

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
Jesse Sumner, District 6
Ron Bernier, District 7

MEETING MINUTES ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS 350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, January 18, 2021, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Mayor Edna DeVries.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: 2 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers and Assemblymember Mokie Tew

Excused: 2 - Assemblymember Tim Hale and Assemblymember Dee McKee

Telephonic: 3 - Assemblymember Robert Yundt, Assemblymember Jesse Sumner, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier (entered at 6:08 p.m.)

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assemblymember Tew.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

22-012

A. Assembly Special Meeting: 01/04/22

B. Assembly Regular Meeting: 01/04/22

The minutes were approved as presented without objection.

VI. 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 were no reports provided.

3. State of Alaska

There were reports provided.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee On School Issues

There were no reports provided.

2. Assembly Public Relations

There were no reports provided.

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

1. State/Federal Legislation

2. Strategic Planning Issues

Mike Brown reported that the Animal Care Shelter conducted a Betty White-Out Challenge event that was very successful. Stated that 82 of 103 adoptable animals were adopted. Provided a windstorm update.

3. Arctic Winter Games Update

Kerry Quade, General Manager for the 2024 Mat-Su Arctic Winter Games, provided an update regarding the Arctic Winter Games.

4. Borough Assessor Update

22-029

2022 Property Appraisal Annual Report

Buddy Eveland, Borough Assessor, reported on property appraisals for 2022.

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos reported on the activities of his office.

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie reported on the upcoming meeting schedule.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

22-013

1. Big Lake Community Council: 11/09/21
2. Board of Adjustment and Appeals: 10/13/21, 10/26/21, BOAA 21-05 Final Decision
3. Lazy Mountain Community Council: 01/14/21, 02/11/21, 04/08/21, 05/20/21, 09/12/21
4. Library Board: 10/16/21
5. North Lakes Community Council: 11/18/21
6. Susitna Community Council: 11/04/21

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

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

IM 22-017

Reporting Of Conclusion Of Contract For Bid No. 22-011B With Granite Construction Company For The Central Landfill Paving Improvements.

IM 22-022

Reporting Manager Waivers Of Formal Bidding Procedures In Accordance With MSB 3.08.320(B) For December 2021.

The informational memorandums were presented and no comments were noted.

VII. 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 22-009 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating A Portion Of The 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake Disaster Relief Monies In The Amount Of \$18,371,035.57 (\$13,778,276.68 From The Federal Emergency Management Agency And \$4,592,758.89 From The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management) For The Houston Middle School Rebuild; And Reappropriating \$11,900,000 Back To The School District (\$1,725,446 To School Bond Debt Service And \$890,521) To The School Site Selection Reserves; And \$1,500,000 To The Houston Jr/Sr High School Repairs Project From The Houston Middle School Rebuild Project.

RS 22-005: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Amended Budget For The Houston Middle School Rebuild; And The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Houston Jr/Sr High School Repairs.

Lonnie 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 Nowers moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 22-009 and Resolution Serial No. 22-005. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Bernier

C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person.)

The following persons spoke to concerns with Ordinance Serial No. 21-040: Ann Kilkenny and Diane Woodruff.

The following person spoke to concerns with CARES Act bonus payments to hospitals: Jackie Ivy Goforth.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

RS 22-010 A Resolution Directing The Manager To Initiate A Competitive Sale To Facilitate The Disposal Of The Port Mackenzie Conveyor System.

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

AM 22-001 Request To Vacate The 60 Foot Wide Right-Of-Way Of North Hal's Circle, Dedicated By ASLS 72-26, Plat No. 86-163, Located Within The Northwest 1/4 Northwest 1/4, Section 16, Township 18 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian.

Lonnie McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Bernier

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

IX. VETO

There were no vetoes presented.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 02/01/22, Assembly Chambers)

OR 22-012 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$26,680 From The Alaska State Division Of Libraries, Archives, And Museums Easy American Rescue Plan Act Grant For Libraries Grant Program To The Five Borough Libraries.

RS 22-008: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Alaska State Division Of Libraries, Archives, And Museums Easy American Rescue Plan Act Grant For Libraries Grant Program To The Five Borough Libraries.

OR 22-013 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$236,810.18 In Additional Disaster Relief Funds For The Houston Middle School Temporary Relocation From Damages Sustained During The 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake.

RS 22-009: A Resolution Amending The Budget For Additional Disaster Relief Funds For Houston Middle School Temporary Relocation From Damages Sustained In The 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake.

Lonnie McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Nowers moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearings for February 1, 2022. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Yundt,
Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and
Assemblymember Bernier

B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

22-015 Mayoral Requests for Confirmation
Board of Ethics
Kimberly Swanson
Borough Area Schools Site Selection Committee
Dee McKee
Enhanced 911 Advisory Board
Christian Hartley
Local Emergency Planning Committee
Benjamin Ott
Harry Hillman
Daniel Payne
Planning Commission
Michael Rubeo
Platting Board
Emmett Leffel
Transportation Advisory Board
Randy Durham, II
Fairview RSA No. 14
Brian Swanson

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

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Yundt,
Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and
Assemblymember Bernier

C. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

1. MOTION TO AMEND SOMETHING PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED

OR 21-040 An Ordinance Amending MSB 2.08.060(A), Compensation For The Mayor.

Sponsors: McKee

Lonnie McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Tew moved to amend Ordinance Serial No. 21-040, which was previously adopted on January 4, 2021, section 3, effective date, by striking "effective July 1, 2021" and inserting "effective upon adoption" in its place.

Assemblymember Nowers moved a secondary amendment by striking "effective upon adoption" and inserting "effective July 1, 2022" in its place. The secondary amendment failed by the following vote:

Yes: 1 - Assemblymember Nowers

No: 4 - Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Bernier

The motion to amend something previously adopted failed by the following vote (requires four votes):

Yes: 3 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Bernier

No: 2 - Assemblymember Yundt and Assemblymember Sumner

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

There were no referrals.

XI. RECONSIDERATION

There were no reconsiderations.

XII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Yundt apologized that he was not able to attend in person. Thanked the School District for working with the Borough to get Houston Middle School replaced. Spoke to concerns with the increased assessment values outlined in the Assessors report. Stated that he is hopeful that the School District will take the money that is being paid back and put it into account to build the next school that is needed.

Assemblymember Nowers spoke to concerns with Ordinance Serial No. 21-040 being retroactive to a Mayor that is no longer in office. Noted that many people work very hard but never get a retroactive pay increase. Congratulated the Animal Care and Regulation Shelter for a successful adoption event.

Mayor DeVries spoke to her pleasure that the adoption event was so successful.

XIII. 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. Litigation Regarding the 2021 Redistricting Plan

The executive session was not conducted.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.



Mayoral Signature and Clerk Attestment

For

January 18, 2022, Assembly Regular Meeting Minutes

(8 pages)


EDNA DEVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 02/01/22