

KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH

Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly

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Gary Knopp, Assembly President
Charlie Pierce, Vice President

MEMORANDUM

TO: Gary Knopp, Assembly President
Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members

FROM: Brent Johnson, Assembly Member *B for Brent Johnson*

DATE: May 3, 2011

RE: Ordinance 2011-07, Amends KPB 2.40.010 to reduce the Planning Commission from 13 members to 11 members.

This measure deals with government waste. Cities in the Borough have Planning and Zoning Commissions that advise the Borough Planning Commission. Areas outside cities have, or have the right to form, Advisory Planning Committees. They also advise the Borough Planning Commission.

The Planning Commission functioned effectively with 11 members for many years. After the 2000 census it was noticed that the Planning Commission representation was out of compliance with AS 29.40.020. That statute requires membership on the Planning Commission to reflect the ratio of populations within cities and outside of cities. Rather than reduce the city representation by one to comply with the statute, the 2001 Assembly chose to increase the representation outside of cities by two. Ordinance 2011-07 satisfies AS 29.40.020, but does so by reducing one Borough Planning Commissioner from a city and one from outside of cities.

The people of the Borough are now adequately represented by nine Assembly members, though at one time the Assembly had 15 members. The Planning Commission will adequately, and more efficiently, represent the people of the Borough with 11 members.

The cost of Borough government has risen substantially in recent years. The sales tax has risen from 2% to 3%. Oil and gas production within the Borough and exports of petroleum products from the Borough have fallen significantly, effecting the property tax base. There is potential for even more reduction on this important sector of the economy. Health care, insurance, retirement and energy costs have gone up sharply. The number of Borough employees continues to rise.

Ordinance 2011-07 offers a rare opportunity to reduce government waste without a significant affect on services.

Your consideration will be appreciated.