

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

350 East Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska 99645 - 907-861-8683

BOROUGH MAYOR

Edna DeVries

BOROUGH CLERK

Lonnie R. McKechnie, CMC

BOROUGH MANAGER

Michael Brown

BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Nicholas Spiropoulos



Tim Hale, District 1  
Stephanie Nowers, District 2  
Dee McKee, District 3  
Maxwell Sumner, District 4  
Bill Gamble, District 5  
Dmitri Fonov, District 6  
Ron Bernier, District 7

## MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

4:00 PM

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Thursday, May 1, 2025, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Mayor Edna DeVries.

### II. ROLL CALL

**Present:** 5 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Maxwell Sumner, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

**Excused:** 1 - Assemblymember Dee McKee

**Telephonic:** 1 - Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov

### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

### IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Bill Kendig, a member of the Waterbody Setback Advisory Board.

## **V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person)**

The following person noted his appreciation of the outreach efforts of the Borough to receive feedback from residents: Rod Hanson, North Lakes Community Council President.

The following person spoke to the importance of waterbody setbacks to protect bodies of water within the Borough and urged the Assembly to be thoughtful in their approach to adopting regulations: Jean Holt.

The Following person spoke to the importance of having buffers around waterbodies and noted her opposition to anything less than a 75-foot setback requirement: Ruth Wood.

## **VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

### **A. Waterbody Setback Advisory Board Report (With Members of the Advisory Board)**

Alex Strawn, Planning and Land Use Director, summarized the recommendations of the Waterbody Setback Advisory Board.

Discussion ensues regarding the Waterbody Setback Advisory Board Report.

## **VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT**

Assemblymember Nowers noted that she appreciates the work of the board. Stated that she understands that it was a difficult process to find compromises that are equitable for all residents. Spoke to her appreciation of the meeting and the information received. Thanked the members for their service.

Assemblymember Hale thanked the Board for their hard work. Commented on what a long process it was. Noted that he does not want the recommendations to sit on a shelf and never be put into action. Advised that he has requested that an ordinance with their recommendations be brought forward to the Assembly to be referred to the Planning Commission and the Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Assemblymember Gamble thanked the Board for their recommendations. Spoke to his understanding of all the time and hard work that goes into serving on any advisory board. Noted his appreciation of their time and efforts.

Assemblymember Fonov noted it was hard for the Assembly to come up with solution for waterbody setbacks. Opined watercraft impact water quality and that perhaps there needs to be more data on what other things impact water quality. Noted that he does not want the Assembly to impose ineffective regulations. Opined that there is a possibility that it is not the houses or structures causing the poor water quality.

Assemblymember Sumner noted that most tanks for fuel heating are not 55-gallon drums and that a majority of them are over 300 gallons. Spoke to his knowledge about secondary containment systems for heating oil drums. Noted that he appreciates the work of the Board.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.