

# 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  
Robert Yundt, District 4  
Mokie Tew, District 5  
Jesse Sumner, District 6  
Ron Bernier, District 7

## MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2022

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### **Budget Deliberations and Possible Adoption**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, May 24, 2022, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Edna DeVries.

#### **II. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 5 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Robert Yundt, Assemblymember Mokie Tew, and Assemblymember Jesse Sumner

**Telephonic:** 2 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

#### **III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as presented.

#### **IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Assemblymember Tew.

#### **V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

The following person thanked the Assembly for working with the School District to find an amicable resolution to the budget concerns: Jennifer Hutchins, Fronteras Charter School Principal.

## VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

[OR 22-022](#) An Ordinance Appropriating Monies From The Central Treasury For The Borough Operating Funds, Enterprise Funds, Education Operating Fund And Capital Funds, Establishing The Rate Of Levy For All Borough Functions For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2022, And Ending June 30, 2023; And Setting The Surcharge Rate For The Wireline And Wireless Enhanced 911 Systems For The Period Of July 1, 2022, Through June 30, 2023. Lonnie McKechnie, Borough Clerk, read the legislation into the record.

### **Amendment No. 10**

**Areawide Fund - Non-Departmental (Tab B, pages 53 & 65) and Education Fund (Tab I, pages 423 and 424)**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to the budget as follows:**

- **Areawide Fund, Non-Departmental, Transfer to Education Operation (445.220), by increasing the appropriation in the amount of \$1.5 million;**
- **Areawide Fund, be deleting the Supplemental Appropriation for Home School Reimbursement reserve, in the amount of \$1.5 million;**
- **Education Operating Fund by inserting Transfer from Areawide (204.000.000.367.110) by increasing the appropriation by \$1.5 million; and**
- **Education operating Fund, Education Operating (204.000.000.406.100), by increasing the appropriation by \$1.5 million.**

**The primary amendment passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Sumner

**Amendment No. 11**

**Areawide Fund- Non-Departmental (Tab B, page 65) and Education Fund (Tab I, pages 423 and 424) and Capital Projection (Tab M, page 511)**

**Assemblymember Yundt moved a primary amendment to the budget as follows:**

- **Areawide Fund, Non-Departmental, Transfer to Education Operating (445.220), by increasing the appropriation in the amount of \$11,330,000;**
- **Education Operating Fund Transfer from Areawide (204.000.000.367.110), by increasing the appropriation in the amount of \$11,330,000;**
- **Education Operating Fund (204.000.000.406.100), by increasing the appropriation in the amount of \$11,330,000; and**
- **Capital Project 2021 Transportation Package, by decreasing the appropriation in the amount of \$11,330,000 for safe routes to schools.**

**The primary amendment passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Sumner

**Assemblymember Sumner moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 22-02, as amended. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Sumner

## VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Mike Brown, Borough Manager, stated that the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority filed their environmental review permit application for the multi-use West Susitna Access project. Advised that the Borough and the Municipality of Anchorage entered into a memorandum of understanding regarding the intent to enter into an Upper Cook Inlet Marine Energy Alliance Agreement. Noted that it is only an agreement and not binding. Stated that he is glad the budget is adopted and feels as though the Borough has been a good steward of the public's funds. Spoke to his satisfaction that the budget will fund projects that the Assembly wants to move forward. Stated that he is pleased that Borough operations will be sustained. Spoke in support of a lowered mill rate. Stated that he is hopeful tourism will receive a good boost with the coming Arctic Winter Games. Expressed his thanks to the Finance Department for their hard work on the budget.

Assemblymember Yundt commented that the budget would have been a great budget even without any Assembly amendments. Thanked Cheyenne Heindel and Mike Brown for being so responsive to any questions he had. Noted that this year the mill rate is the lowest it has been since 1989. Noted that fish passage and the road bond package being funded are both important to him. Spoke in support of bonding for a new school for Mat-Su Central. Noted that the average property assessment increased by 13.26 percent but that property taxes will only increase by 1.4 percent.

Assemblymember Nowers queried when the Borough would be asked to weigh in on the West Susitna access issue.

Mike Brown, Borough Manager, stated that he is unsure at this time as it is dependent on many things.

Assemblymember Nowers thanked Mike Brown and Cheyenne Heindel for all their help with the budget. Commented that it is a darn good budget. Stated that she is pleased that the Assembly was fiscally responsible meeting needs but also retaining a cushion in case of hard times. Spoke to the average home owner seeing an increase in taxes of approximately \$42. Thanked the School District for engaging with the Assembly to work toward a compromise.

Assemblymember Sumner thanked everyone for working through the budget process. Encouraged everyone to call Governor Dunleavy and ask that he not veto school bond debt reimbursement.

Assemblymember Bernier thanked the body for the meeting.

Mayor thanked the body for the meeting.

#### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.