

# 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  
Bill Gamble, 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, DECEMBER 19, 2023

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, December 19, 2023, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Mayor Edna DeVries.

### II. ROLL CALL

**Present:** 5 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Robert Yundt, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

**Telephonic:** 2 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, and 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 Assemblymember Bill Gamble.

Immediately following the pledge of allegiance, Mayor DeVries requested a moment of silence for Senator Lyda Green, who recently passed away.

The body observed a moment of silence.

### V. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

**A. Appointment Of Deputy Mayor - Ron Bernier**

Mayor DeVries queried if there was any objection to the appointment of Assemblymember Ron Bernier as Deputy Mayor.

There was no objection noted.

**VI. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS**

- 23-150**
- A. Regular Meeting Minutes: 09/05/23
  - B. Special Meeting Minutes: 09/12/23
  - C. Joint Assembly.School Board Meeting Minutes: 09/12/23
  - D. Regular Meeting Minutes: 09/26/23
  - E. Regular Meeting Minutes: 10/03/23
  - F. Joint Assembly.Planning Commission Meeting Minutes: 10/10/23
  - G. Regular Meeting Minutes: 10/17/23

The minutes were approved as presented without objection.

**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**

There was no report provided.

**4. Mat-Su Convention and Visitor's Bureau**

Casey Ressler, Mat-Su Convention and Visitor's Bureau Executive Director, reported on the activities of the bureau.

**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**

**1. State/Federal Legislation**

**2. Strategic Planning Issues**

**24-003**

Handouts for Manager's Report

Mr. Brown noted that the cities are supportive of the Borough's transportation coordination efforts for a Metropolitan Planning Organization designation. Spoke to the large volumes of information and effort that went into coordinating this project. Thanked Planning for their hard work on this issue.

Maija DiSalvo, Long Range Planner, reported on transit continuity coordination efforts in the Borough.

**D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

There was no report provided.

**E. CLERK COMMENTS**

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule. Noted that the Assembly rescheduled the September 17, 2024, meeting to September 10, 2024, which is already the date of a Joint Assembly/School Board meeting. Suggested that joint meeting could be scheduled for 4 p.m.

Mayor DeVries queried if there was any objection.

There was no objection noted.

**F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

23-148 Abbreviated Plat: 11/15/23, 11/22/23, 11/29/23  
Big Lake RSA Board of Supervisors: 10/09/23  
Caswell Lakes RSA Board of Supervisors: 04/10/23, Resolution No.  
03-23  
Glacier View Community Council: 10/26/23  
Meadow Lakes RSA Board of Supervisors: 04/04/23  
MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission: 09/28/23  
North Lakes Community Council: 10/26/23  
Platting Board: 10/19/23, 11/02/23  
Susitna Community Council: 10/05/23

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

### G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

**IM 23-245** Informing The Assembly Of A Grant Amendment For The 2021 State Homeland Security Program For A Time Extension Only To Be Presented To The Borough Manager For Signature.

The informational memorandum was presented, and no comments were noted.

### VIII. SPECIAL ORDERS

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

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

**OR 23-094** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$2,293,414.91 From Revenue Replacement Funding For 8 Of The 16 Road Service Areas, Gateway Visitor Center, And The Talkeetna Flood Service Area.  
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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 23-094. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**OR 23-100** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$1,000,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Commerce, Community, And Economic Development For The Metropolitan Planning Organization Support Project.

RS 23-115: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Metropolitan Planning Organization Support Project And Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into An Agreement With The Alaska State Department Of Commerce, Community, And Economic Development.

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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 23-100 and Resolution Serial No. 23-115. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**OR 23-101** An Ordinance Approving The Sale Of Borough-Owned Property Identified As Lot 77 Rustic Wilderness Division 1, To The Adjacent Property Owners Curtis And Amy Woods.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Jill Irsik, Land Disposal and Foreclosure Specialist, 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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 23-101. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**OR 23-102** An Ordinance Approving An Appropriation Of \$60,000 From The Willow Fire Service Area Fund Balance To Improve The Well At Willow Fire Station 12-2.  
RS 23-117: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For A Project To Improve The Well At Willow Fire Station 12-2.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Ken Barkley, Emergency Services 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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 23-102 and Resolution Serial No. 23-117. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**OR 23-103** An Ordinance Approving Retention Of Three Parcels For A Public Purpose, Which Were Acquired By The Borough Through Tax Foreclosure.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Jill Irsik, Land Disposal and Foreclosure Specialist, 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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 23-103. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**OR 23-104** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating 2022 January Mat-Su Windstorms Disaster Relief Funds In The Amount Of \$595,931.59 From The Federal Emergency Management Agency And \$198,643.86 From The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management.

RS 23-118: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Borough-Wide Debris Removal As A Result Of The 2022 January Mat-Su Windstorms Disaster.

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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 23-104 and Resolution Serial No. 23-118. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**OR 23-105** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$170,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Military And Veteran's Affairs, Emergency Management Performance Grant Program; And Requesting A Reappropriation Of \$170,000 From The Emergency Management Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget For Emergency Management Wages And Benefits.

RS 23-120: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For A Grant In The Amount Of \$170,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Military And Veteran's Affairs, Emergency Management Performance Grant For Emergency Management Wages And Benefits.

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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 23-105 and Resolution Serial No. 23-120. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier



**OR 23-106** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$525,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Military And Veteran's Affairs, State Homeland Security Program, For Generators And Station Security Equipment For The Department Of Emergency Services.

RS 23-121: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For A Grant In The Amount Of \$525,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Military And Veteran's Affairs, State Homeland Security Program, For Generators And Station Security Equipment For The Department Of Emergency Services.

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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 23-106 and Resolution Serial No. 23-121. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**OR 23-107** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake Disaster Relief Monies In The Amount Of \$24,443.95 From The Federal Emergency Management Agency And \$2,716 From The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management.

RS 23-124: A Resolution Amending The Budget For Additional Disaster Relief Funds For The 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake Disaster.

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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 23-107 and Resolution Serial No. 23-124. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier**

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

The following persons spoke to the need to remove pornographic books from Borough libraries: Karen Harris and Jackie Goforth.

The following person stated that he had a military helmet with him and if there were any veteran's present that he would like them to sign it for him: David Bernier.

The following person spoke to concerns with appointments to the Library Board and in opposition to banning books: Kathy Kysar.

The following person spoke in opposition to banning books: Mary Robinson.

### **D. CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **1. RESOLUTIONS**

**RS 23-126** A Resolution Requesting Exemption As A Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems Under 40, Code Of Federal Regulations 123.35; And Committing To Working Towards Implementation Of 6 Minimum Control Measures Defined By The Environmental Protection Agency Over The Next 10 Years.

#### **2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS**

**AM 23-126** Approval Of Final Completion Date Extension For Contract No. 22-104P(A) With Kinney Engineering, LLC. For The 49th State Street Pathway Project To December 31, 2024.

**AM 23-127** Authorization For Destruction Of Ballots From The November 7, 2023, Regular Borough Election.

**AM 23-128** Award Of Bid No. 24-069C To True North Emergency Equipment In The Contract Amount Of \$624,651 To Purchase One Central Fire Service Area Firovac Tanker.

**AM 23-129** Award Of Proposal No. 22-055P To Heartland Water Technology Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$5,995,000 To Design And Construct A Leachate Reduction System At The Central Landfill.

**AM 23-130** Award Of Contract No. 24-071P To Wolf Architecture In The Amount Of \$525,342 To Redesign The Mat-Su Gateway Visitor Center.

**AM 23-131** Acceptance Of Late Filed And Retroactive Senior Citizen And Disabled Veteran Exemption Applications.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

## **IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**OR 23-089** An Ordinance Amending Title 15 Relating To The Planning Commission.

**Sponsors:** DeVries

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**MAIN MOTION PENDING:** Assemblymember Yundt moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 23-089.

**PRIMARY AMENDMENT PENDING:** Assemblymember Hale moved a primary amendment to Ordinance Serial No. 23 089, as follows:

- \* by striking all references to 9 seats and to keep the current 7 seats;
- \* by striking Section 10 in its entirety to keep the majority vote at 4; and
- \* by striking the current Section 8. MSB 15.08.020, Appointments, by striking Section 8 in its entirety and inserting the following in its place: "except that a member from the City of Wasilla or the City of Palmer shall be selected from a list of recommendations submitted by the city council and subject to confirmation by the Assembly" to read: "The mayor shall make appointments subject to confirmation by the assembly, except that a member from the City of Wasilla or the City of Palmer shall be selected from a list of recommendations submitted by the city council and subject to confirmation by the Assembly. Representation from as many assembly districts as is feasible shall be sought on the commission, but all commission members shall be appointed for their expertise and knowledge of the community and shall represent the entire borough."

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

- Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Fonov
- No:** 2 - Assemblymember Nowers, and Assemblymember Bernier  
Assemblymember Nowers moved a secondary amendment, to Section 8, MSB 15.08.020, by striking section 8 in its entirety and renumbering the remaining sections accordingly.

The secondary amendment passed by the following vote:

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**The main motion passed as amended by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

## **X. VETO**

There were no vetoes presented.

## **XI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 01/02/24, Assembly Chambers)**

**RS 24-002** A Resolution Approving The Changes Needed To Update The Fiscal Year 2025 Schedule Of Rates And Fees, To Be Effective July 1, 2024.

**RS 24-008** A Resolution Adopting The Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Improvement Program.

**OR 24-001** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating 2022 August Mat-Su Flooding Disaster Relief Funds In The Amount Of \$25,600 From The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management.

RS 24-001: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Road Repairs Within The Borough As A Result Of The 2022 August

**OR 24-002** An Ordinance Approving Transfer Of Interest Of The Susitna Heights Subdivision Park To The City Of Houston For The Purpose Of Dedication For A Public Park.

**OR 24-004** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$225,000 Of Revenues From Fiscal Year 2024 Non-Areawide Major Repairs And Renovations Reserve For Animal Care Facility Improvements.

RS 24-003: A Resolution Setting The Scope Of Work And Amending The Budget For The Animal Care Facility Interior Improvements And Mold

**OR 24-005** An Ordinance Approving Land Classification Of A Borough-Owned Property As Reserved Use Land For The Purpose Of An Emergency Services Facility In The Talkeetna Area.

**OR 24-006** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$315,780 In Fiscal Year 2024 Community Assistance Program Funding.

RS 24-004: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Community Assistance Program; And Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into Agreements With 20 Unincorporated Communities Within The Borough.

**OR 24-008** An Ordinance Amending MSB 5.25.145, Annexing Parcel No. 52778000TOOC Into The West Lakes Fire Service Area No. 136.

RS 24-007: A Resolution Finding The Annexation Of Parcel No. 52778000TOOC Into The West Lakes Fire Service Area. No. 136 Serves The Public Interest.

**Sponsors:** Gamble

**OR 24-009** An Ordinance Changing The Mayor And Assembly Term Of Office From Three Years To Four Years For Future Terms Without Altering The Length Of Current Terms.

**Sponsors:** Yundt and McKee

**OR 24-010** An Ordinance Allowing Candidates For Mayor, Assembly, And School Board To Designate A Political Affiliation.

**Sponsors:** Yundt and McKee

## **B. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing on 02/06/24)**

**OR 24-003** An Ordinance Creating North Victor Road, Road Paving Local Improvement District No. 660, Approving The Improvement Plan For The District, And Authorizing The Manager To Proceed With The Improvement, And Assessing Equally Among The Properties Within The District The Costs Of The Improvement.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearings for January 2, 2024, and February 6, 2024, respectively.**

**Assemblymember Nowers moved to divide the question to take the introduction of Ordinance Serial Nos. 24-009 and 24-010, separately.**

**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Gamble

**No:** 3 - Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**FIRST SEGMENT: Assemblymember Bernier moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearings for January 2, 2024, and February 6, 2024, respectively, excepting Ordinance Serial Nos. 24-009 and 24-010.**

**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**SECOND SEGMENT: Assemblymember Bernier moved to introduce Ordinance Serial Nos. 24-009 and 24-010 and to set the public hearings for January 2, 2024.**

**Assemblymember Nowers moved a primary amendment to strike "January 2" and insert "January 16" in its place.**

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

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Gamble

**No: 3 - Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Fonov, and  
Assemblymember Bernier**

**The main motion passed as amended by the following vote:**

**Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers,  
Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt,  
Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and  
Assemblymember Bernier**

## **C. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

### **1. VACANCY REPORT**



Mayoral Requests For Confirmation

Board of Adjustment and Appeals

Jesse Rongitsch

Claudia Roberts

Board of Ethics

Patrick McKay

Health and Social Services Board

Amy Gorn

Historical Preservation Commission

Andrew Schweisthal

Fran Seager-Boss

Bert Verrall

Library Board

Adam Jenkins

Karen Crandall

Chad C. Scott

Local Emergency Planning Committee

Bethany Buckingham Follett

MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission

Bill Gamble

Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board

Michael Rovito

Platting Board

Dan Bush

Wastewater and Septage Advisory Board

Gina Jorgensen

Waterbody Setback Advisory Board

William Haller

West Lakes FSA No. 136

Cindy Michaelson

Fairview RSA No. 14

Brian K. Swanson

Greater Talkeetna RSA No. 29

William Fitzgerald

Greater Willow RSA No. 20

Wesley J. McClure

Trapper Creek RSA No. 30

Donna Massay

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to confirm the appointments requested by the Mayor.**

**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes: 7 -** Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

#### **D. OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

There was no other new business.

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

There were no referrals.

#### **XII. RECONSIDERATION**

There were no reconsiderations.

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

Assemblymember McKee spoke to concerns with pornographic books in Borough libraries. Spoke to the need to protect children at all costs.

Assemblymember Bernier thanked those that attended the meeting. Said a prayer.

Assemblymember Nowers thanked the Assembly for their support to ask the State of Alaska to change Planning Commission composition requirements. Thanked the Manager for his hard work on putting together the meeting with the State Legislators and noted that it was an information meeting and was outstanding. Wished Merry Christmas to the body.

Assemblymember Yundt opined that members should not change trajectory of legislation brought forward by other members.

Assemblymember Gamble thanked staff for their hard work. Thanked Ms. McKechnie and Mr. Brown and their respective staff for their work in bringing him onboard. Spoke to his enjoyment of his first official meeting. Thanked the body and wished everyone Merry Christmas.

Mayor DeVries noted that it is Mr. Brown's 3-year anniversary with the Borough. Stated that she is glad to continue to work with him.

**XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION (For Matters, Which The Immediate Public Knowledge Of Would Clearly Have An Adverse Effect Upon The Finances Of The Borough; And Matters Which By Law, Municipal Charter, Or Ordinance Are Required To Be Kept Confidential; And To Discuss Matters Involving Consideration Of Borough Records That By Law Are Not Subject To Public Disclosure; And Discussion Of Matters Subject To Attorney/Client Privilege.)**

**A. Snow Removal Claims Submitted By Road Service Area Contractors**

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to enter into executive session for matters, which the immediate public knowledge of would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough; and matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be kept confidential; and to discuss matters involving consideration of borough records that by law are not subject to public disclosure; and discussion of matters subject to attorney/client privilege. Those present during the executive session were, the Mayor, the Assembly, the Manager, the Attorney, the Clerk, the Finance Director, and the Deputy Borough Manager**

**There was no objection noted and the Assembly entered into executive session at 8:02 p.m.**

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to exit executive session.**

**There was no objection noted and the Assembly exited executive session at 8:49 p.m.**

**XV. ADJOURNMENT**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.**



Mayoral Signature and Clerk Attestment

For

December 19, 2023, Assembly Regular Meeting Minutes

(19 pages)

  
EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 02/06/24

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

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Ron Bernier, District 7



Thomas Bergey, District 1  
Kendal Kruse, District 2  
Kathryn McCollum, District 3  
Jubilee Underwood, District 4  
Brooks Pitcher, District 5  
Ole Larson, District 6  
Ted Swanson, District 7

## ASSEMBLY AGENDA

SCHOOL DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
501 NORTH GULKANA STREET, PALMER

JOINT ASSEMBLY/SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023

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**20-172** Members of the public wishing to provide testimony telephonically must sign up no later than 3pm the day of the meeting by calling or emailing School Board Administrative Assistant Stacy Escobedo.

[stacy.escobedo@matsuk12.us](mailto:stacy.escobedo@matsuk12.us) or 907-746-9272

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

### **II. ROLL CALL**

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

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

### **V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

### **VI. JOINT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

**A. Annual Budget, Preliminary Discussion; State and Legislative Action Needed (MSB 2.12.075(A))**

**B. Major Maintenance Needs (Requested by Administration)**

**C. Charter School Facilities Needs (Requested by Administration)**

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

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Disabled Persons Needing Reasonable Accommodation In Order To Participate At An Assembly Meeting Should Contact The Borough  
ADA Coordinator At 861-8432 At Least One Week In Advance Of The Meeting.**

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## ASSEMBLY AGENDA

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023

### WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ASSEMBLY MEETING IF YOU CANNOT ATTEND IN PERSON:

#### IN WRITING:

\* You can submit written comments to [leg.com@matsugov.us](mailto:leg.com@matsugov.us)

#### TELEPHONIC TESTIMONY:

\* Dial 1-855-225-2326

\* You will hear "Joining conference" when you are admitted to the meeting.

\* You will be automatically muted and able to listen to the meeting.

\* When the Mayor announces audience participation or a public hearing you would like to speak to, press \*3; you will hear "Your hand has been raised."

\* When it is your turn to testify you will hear "Your line has been unmuted."

\* State your name for the record, spell your last name, and provide your testimony.

OBSERVE: observe the meeting via the live stream video at:

\* <https://matanuska.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

\* <https://www.facebook.com/MatSuBorough>

\* Matanuska-Susitna Borough - YouTube

### I. CALL TO ORDER

### II. ROLL CALL

### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**V. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**A. Appointment Of Deputy Mayor - Ron Bernier**

**VI. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS**

- 23-150**
- A. Regular Meeting Minutes: 09/05/23
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  - G. Regular Meeting Minutes: 10/17/23

**Attachments:** 12/19/23 - Minutes for Packet

**VII. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

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

- 1. Reports From Cities
- 2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District
- 3. State of Alaska
- 4. Mat-Su Convention and Visitor's Bureau

**B. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- 1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee On School Issues
- 2. Assembly Public Relations

**C. MANAGER COMMENTS**

- 1. State/Federal Legislation
- 2. Strategic Planning Issues

**D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS**



**E. CLERK COMMENTS**

**F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

- 23-148**
1. Abbreviated Plat: 11/15/23, 11/22/23, 11/29/23
  2. Big Lake RSA Board of Supervisors: 10/09/23
  3. Caswell Lakes RSA Board of Supervisors:04/10/23, Resolution No. 03-23
  4. Glacier View Community Council: 10/26/23
  5. Meadow Lakes RSA Board of Supervisors: 04/04/23
  6. MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission: 09/28/23
  7. North Lakes Community Council: 10/26/23
  8. Platting Board: 10/19/23, 11/02/23
  9. Susitna Community Council: 10/05/23

**Attachments:** 12/19/23 - Citizen and Other Correspondence

**G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS**

- IM 23-245** Informing The Assembly Of A Grant Amendment For The 2021 State Homeland Security Program For A Time Extension Only To Be Presented To The Borough Manager For Signature.

**Attachments:** IM 23-245

**VIII. SPECIAL ORDERS**

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

(Requires 11 Days Advance Notice And Must Otherwise Be In Compliance With The Necessary Code Requirements. If No Advance Notice Is Given, Persons Wishing To Speak May Do So Under The Audience Participation Section Of The Agenda.)

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

- OR 23-094** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$2,293,414.91 From Revenue Replacement Funding For 8 Of The 16 Road Service Areas, Gateway Visitor Center, And The Talkeetna Flood Service Area.

**Attachments:** OR 23-094  
IM 23-210

**OR 23-100** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$1,000,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Commerce, Community, And Economic Development For The Metropolitan Planning Organization Support Project.  
RS 23-115: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Metropolitan Planning Organization Support Project And Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into An Agreement With The Alaska State Department Of Commerce, Community, And Economic Development.

**Attachments:** OR 23-100  
RS 23-115  
IM 23-231

**OR 23-101** An Ordinance Approving The Sale Of Borough-Owned Property Identified As Lot 77 Rustic Wilderness Division 1, To The Adjacent Property Owners Curtis And Amy Woods.

**Attachments:** OR 23-101  
IM 23-233

**OR 23-102** An Ordinance Approving An Appropriation Of \$60,000 From The Willow Fire Service Area Fund Balance To Improve The Well At Willow Fire Station 12-2.  
RS 23-117: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For A Project To Improve The Well At Willow Fire Station 12-2.

**Attachments:** OR 23-102  
RS 23-117  
IM 23-234

**OR 23-103** An Ordinance Approving Retention Of Three Parcels For A Public Purpose, Which Were Acquired By The Borough Through Tax Foreclosure.

**Attachments:** OR 23-103  
IM 23-235

**OR 23-104** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating 2022 January Mat-Su Windstorms Disaster Relief Funds In The Amount Of \$595,931.59 From The Federal Emergency Management Agency And \$198,643.86 From The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management.  
RS 23-118: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Borough-Wide Debris Removal As A Result Of The 2022 January Mat-Su Windstorms Disaster.

**Attachments:** OR 23-104

RS 23-118

IM 23-237

**OR 23-105** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$170,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Military And Veteran's Affairs, Emergency Management Performance Grant Program; And Requesting A Reappropriation Of \$170,000 From The Emergency Management Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget For Emergency Management Wages And Benefits.  
RS 23-120: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For A Grant In The Amount Of \$170,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Military And Veteran's Affairs, Emergency Management Performance Grant For Emergency Management Wages And Benefits.

**Attachments:** OR 23-105

RS 23-120

IM 23-239

**OR 23-106** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$525,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Military And Veteran's Affairs, State Homeland Security Program, For Generators And Station Security Equipment For The Department Of Emergency Services.  
RS 23-121: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For A Grant In The Amount Of \$525,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Military And Veteran's Affairs, State Homeland Security Program, For Generators And Station Security Equipment For The Department Of Emergency Services.

**Attachments:** OR 23-106

RS 23-121

IM 23-241

**OR 23-107** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake Disaster Relief Monies In The Amount Of \$24,443.95 From The Federal Emergency Management Agency And \$2,716 From The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management.  
RS 23-124: A Resolution Amending The Budget For Additional Disaster Relief Funds For The 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake Disaster.

**Attachments:** OR 23-107  
RS 23-124  
IM 23-244

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

**D. CONSENT AGENDA**

**1. RESOLUTIONS**

**RS 23-126** A Resolution Requesting Exemption As A Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems Under 40, Code Of Federal Regulations 123.35; And Committing To Working Towards Implementation Of 6 Minimum Control Measures Defined By The Environmental Protection Agency Over The Next 10 Years.

**Attachments:** RS 23-126  
IM 23-247

**2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS**

**AM 23-126** Approval Of Final Completion Date Extension For Contract No. 22-104P(A) With Kinney Engineering, LLC. For The 49th State Street Pathway Project To December 31, 2024.

**Attachments:** AM 23-126

**AM 23-127** Authorization For Destruction Of Ballots From The November 7, 2023, Regular Borough Election.

**Attachments:** AM 23-127

**AM 23-128** Award Of Bid No. 24-069C To True North Emergency Equipment In The Contract Amount Of \$624,651 To Purchase One Central Fire Service Area Firovac Tanker.

**Attachments:** AM 23-128

**AM 23-129** Award Of Proposal No. 22-055P To Heartland Water Technology Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$5,995,000 To Design And Construct A Leachate Reduction System At The Central Landfill.

**Attachments:** AM 23-129

**AM 23-130** Award Of Contract No. 24-071P To Wolf Architecture In The Amount Of \$525,342 To Redesign The Mat-Su Gateway Visitor Center.

**Attachments:** AM 23-130

**AM 23-131** Acceptance Of Late Filed And Retroactive Senior Citizen And Disabled Veteran Exemption Applications.

**Attachments:** AM-23-131

## **IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**OR 23-089** An Ordinance Amending Title 15 Relating To The Planning Commission.

**Sponsors:** DeVries

**Attachments:** OR 23-089

IM 23-199

PC Resolution 23-35

10/17/23 - Hale PENDING Amendment

## **X. VETO**

## **XI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 01/02/24, Assembly Chambers)**

**RS 24-002** A Resolution Approving The Changes Needed To Update The Fiscal Year 2025 Schedule Of Rates And Fees, To Be Effective July 1, 2024.

**Attachments:** RS 24-002

IM 24-002

**RS 24-008** A Resolution Adopting The Fiscal Year 2025 Capital Improvement Program.

**Attachments:** RS 24-008

IM 24-014

**OR 24-001** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating 2022 August Mat-Su Flooding Disaster Relief Funds In The Amount Of \$25,600 From The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management.  
RS 24-001: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Road Repairs Within The Borough As A Result Of The 2022 August Mat-Su Flooding Disaster.

**Attachments:** OR 24-001  
RS 24-001  
IM 24-001

**OR 24-002** An Ordinance Approving Transfer Of Interest Of The Susitna Heights Subdivision Park To The City Of Houston For The Purpose Of Dedication For A Public Park.

**Attachments:** OR 24-002  
IM 24-003

**OR 24-004** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$225,000 Of Revenues From Fiscal Year 2024 Non-Areawide Major Repairs And Renovations Reserve For Animal Care Facility Improvements.  
RS 24-003: A Resolution Setting The Scope Of Work And Amending The Budget For The Animal Care Facility Interior Improvements And Mold Remediation Project.

**Attachments:** OR 24-004  
RS 24-003  
IM 24-005

**OR 24-005** An Ordinance Approving Land Classification Of A Borough-Owned Property As Reserved Use Land For The Purpose Of An Emergency Services Facility In The Talkeetna Area.

**Attachments:** OR 24-005  
IM 24-006

**OR 24-006** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$315,780 In Fiscal Year 2024 Community Assistance Program Funding.  
RS 24-004: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Community Assistance Program; And Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into Agreements With 20 Unincorporated Communities Within The Borough.

**Attachments:** OR 24-006  
RS 24-004  
IM 24-007

**OR 24-008** An Ordinance Amending MSB 5.25.145, Annexing Parcel No. 52778000TOOC Into The West Lakes Fire Service Area No. 136.  
RS 24-007: A Resolution Finding The Annexation Of Parcel No. 52778000TOOC Into The West Lakes Fire Service Area. No. 136 Serves The Public Interest.

**Sponsors:** Gamble

**Attachments:** OR 24-008  
RS 24-007  
IM 24-011

**OR 24-009** An Ordinance Changing The Mayor And Assembly Term Of Office From Three Years To Four Years For Future Terms Without Altering The Length Of Current Terms.

**Sponsors:** Yundt and McKee

**Attachments:** OR 24-009  
IM 24-012

**OR 24-010** An Ordinance Allowing Candidates For Mayor, Assembly, And School Board To Designate A Political Affiliation.

**Sponsors:** Yundt and McKee

**Attachments:** OR 24-010  
IM 24-013

## **B. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing on 02/06/24)**

**OR 24-003** An Ordinance Creating North Victor Road, Road Paving Local Improvement District No. 660, Approving The Improvement Plan For The District, And Authorizing The Manager To Proceed With The Improvement, And Assessing Equally Among The Properties Within The District The Costs Of The Improvement.

**Attachments:** OR 24-003  
IM 24-005

## **C. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

### **1. VACANCY REPORT**

**23-149** Mayoral Requests For Confirmation

**Attachments:** 12/19/23 - Vacancy Report

## **D. OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

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

## **XII. RECONSIDERATION**

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

**XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION (For Matters, Which The Immediate Public Knowledge Of Would Clearly Have An Adverse Effect Upon The Finances Of The Borough; And Matters Which By Law, Municipal Charter, Or Ordinance Are Required To Be Kept Confidential; And To Discuss Matters Involving Consideration Of Borough Records That By Law Are Not Subject To Public Disclosure; And Discussion Of Matters Subject To Attorney/Client Privilege.)**

**A. Snow Removal Claims Submitted By Road Service Area Contractors**

## **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

**Disabled Persons Needing Reasonable Accommodation In Order To Participate At An Assembly Meeting Should Contact The Borough ADA Coordinator At (907) 861-8432 At Least One Week In Advance Of The Meeting.**



# 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  
Bill Gamble, District 5  
Dmitri Fonov, District 6  
Ron Bernier, District 7

## ASSEMBLY AGENDA

STATE LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION OFFICE  
600 EAST RAILROAD AVENUE, SUITE 1, WASILLA

ASSEMBLY WORK SESSION

9:30 AM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2023

### **Joint Assembly/State Delegation Work Session**

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Legislative Priorities

VI. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, STATE LEGISLATORS, AND STAFF COMMENT

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Disabled Persons Needing Reasonable Accommodation In Order To Participate At An Assembly Meeting Should Contact The Borough  
ADA Coordinator At 861-8432 At Least One Week In Advance Of The Meeting.