

# 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



BOROUGH ASSEMBLY  
Tim Hale, District 1  
Stephanie Nowers, District 2  
Dee McKee, District 3  
Robert Yundt, District 4  
Mokie Tew, District 5  
Dmitri Fonov, District 6  
Ron Bernier, District 7

## MEETING MINUTES

### ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023

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

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 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:** 4 - Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Robert Yundt, Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

**Excused:** 1 - Assemblymember Tim Hale

**Telephonic:** 2 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers (arrived at 6:10 p.m.), and Assemblymember Mokie Tew

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

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assemblymember Bernier.

#### **V. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY**

##### **A. Dmitri Fonov - Oath of Office For Assembly District 6**

Ms. McKechnie issued the oath of office for Dmitri Fonov.

## **VI. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS**

There were no minutes presented.

## **VII. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

### **A. AGENCY REPORTS (MSB 2.12.082; Seven minutes per person)**

#### **1. Reports From Cities**

There were no reports provided.

#### **2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District**

There was no report provided.

#### **3. State of Alaska**

Mr. Todd Smoldon, Executive Director of Governor Dunleavy's Mat-Su Office, congratulated new Assemblymember Fonov and reported on the status and purpose of Senate Bills 65 and 66.

### **B. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee On School Issues**

There was no report provided.

#### **2. Assembly Public Relations**

There were no reports provided.

### **C. MANAGER COMMENTS**

Spoke to the purpose of Resolution 23-019. Reported on an action plan award for a federal safe streets and roads grant. Stated the 2022 Performance Report was submitted to the Assembly last week.

#### **1. State/Federal Legislation**

#### **2. Strategic Planning Issues**

### **D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

### **E. CLERK COMMENTS**

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule. Provided a reminder to the Assembly regarding APOC filing deadlines.

### **F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

**23-020**

1. Abbreviated Plat: 02/01/23, 02/08/23,
2. Big Lake RSA Board of Supervisors: 01/11/23, 02/01/23
3. Knik-Fairview Community Council: 11/16/22, Resolution No. 23-01
4. Fish and Wildlife Commission: Resolution No. 23-01
5. Meadow Lakes Community Council: 09/14/22, 10/12/22, 11/09/22
5. Planning Commission: 01/16/23, Resolution No's. 23-01, 23-02
6. Tanaina Community Council: 01/24/23

The citizen and other correspondence were presented and no comments were noted.

## **G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS**

**IM 23-034** Informing The Assembly Of The Managers Signature On And Submittal Of The 2023 Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management Grant Application Requesting \$900,000, By The Department Of Emergency Services.

**IM 23-038** Informing The Assembly Of The Electronic Submittal Of The 2023 Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Applications For Butte, Sutton, And Talkeetna Fire Service Areas.

**IM 23-039** Informing The Assembly Of The Managers Signature On And Submittal Of An Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Manager Application For Reallocation Of Homeland Security Grant Program Funding For Training.

Ms. McKechnie read the informational memorandums into the record.

The informational memorandums were presented and no comments were noted.

## **VIII. SPECIAL ORDERS**

### **A. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (MSB 2.12.081; Three Minutes Per Person.)**

There were no persons to be heard.

### **B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)**

**OR 23-006** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$50,000 From The Alaska State Office Of History And Archaeology To Complete Phase II Of The Historic Preservation Plan Update.

RS 23-006: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget, Extending The Time Of Completion To June 30, 2024, And Authorizing The Manager To Sign The Agreement For Phase II Of The Historic Preservation Plan Update.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Gerritt Verbeek, Planner, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

There being no one present who wished to testify, the public hearing closed and discussion moved to the Assembly.

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to adopt ordinance Serial No. 23-006 and Resolution Serial No.23-006. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Excused:** 1 - Assemblymember Hale

**OR 23-009** An Ordinance Amending MSB 18.04.035(A), Port Commission Membership.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

David Griffin, Port Operations Manger, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

There being no one present who wished to testify, the public hearing closed and discussion moved to the Assembly.

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 23-009. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee,  
Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew,  
Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Excused:** 1 - Assemblymember Hale

**OR 23-010** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating Additional National Opioid Settlement Funding Totaling \$196,575 From The Manufacturers And Traders Trust Company, And Reappropriating \$95,089.10 For Opioid Settlement Relief.

RS 23-009: A Resolution Amending The Scope Of Work And Budget For Opioid Settlement Relief.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

George Hays, Deputy Borough Manager, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke in favor of Ordinance Serial No. 23-010:  
Todd Smoldon

There being no one others present who wished to testify, the public hearing closed and discussion moved to the Assembly.

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 23-010 and Resolution Serial No. 23-009. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee,  
Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew,  
Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Excused:** 1 - Assemblymember Hale

**OR 23-011** An Ordinance Extending The Date Of Completion On Match Funding For The Grant From The United States Department Of Commerce, Economic Development Administration For The Gateway Visitor Center.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Cheyenne Heindel, Finance Director, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

There being no one present who wished to testify, the public hearing closed and discussion moved to the Assembly.

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 23-011. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Excused:** 1 - Assemblymember Hale

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

The following person spoke in favor of Ordinance Serial No. 23-013:  
Ethan Williams.

The following person spoke to concerns with child pornography and the book "Let's Talk About It" being available at the Palmer public library:  
Cindy Hudgins.

The following person stated she filed a complaint with the City Of Palmer, Palmer Museum and against the Mat-Su Moms for Social Justice Facebook group: Jackie Goforth.

The following person spoke to the roof collapse of the Palmer City Library and concerns of how tax funding is given to the libraries: Susan Pougher.

The following person spoke to the Dominion and Fox News lawsuit and thanked the assembly for their decision to not use Dominion voting machines: Jim Stalker.

The following person spoke to concerns with veteran suicides statistics and lack of post-traumatic stress disorder treatments that are available in the Borough: Dave Clifford.

The following persons requested Ordinance Serial No. 22-131 to be postponed to give the road service areas time to respond: Dan Tucker and Steve Edwards.

### **D. CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **1. RESOLUTIONS**

**RS 23-012** A Resolution Approving The Reclassification Of An Administrative Assistant And A Mechanic I Position To Two Mechanic Two Positions For The Fleet Division Of Emergency Services.

**RS 23-013** A Resolution Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into An Agreement With Mat Valley Milling, For The Alsop A And B Salvage Timber Sale.

**RS 23-018** A Resolution Regarding Proposed Changes To The State Of Alaska Public Employees Retirement System.

## **2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS**

**AM 23-013** Approval Of Additional Change Order Authority For Contract 21-150B, With Roger Hickel Contracting, Inc. For The Construction of the Houston Middle School Project.

Ms. McKechnie read the consent agenda into the record.

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to approve the consent agenda as read into record by the Clerk. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Excused:** 1 - Assemblymember Hale

## **IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

## **X. VETO**

There were no vetoes presented.

## **XI. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

### **A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 03/07/23 Assembly Chambers)**

**OR 22-131** An Ordinance Amending MSB 17.30, Conditional Use Permit For Earth Materials Extraction Activities, To Allow For An Exemption Of 10,000 Cubic Yards Annually Without A Permit.

**Sponsors:** Tew



**OR 23-013** An Ordinance Accepting Title To Tract A-1-A, Tidewater Stream, According To Plat No. 2013-105, And The North One-Half Of The Northwest One-Quarter Of Section 2, Township 16 North, Range 2 West, Seward Meridian; Authorizing The Manager To Amend A Conservation Easement With Great Land Trust, Inc. For Purpose Of Conserving The Property In Perpetuity; And Classifying The Property As Public Recreation Lands.

**OR 23-014** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$80,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Natural Resources, Office Of History And Archaeology, For The Rebarchek Colony Farm Rehabilitation Project.  
**RS 23-015:** A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget, And Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into The State Grant Agreement And The Agreement With The Alaska State Fair For The Rebarchek Colony Farm Rehabilitation Project.

**OR 23-017** An Ordinance Amending MSB 3.08.270, Open Market Procedure.

**RS 23-019** A Resolution Amending The Scope Of Work For The American Rescue Plan Funding.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to introduce the legislation as read into record by the Clerk and to set the public hearings for March 7, 2023.**

**Assemblymember Nowers moved to divide the question to take the introduction of Ordinance Serial No. 22-131 separately.**

**Assemblymember Tew called for the question (to stop debate). The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**No:** 1 - Assemblymember Nowers

**Excused:** 1 - Assemblymember Hale

**The motion to divide the question failed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 1 - Assemblymember Nowers

**No:** 5 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt,  
Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Fonov, and  
Assemblymember Bernier

**Excused:** 1 - Assemblymember Hale

**The main motion to introduce passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee,  
Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew,  
Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Excused:** 1 - Assemblymember Hale

## **B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

### **1. VACANCY REPORT**

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to confirm the appointments requested by the Mayor. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee,  
Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew,  
Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Excused:** 1 - Assemblymember Hale

#### **23-021      Mayoral Requests For Confirmation**

Board of Equalization  
Jessica Frank  
Commission on Salaries and Emoluments  
Tamika Ledbetter  
Transportation Advisory Board  
Charles Van Ravenswaay  
Jillian Morrissey  
Alpine RSA No. 31  
David VanCleve  
Knik RSA No. 17  
Gary Foster  
North Colony RSA No. 23  
Carl Luchsinger

## **C. OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

There was no other new business.

**D. REFERRALS (For Referral To The Planning Commission For 90 Days Or Other Date Specified By The Assembly)**

There were no referrals presented.

**XII. RECONSIDERATION**

There were no reconsiderations presented.

**XIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS**

Assemblymember Tew thanked the Assembly.

Mr. Aschenbrenner responded to a citizen concerns regarding why he is wearing a mask at the meeting.

Assemblymember McKee stated she would like to speak to Susan Pougher after the meeting in regards to her concerns expressed at the meeting.

Mr. Brown reported on a Boroughwide snow weather advisory over the next few days.

Ms. McKechnie welcomed new Assemblymember Fonov.

Assemblymember Yundt spoke to his concerns with the Anchorage School Board meeting last week and opined there should be a better process on what is allowed in our libraries and what children have access to. Spoke to Georgia legislation regarding librarians and their legal protection. Spoke to why he did not vote to divide the question on the introduction of Ordinance Serial No. 22-131 and the public process.

Assemblymember Fonov thanked the Assembly and the clerks' office for their help as a new Assemblymember. Stated he will do his best. Thanked everyone who came to the meeting to support him. Spoke to concerns with the library and what is available to children and prioritizing and supporting the parental education of children.

Assemblymember Bernier welcomed and thanked Assemblymember Fonov. Thanked the public for attending and said a prayer.

**XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.



Mayoral Signature and Clerk Attestment

For

February 21, 2023, Assembly Regular Meeting Minutes

(11 pages)

EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 03/21/23