ANCHORAGE, ALASKA
AO No. 2018-1(S)

AN ORDINANCE SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE A CHARTER AMENDMENT PERMITTING MUNICIPAL LIGHT & POWER TO BE SOLD TO CHUGACH ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC. AND AUTHORIZING DISPOSAL OF THE PROCEEDS OF SALE.

WHEREAS, the Assembly, via AR 2017-235, urged the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA), Municipal Light & Power (ML&P), and Chugach Electric Association, Inc. (Chugach Electric) to explore opportunities for merger of the ML&P and Chugach Electric utilities in the interest of eliminating duplicative investment in power generation and the local grid and reducing per capita costs of services; and

WHEREAS, MOA, ML&P, and Chugach Electric engaged in the recommended discussions and determined that a merger is not possible, but that a sale of ML&P to Chugach Electric could be feasible; and

WHEREAS, MOA commissioned an independent analysis to assess ML&P’s strategic position and provide a range of its potential market values in a possible sale transaction; and

WHEREAS, MOA received and reviewed multiple expressions of interest from parties interested in a purchase of ML&P; and

WHEREAS, Chugach Electric has proposed a competitive price for purchase of ML&P, consistent with the range of [market] values for [of] ML&P as determined by independent analysis; and

WHEREAS, the purchase of ML&P by Chugach Electric is in the public interest because it will: (1) [consolidate the majority of Anchorage electrical service in a single utility], increasing efficiencies in power generation, [and] electrical infrastructure, and administrative costs; (2) ensure that Anchorage residents retain [unify] local control over the majority of Anchorage’s electrical service, through a utility cooperatively owned by residents of the Municipality; (3) consolidate utility ownership within Alaska’s Railbelt; (4) keep proceeds from Anchorage electrical service in the local economy; (5) maintain consistent union representation for ML&P employees; and (6) preserve existing rates for ML&P customers; and

WHEREAS, proceeds of the sale of ML&P to Chugach should be used to ensure that taxes subject to the tax cap cannot rise as a result of the sale, and then to retire debt and to further endow the MOA Trust Fund; now, therefore,
THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:

Section 1. Pursuant to state law and the Anchorage Municipal Charter, the Assembly approves a ballot proposition in substantially the same form as appears in Section 2 below, and directs that the proposition shall be placed on the ballot and submitted to the qualified voters of the Municipality at the regular municipal election to be held on April 3, 2018.

Section 2. Pursuant to Article XVIII of the Anchorage Municipal Charter, the ballot proposition to amend the Charter to permit a sale of ML&P to Chugach Electric shall be presented in substantially the following form and substance:

PROPOSITION
CHARTER AMENDMENT AND SALE OF ML&P TO CHUGACH ELECTRIC

If approved by a majority of qualified voters voting on the question, this proposition would amend the Anchorage Municipal Charter and authorize (but not require) the Municipality to sell by Assembly Ordinance approved no later than December 31, 2018, the assets and business of Municipal Light & Power (ML&P) to Chugach Electric Association, Inc. (Chugach Electric).

Chugach Electric proposes to acquire ML&P assets in a transaction that, among other terms, would include:

- Payment of Competitive [Fair-Market] Value. Chugach Electric would pay a competitive [market] value of approximately $1 billion for the acquisition of ML&P, subject to adjustment during the due diligence process.

Proceeds will be used to:

1. Retire ML&P and Municipality of Anchorage debt;
2. Replace ML&P’s current payments in-lieu-of-tax to ensure that property and other taxes subject to the cap cannot rise as the result of the sale; and
3. Fund the

[The municipality would use a portion of the purchase price to repay debt and replace current payments in-lieu-of-tax, and deposit the remaining proceeds in the] MOA Trust Fund. The MOA Trust Fund is a permanent, protected fund [endowment] with dividends payable only in accordance with a controlled spending policy adopted by law.

Any change in the use of the proceeds may be made only with approval of the majority of qualified voters voting on the question.

- Retention of Employees. Chugach Electric would commit to not lay off [retain all current] any ML&P or Chugach Electric
employees [for a period of at least two (2) years after closing] as a result of the transaction, and would succeed to all rights and obligations of the collective bargaining agreement covering ML&P employees.

Replacement of Payments In-Lieu-of-Tax. A portion of the payments made by Chugach Electric would replace ML&P's Municipal Utility Service Assessment for the purposes of the municipal tax cap. This structure would ensure that property and other taxes subject to the tax cap cannot rise as a result of the sale.

No Increase [Change] in Base Rates. Base rates for existing ML&P and Chugach Electric ratepayers would not increase as a result of the transaction [for a period of two (2) years after closing].

This proposition would specifically amend Article XVI Municipal Utilities of the Anchorage Municipal Charter to add a new section as follows:

Section 16.04 Disposal of Municipal Light & Power to Chugach Electric Association, Inc.; Disposition of Proceeds.

A. ML&P to Chugach Electric, In addition to the disposal options provided under section 16.02, and notwithstanding any other provision of this Charter to the contrary, the municipality may by ordinance approved no later than December 31, 2018 sell, lease, or otherwise dispose of all or part of the assets and business of Municipal Light & Power to Chugach Electric Association, Inc.

B. Disposition of Proceeds, Notwithstanding any provision of this Charter to the contrary, a portion of any annual payment received by the municipality in a transaction described in section 16.04A, equivalent to the Municipal Utility Service Assessment that the municipality would have received from ML&P had the transaction not occurred, shall be deemed and treated as a “payment in-lieu of taxes” for the purposes of section 14.03(a)(1), and shall be available to the municipality for appropriation. All other proceeds of the sale of ML&P received by the municipality shall be disposed of in accordance with section 13.11.

Shall the Charter be amended, and the municipality be authorized (but not required) to sell all or part of ML&P to Chugach Electric and dispose of the proceeds of sale, as described above? (AO 2018-__)

☐ YES ☐ NO
Section 3. The proposition contained in Section 2 of this ordinance shall take effect and be incorporated into the Home Rule Charter for the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska, upon certification of the election, only if the proposition is passed by a majority of the qualified voters voting on said proposition at the regular municipal election on April 3, 2018. All other sections of this ordinance are effective immediately upon passage and approval.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this _______ day of ______________, 2018.

__________________________________________
Chair of the Assembly

ATTEST:

__________________________________________
Municipal Clerk