

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

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

BOROUGH MAYOR

Vern Halter

BOROUGH CLERK

Lonnie R. McKechnie, CMC

BOROUGH MANAGER

Michael Brown

BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Nicholas Spiropoulos



Tim Hale, District 1
Stephanie Nowers, District 2
George McKee, District 3
Robert Yundt, District 4
Mokie Tew, District 5
Jesse Sumner, District 6
Tam Boeve, District 7

MEETING MINUTES

MENARD SPORTS CENTER
1001 SOUTH CLAPP STREET, WASILLA

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

6:00 PM

THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 2021

Budget Public Hearing

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Thursday, April 29, 2021, at the Curtis D. Menard Sports Complex, 1001 South Clapp Road, Wasilla, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Vern Halter.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Mokie Tew, Assemblymember Jesse Sumner, and Assemblymember Tam Boeve

Telephonic: 1 - Assemblymember Robert Yundt

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Halter queried if there was any changes to the agenda.

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Wasilla city Mayor Glenda Ledford.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following persons spoke in support of funding a safe crossing of Burma Road on the Historic Iditarod Trail due to dangerous conditions: Mr. Terry Langholz, Mr. Hunter Keefe, Mr. Sim Smith, Mr. Robert Sexton, Ms. Raquel Douchant, Mr. Jeremy Thompson, and Mr. Lance Gayland.

The following person provided a tourism update: Ms. Bonnie Quill, Mat-Su Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The following person spoke to COVID concerns: Mr. Eugene Haberman.

The following person spoke in opposition of COVID mask mandates and vaccines: Mr. Sim Smith.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC HEARING (Three Minutes Per Person)

[OR 21-021](#)

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, 2021, And Ending June 30, 2022; And Setting The Surcharge Rate For The Wireline And Wireless Enhanced 911 Systems For The Period Of July 1, 2021, Through June 30, 2022.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in support of funding a safe crossing of Burma Road on the Historic Iditarod Trail due to dangerous conditions: Mr. Bill Kendig, Mr. Brian Hanson, Ms. Kristal Hanson, Ms. Barbara Redington, Mr. Richard Plack, Mr. Eric Kelly, Ms. Sherri DeCoursey, Ms. Anna Berington, Mr. Dan Huntinen, Mr. Jon Broutigan, Mr. Nick Petit, Mr. Ray Redington, Mr. TJ Stanton, Mr. Steve Flodin, and Mr. Lance Garrett.

The following person spoke to concerns with the timing of the budget information posted to the website and zeroing funding for Port MaKenzie, the Frontiersman, and Radio Free Palmer: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

Assemblymember Boeve moved to continue the public hearing to a time of May 6, 2021, at 6 p.m. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Mr. Brown gave an update on the Community Enrichment Program and announced the Mat-Su Borough was awarded with hosting the Arctic Winter Games for 2024.

Ms. McKechnie gave thanks to the Mat-Su School District IT Department for setting up and recording the audio for the meeting.

Assemblymember Hale expressed the need to build a safe crossing across Burma Road.

Assemblymember Nowers thanked the public for their testimony. Noted she appreciates the Historic Iditarod Trail but there is areas of her district that need funding also. Expressed appreciation for the staff reducing the size of the budget file posted to the website.

Mayor Halter thanked Assemblymember Tew for visiting and the public for their comments regarding the Burma Road trail crossing. Expressed thanks to Glenda Ledford, city of Wasilla Mayor for the use of the facility to hold the public hearing and the staff from the School District for their help.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.