

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

1 **AN ORDINANCE SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF THE**
2 **MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE A CHARTER AMENDMENT PERMITTING**
3 **MUNICIPAL LIGHT & POWER TO BE SOLD TO CHUGACH ELECTRIC**
4 **ASSOCIATION, INC. AND AUTHORIZING DISPOSAL OF THE PROCEEDS OF**
5 **SALE.**
6

7
8 **WHEREAS**, the Assembly, via AR 2017-235, urged the Municipality of Anchorage
9 (MOA), Municipal Light & Power (ML&P), and Chugach Electric Association, Inc.
10 (Chugach Electric) to explore opportunities for merger of the ML&P and Chugach
11 Electric utilities in the interest of eliminating duplicative investment in power
12 generation and the local grid and reducing per capita costs of services; and
13

14 **WHEREAS**, MOA, ML&P, and Chugach Electric engaged in the recommended
15 discussions and determined that a merger is not possible, but that a sale of ML&P to
16 Chugach Electric could be feasible; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, MOA commissioned an independent analysis to assess ML&P's
19 strategic position and **provide a range of** its potential market values **in** a possible
20 sale transaction; and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, MOA received and reviewed multiple expressions of interest from parties
23 interested in a purchase of ML&P; and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, Chugach Electric has proposed a competitive price for purchase of
26 ML&P, consistent with the **range of [market] values for [of]** ML&P as determined by
27 independent analysis; and
28

29 **WHEREAS**, the purchase of ML&P by Chugach Electric is in the public interest
30 because it will: (1) **[consolidate the majority of Anchorage electrical service in a**
31 **single utility,]** increase **[ing]** efficiencies in power generation, **[and]** electrical
32 infrastructure, **and administrative costs;** (2) **ensure that Anchorage residents**
33 **retain [unify]** local control over the majority of Anchorage's electrical service, through
34 a utility cooperatively owned by residents of the Municipality; (3) consolidate utility
35 ownership within Alaska's Railbelt; (4) keep proceeds from Anchorage electrical
36 service in the local economy; (5) maintain consistent union representation for ML&P
37 employees; and (6) preserve existing rates for ML&P customers; and
38

39 **WHEREAS**, proceeds of the sale of ML&P to Chugach should be used to ensure that
40 taxes subject to the tax cap cannot rise as a result of the sale, and then to retire debt
41 and to further endow the MOA Trust Fund; now, therefore,
42
43

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 any [retain all current] ML&P or Chugach Electric employees as a result [for a period of at least two (2) years**

1 after closing] of the transaction, and would succeed to all rights
 2 and obligations of the collective bargaining agreement covering
 3 ML&P employees.
 4

5 ~~[• Replacement of Payments In-Lieu-of-Tax. A portion of the~~
 6 ~~payments made by Chugach Electric would replace ML&P's~~
 7 ~~Municipal Utility Service Assessment for the purposes of~~
 8 ~~the municipal tax cap. This structure would ensure that~~
 9 ~~property and other taxes subject to the tax cap cannot rise~~
 10 ~~as a result of the sale.~~
 11

- 12 • No Increase [Change] in Base Rates. Base rates for existing
 13 ML&P and Chugach Electric ratepayers would not increase as
 14 a result of the transaction [for a period of two (2) years after
 15 closing].
 16

17 This proposition would specifically amend Article XVI *Municipal Utilities*
 18 of the Anchorage Municipal Charter to add a new section as follows:
 19

20 **Section 16.04** Disposal of Municipal Light & Power to
 21 Chugach Electric Association, Inc.;
 22 Disposition of Proceeds.
 23

- 24 A. ML&P to Chugach Electric. In addition to the disposal options
 25 provided under section 16.02, and notwithstanding any other
 26 provision of this Charter to the contrary, the municipality may by
 27 ordinance approved no later than December 31, 2018, sell,
 28 lease, or otherwise dispose of all or part of the assets and
 29 business of Municipal Light & Power to Chugach Electric
 30 Association, Inc.
 31
- 32 B. Disposition of Proceeds. Notwithstanding any provision of this
 33 Charter to the contrary, a portion of any annual payment
 34 received by the municipality in a transaction described in section
 35 16.04A, equivalent to the Municipal Utility Service Assessment
 36 that the municipality would have received from ML&P had the
 37 transaction not occurred, shall be deemed and treated as a
 38 “payment in-lieu of taxes” for the purposes of section
 39 14.03(a)(1), and shall be available to the municipality for
 40 appropriation. All other proceeds of the sale of ML&P received
 41 by the municipality shall be disposed of in accordance with
 42 section 13.11.
 43

44 Shall the Charter be amended, and the municipality be authorized (but
 45 not required) to sell all or part of ML&P to Chugach Electric and
 46 dispose of the proceeds of sale, as described above? (AO 2018-1(S))
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 48

49 YES NO
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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 9th day of January, 2018.



Chair

ATTEST:



Municipal Clerk



MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE

Assembly Memorandum

No. AM 6-2018(A)

Meeting Date: January 19, 2018

1 **From: MAYOR**

2
3 **Subject: AN ORDINANCE SUBMITTING TO THE QUALIFIED VOTERS OF**
4 **THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE A CHARTER AMENDMENT**
5 **PERMITTING MUNICIPAL LIGHT & POWER TO BE SOLD TO**
6 **CHUGACH ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC. AND AUTHORIZING**
7 **DISPOSAL OF THE PROCEEDS OF SALE.**
8

9 This S version includes the following changes to AO 2018-1, set for public hearing
10 on January 23, 2018:

- 11
12 1. Extension of Chugach Electric's commitment to not lay off employees as a
13 result of this transaction to include both ML&P and Chugach Electric
14 employees;
- 15
16 2. Extension of Chugach Electric's commitment to not increase base rates as
17 as result of this transaction to include both ML&P and Chugach Electric
18 ratepayers;
- 19
20 3. Elimination of the two-year limitation on retention of employees and
21 preservation of base rates;
- 22
23 4. Addition of a sunset provision requiring that a sale be approved by the
24 Assembly no later than December 31, 2018; and
- 25
26 5. Revisions of ordinance and ballot proposition language for clarity.

27
28 As revised, the ballot language proposed by the s-version reads as follows:
29

30 **PROPOSITION _____**
31 **CHARTER AMENDMENT AND SALE OF ML&P TO CHUGACH ELECTRIC**

32
33 If approved by a majority of qualified voters voting on the question,
34 this proposition would amend the Anchorage Municipal Charter and
35 authorize (but not require) the Municipality to sell by Assembly
36 Ordinance approved no later than December 31, 2018, the assets and
37 business of Municipal Light & Power (ML&P) to Chugach Electric
38 Association, Inc. (Chugach Electric).
39

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

- 3
- 4 • **Payment of Competitive Value.** Chugach Electric would pay
 5 a competitive value of approximately \$1 billion for the
 6 acquisition of ML&P, subject to adjustment during the due
 7 diligence process.

8
 9 Proceeds will be used to:

- 10
- 11 1. Retire ML&P and Municipality of Anchorage debt;
- 12 2. Replace ML&P's current payments in-lieu-of-tax to
 13 ensure that property and other taxes subject to the cap
 14 cannot rise as the result of the sale; and
- 15 3. Fund the MOA Trust Fund. The MOA Trust Fund is a
 16 permanent, protected fund with dividends payable only
 17 in accordance with a controlled spending policy adopted
 18 by law.

19
 20 Any change in the use of the proceeds may be made only with
 21 approval of the majority of qualified voters voting on the
 22 question.

- 23
- 24 • **Retention of Employees.** Chugach Electric would commit to
 25 not lay off any ML&P or Chugach Electric employees as a
 26 result of the transaction, and would succeed to all rights and
 27 obligations of the collective bargaining agreement covering
 28 ML&P employees.
- 29
- 30 • **No Increase in Base Rates.** Base rates for existing ML&P
 31 and Chugach Electric ratepayers would not increase as a
 32 result of the transaction.

33
 34 This proposition would specifically amend Article *XVI Municipal*
 35 *Utilities* of the Anchorage Municipal Charter to add a new section as
 36 follows:

37
 38 **Section 16.04** **Disposal of Municipal Light & Power to**
 39 **Chugach Electric Association, Inc.;**
 40 **Disposition of Proceeds.**

- 41
- 42 **A. ML&P to Chugach Electric.** In addition to the disposal options
 43 provided under section 16.02, and notwithstanding any other
 44 provision of this Charter to the contrary, the municipality may
 45 by ordinance approved no later than December 31, 2018, sell,
 46 lease, or otherwise dispose of all or part of the assets and
 47 business of Municipal Light & Power to Chugach Electric
 48 Association, Inc.

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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

THE ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.

Prepared by: Rebecca A. Windt Pearson, Municipal Attorney
Concur: Mark A. Johnston, General Manager, ML&P
Concur: William D. Falsey, Municipal Manager
Respectfully submitted: Ethan A. Berkowitz, Mayor