

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



Michael Bowles, 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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. by Mayor Edna DeVries.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers (telephonic and entered in-person at 4:06 p.m.), Assemblymember Dee McKee (entered at 4:15 p.m.), Assemblymember Maxwell Sumner, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov, and Assemblymember Ron

Telephonic: 1 - Assemblymember Michael Bowles

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor DeVries.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person.)

There was no one present who wished to testify.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Waterbody Setback Strategic Discussion

Discussion ensued regarding Waterbody Setback strategies.

Assemblymember Sumner directed the Manager to conduct land use education classes in the spring.

There was no objection.

VIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Assemblymember McKee spoke to her recommendations and the importance of enforcement.

Assemblymember Sumner noted he would not support demolishing homes that are currently in violation and to plans to bring forward new legislation.

Assemblymember Bernier spoke to Assemblymember Sumner's legislation ideas and said a prayer.

Assemblymember Nowers spoke to a mandatory land use review, supplying as-builts, water testing, and to education program.

Assemblymember Gamble spoke to concerns noted by his constituents and possible solutions.

Assemblymember Fonov spoke to water quality and which areas to focus on.

Assemblymember Bowles spoke to the main focus being protecting the environment.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.



Mayoral Signature and Clerk Attestment

For

January 20, 2026, Special Meeting Minutes

(2 pages)


EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 02/17/26