly Members,

Thank you for holding a public hearing on Ordinance 2019-16 providing for a ballot proposition on the question of adopting a manager plan of government. I fully support the ordinance and Assembly Member Cooper's proposed amendments (though with the amendments the title of the ordinance will need to be amended to 2020) and hope you will vote to pass the ordinance so voters can decide the issue in October.

Most cities in the Kenai Peninsula Borough operate under a manager plan of government with great success. If voters agree to a manager plan of government, assembly members would hire a borough manager based on a set of qualifications defined by the borough. The manager would work at the direction of the assembly and the assembly would review the performance of the manager annually, providing check and balance on the quality of management of borough operations. Having a borough manager would remove the "politics" of administering the work of the borough and would provide greater consistency to and increased productivity of borough employees.

Amending the ordinance to adopt a manager plan of government at the 2020 mayoral election would provide the assembly appropriate time to amend borough code and search for a well-qualified manager with a start date aligned with the next mayoral election. The timing would provide for the greatest ease of transition to the new plan of government.

As a city council member in Homer, I have enjoyed working with the Homer manager on city policy. The relationship allows me greater understanding of how my interests in city policy will affect the operations of the city. I find that having a professional manager at the helm of the city maximizes the day to day functioning of the city as well as the work of the elected body. Please vote yes on Ordinance 2019-16 and provide the voters the opportunity to decide on a manager plan of government for the borough.

Thank you for your service to the Kenai Peninsula Borough and for considering my testimony.

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