

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
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 REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, August 18, 2025, 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: 6 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Maxwell Sumner, Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov, Assemblymember Ron Bernier, and Mayor Edna DeVries

Excused: 1 - Assemblymember Tim Hale

Telephonic: 1 - Assemblymember Bill Gamble

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Michael Carson.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

There were no minutes presented.

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 was no report provided.

3. State of Alaska

There was no report provided.

4. Mat-Su Convention and Visitor's Bureau

Casey Ressler, The Mat-Su Convention and Visitor's Bureau Executive Director, reported the activities of the Bureau and visitor trends in the Valley.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committees

There was no report provided.

2. Assembly Public Relations

There was no report provided.

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

1. State/Federal Legislation

There was no comment provided.

2. Strategic Planning Issues

There was no comment provided.

3. Wolf Lake Park Feasibility Study

25-124

Feasibility Study

Jillian Morrissey, Community Development Director, spoke to a Wolf Lake Park feasibility study.

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

There was no comment provided.

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

25-120

1. Big Lake Community Council: 05/13/25, 06/10/25
2. Glacier View Community Council: 04/24/25
3. Planning Commission: 07/21/25

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

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

IM 25-170

Notification Of Land Acquisition Of One Acre Adjacent To The New Gateway Visitor Center.

IM 25-177

Informing The Assembly On The Submittal Of The Final Grant Report For The River Management Program Grant (14-DC-087) Awarded Through The Department Of Commerce, Community, And Economic Development.

IM 25-179

Informing The Assembly Of Consent By The Matanuska-Susitna Borough To Assign Lease Of Land Operating As A Solar Farm From Renewable IPP, LLC To CleanCapital, D/B/A Energy 49, As Provided For In The Fair Market Value Lease.

The informational memorandums were presented, and no comments were noted.

VII. SPECIAL ORDERS

A. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (You can speak under one of the audience participations on the agenda, but not both; Three Minutes Per Person.)

The following person thanked the Borough and the cities to create and utilize their health powers, direct services, case management: Michael Carson, My House Mat-Su.

The following persons spoke to the Fuller Lake Management Plan, public safety, and public access: Charles St. George, Pamela Grogan, and Raymond Grogan.

The following person spoke to the Annual Report of the Mat-Su Health Foundation, grants, and scholarships: David Wilson, Mat-Su Health Foundation Director of Public Policy.

The following person spoke to library books: Jackie Goforth.

The following person spoke in favor of the Wolf Lake Park: John Miller.

The following person spoke to the homeless and people begging for money: Travis Friesen.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)

OR 25-079 An Ordinance Adopting MSB 15.24.030(C)(43), Fuller Lake, Lake Management Plan; And Amending MSB 17.59.060, Lake Management Plan Implementation.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Rebecca Skjothaug, Current Planner, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 25-079: Edward Benett, Pamela Grogan, Raymond Grogan, Joann Coaler.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 25-079 and spoke to the public process: Mike Chmiekewski.

The following person spoke in opposition of Ordinance Serial No. 25-079: Esther Huddleston.

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

The meeting recessed at 7:26 p.m. and reconvened at 7:32 p.m.

Assemblymember Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-079.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Assemblymember Bernier declared a possible conflict of interest with the legislation he built 9 of the homes in the subdivision that brought forward the Lake Management plan.

RULING: Mayor DeVries ruled that Assemblymember Bernier had no conflict of interest and would not be recused from voting.

OR 25-083 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$18,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Natural Resources, Office Of History And Archaeology, For The DePriest Family Farm National Register Nomination Project.

RS 25-069: 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 DePriest Family Trust For The DePriest Family Farm National Register Nomination Project.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Becca Skijour, Planner, provided the staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 25-079: Edward Bennet, Pamela Gorgon, Raymond Gorgon, Joanne ?

The following person spoke in opposition of Ordinance Serial No. 25-079: Esther Huddleson

The following person spoke to the public process of a lake management and finding the balance: Mike, Radio Free Palmer

There being no one else who wished to testify the public hearing closed and the discussion moved to the assembly.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Assemblymember Bernier

RULING: No conflict of interest.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Alex Strawn, Planning and Land Management Director, provided the staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

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

OR 25-086 An Ordinance Enacting MSB 1.10.180, Limited Health Powers From The Cities.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mr. Spiropoulos provided the staff record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke to the settlement and what the funds would be used for, John Hopkins principles of how the funds should be used: Michael Bowles.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 25-086: David Wilson, Mat-Su Health Foundation

There being no other present who wished to testify the public hearing closed and the discussion moved to the assembly.

OR 25-087 An Ordinance Amending MSB 5.25.044(A), Service Area No. 27: Meadow Lakes Road Service Area; And Placing On The Ballot Of The November 4, 2025, Regular Borough Election The Annexation Of Parcels Located On West Mana Naen Street, West Elvas Lane, And A Portion Of North Utopia View Circle Into The Meadow Lakes Road Service Area.
RS 25-075: A Resolution Finding The Annexation Of Parcels Located On North Mana Nael Street, West Elvas Lane, And A Portion Of North Utopia View Circle Into The Meadow Lakes Road Service Area, Serves The Public Interest; And Placing The Question Before The Voters In The November 4, 2025, Regular Election.

Sponsors: Bernier

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Ms. McKechnie provided the staff support.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 25-087: Esther Huddleston.

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

OR 25-088 An Ordinance Annexing All Of Lot 4A, Homestead Hills Phase 2, Into The Greater Butte Road Service Area.
RS 25-076: A Resolution Finding The Annexation Of All Of Lot 4a, Homestead Hills Phase 2, Into The Greater Butte Road Service Area Serves The Public Interest.

Sponsors: Hale

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Ms. McKechnie provided the staff support.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke to Ordinance Serial No. 25-088: Julie (property owner)

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

C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (You can speak under one of the audience participations on the agenda, but not both; Three Minutes Per Person.)

The following person spoke to special use permits from the State of Alaska for lakes and spoke to keeping other lakes unrestricted, fuel tax and taxing marijuana instead, animal control: Esther Huddleston.

The following person spoke to Project Hope for the cans and kits, spoke to Ordinance Serial No. 25-086: Michael Bowles

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

RS 25-079 A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budgets For Michelle Drive Bridge At Willow Creek, Lewis Loop Bridge at Fish Creek, And King Salmon Drive Bridge at Cottonwood Creek; And Approving A Time Extension Of The Areawide Budget Appropriation And Fund Balance Appropriation For The 2024 Sushana Drive At Little Susitna River Flooding Mitigation.

RS 25-081 A Resolution Directing The Clerk To Place Additional Information Regarding The Fuel Excise Tax In The Election Brochure For The Voters.

Sponsors: Nowers

RS 25-082 A Resolution To Submit An Advisory Question To The Qualified Voters Of The Borough At The November 4, 2025, Regular Borough Election To Enact A 7-Cent-Per-Gallon Motor Fuel Tax For 1.5 Years.

Sponsors: Nowers

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

AM 25-092 Approval Of Change Order No. 2 To The E-911 And Dispatch Services Agreement No. 16-100P, Modifying Contract Language And Increasing The Annual Cost By \$340,000 In Fiscal Year 2026 For Two Additional Dispatchers.

AM 25-102 Award Of Bid No. 26-012B To Granite Construction Company For The Contract Amount Of \$338,032.40 To Deliver Salted Sand And Road Chips For Fiscal Year 2026 Road Maintenance, Schedule A.

- AM 25-103** Award Of Bid No. 26-012B To Western Construction & Equipment For The Contract Amount Of \$231,870 To Deliver Salted Sand And Road Chips For Fiscal Year 2026 Road Maintenance, Schedule B.
- AM 25-104** Award Of Bid No. 26-015B To Orion Construction, Inc. For The Contract Amount Of \$193,400 To Supply And Install New Crematory At Animal Care.
- AM 25-105** Award Of Bid No. 26-019B To K & H Civil Constructors For The Contract Amount Of \$1,296,157 For Settler's Bay Drive Pavement Preservation.
- AM 25-107** Award Of Bid No. 26-022B To QAP For The Contract Amount Of \$654,523 To Construct East Lakeview Road Pavement Preservation.
- RS 25-077** A Resolution Amending The Scope Of Work For The Wasilla Pool Drain And Backwash Pit Repairs To Include Americans With Disabilities Act And Safety Upgrades At Recreation Facilities, Including The Purchase Of An Americans With Disabilities Compliant Pool Chair Lift, Automatic Door With Access Control, Locker Room Security Doors, And Entrance Door Crash Bars.
- RS 25-078** A Resolution Approving The Amended Budget For Lynda Lake Portage At Beaver Lake Road And Birch Creek Tributary At Mastodon Road Fish Passage; And Approving The Time Extensions Of The Areawide Budget Appropriations For Fish Passage Birch Creek Tributary At Mastodon Road Match Fund And Fish Passage Neklason Lake At Homebuilt Circle Match Fund.
- AM 25-098** Authorization To Purchase A Tanker Fire Apparatus For The Willow/Caswell Fire Service Area No. 140 From General Fire Apparatus/Rosenbauer For The Amount Of \$626,846.
- AM 25-108** Authorization To Purchase 2010 Pierce Velocity Pumper Refurbishment Services From Hughes Fire Equipment, Inc. For The Amount Of \$1,018,973.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

IX. VETO

There were no vetoes presented.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 09/02/25 Assembly Chambers)

OR 25-091 An Ordinance Naming The Big Lake Facility The Big Lake Lions Recreation Center.

Sponsors: Gamble

OR 25-094 An Ordinance Reappropriating National Opioid Settlement Funding Totaling \$21,000 For The Department Of Emergency Services Peer Support Training Program.
RS 25-080: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Department Of Emergency Services Peer Support Training Program.

Assemblymember Bernier moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearings for September 2, 2025.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, Assemblymember Bernier, and Mayor DeVries

Excused: 1 - Assemblymember Hale

B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

25-121 Mayoral Requests for Confirmation
Animal Care and Regulation Board
Rebecca Bond-Knuth
Rebecca Bond-Knuth, resignation
Borough Area School Site Selection Committee
Wilfred Fernandez, resignation
Enhanced 911 Advisory Board
Michelle Hoyt
Local Emergency Planning Committee
Dwayne Shelton, resignation
Mariko Kays

Assemblymember Bernier moved to confirm the appointments and resignations requested by the Mayor.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, Assemblymember Bernier, and Mayor DeVries

Excused: 1 - Assemblymember Hale

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.

XI. RECONSIDERATION

There were no reconsiderations.

XII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember McKee questioned IM 25-170 and spoke to staff and their hard work.

Assemblymember Bernier said a prayer.

Mr. Hays reminded the Assembly of the open houses for proposed Motor Fuel Excise Tax, Port MacKenize, and the groundbreaking for American Charter.

Assemblymember Nowers spoke to the open houses regarding the proposed Motor Fuel Excise Tax and having FAQs available for the public on the Borough webpage, spoke to Assemblymember McKee's questions about IM 25-170, the State Fair, Andy Couch, and salmon closures.

Assemblymember Sumner spoke to a resolution amending the lake management plan codes.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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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 REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, 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: 6 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Maxwell Sumner, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, and Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov

Excused: 1 - Assemblymember Ron Bernier

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mike Brown, Borough Manager, requested to pull Ordinance Serial No. 25-066 from introduction. Stated that the intent is to bring it back for introduction at a later meeting.

Mayor DeVries queried if there was any objection.

There was no objection noted, and the agenda was approved as amended.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Wasilla City Council Member Catherine Cottle.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

25-127

A. Special Assembly Meeting Minutes: 08/02/25

B. Regular Assembly Meeting Minutes: 08/05/25

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 was no report provided.

2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

There was no report provided.

3. State of Alaska

There was no report provided.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committees

Assemblymembers Nowers and Gamble reported on the most recent meeting of the Committee.

2. Assembly Public Relations

There were no reports provided.

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

1. State/Federal Legislation

2. Strategic Planning Issues

Ken Barkley, Emergency Services Director, reported on the most recent flooding concerns and current flood advisories.

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos advised that he has requested an executive session be added to the September 16, 2025, regular meeting agenda regarding the MV Susitna project.

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule and pertinent election dates. Stated that the Joint Assembly/School Board meeting scheduled for September 9, 2025, will be held at the School District Administration Building.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

25-128

1. Agriculture Advisory Board: 05/21/25
2. Enhanced 911 Advisory Board: 06/10/25
3. Gold Trail RSA Board of Supervisors: 06/25/25
4. Greater Talkeetna RSA Board of Supervisors: 07/10/25
5. Library Board: 05/13/25
6. Library Citizens' Advisory Board: 05/12/25
7. Planning Commission: 08/04/25
8. Platting Board: 07/17/25
9. South Lakes Community Council: 08/04/25
10. Susitna Community Council: 05/01/25
11. Trapper Creek RSA Board of Supervisors: 11/06/24, 02/26/25, 07/02/25,
12. West Lakes FSA Board of Supervisors: 05/12/25, 07/14/25

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

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

IM 25-171 Reporting Conclusion Of Contract No. 24-097B with Dirtworks, Inc. For a Total Contract Amount Of \$774,908.62, For The Jupiter Avenue and Diana Avenue Road Improvements Project.

IM 25-180 Informing The Assembly Of The Managers Signature On Five Grant Applications For The Online With Libraries Grants Through The Alaska State Library.

IM 25-193 Informing The Assembly That The Community Development Department Has Applied For A Grant From Mat-Su Trails & Parks Foundation For The Government Peak Recreation Area.

The informational memorandums were presented, and no comments were noted.

VII. SPECIAL ORDERS

A. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (You can speak under one of the audience participations on the agenda, but not both; Three Minutes Per Person.)

The following person spoke to concerns with the increase of property taxes, to concerns with the proposed gas excise tax, and to the need to diversify the tax base: Scott Lindbloom.

The following person spoke in support of AM 25-110: Rod Hanson, North Lakes Community Council.

The following person spoke to concerns with voting precincts being located at schools: Tom Roberson.

The following person spoke to concerns with librarians determining what books are in libraries: Jackie Goforth and Linda Spohn.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)

OR 25-091 An Ordinance Naming The Big Lake Facility The Big Lake Lions Recreation Center.

Sponsors: Gamble

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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 Gamble moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-091.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Fonov

OR 25-094 An Ordinance Reappropriating National Opioid Settlement Funding Totaling \$21,000 For The Department Of Emergency Services Peer Support Training Program.
RS 25-080: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Department Of Emergency Services Peer Support Training Program.

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 Hale moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-094.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Fonov

C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (You can speak under one of the audience participations on the agenda, but not both; Three Minutes Per Person.)

There was no one present who wished to testify.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

AM 25-106 An Approval Of Change Order No. 5 For Contract No. 24-157(B) With Orion Construction, Inc. To Add \$50,490.36 To Relocate The X-Ray Machine, Install A Wet Table, And Relocate The Water Tanks For The Animal Care Upgrades Project.

AM 25-111 Award Of Bid No. 26-029B To NC Machinery In The Contract Amount Of \$195,410 To Purchase A Waste Handler Loader.

AM 25-112 Award Of Bid No. 26-041Q To The Boutet Company, Inc. In The Amount Of \$102,025 For North Doubloon Drive, West Cove Drive, West Jolly Roger Drive, And West Captain Kidd Avenue Improvements.

AM 25-113 Award Of Proposal No. 25-175P To PND Engineers, Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$353,979 To Provide Jonesville Shooting Park Professional Services.

AM 25-114 Approval Of Election Officials For The November 4, 2025, Regular Borough Election.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Hale 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 Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

RS 25-083 A Resolution Approving The Amended Budget For 2024 Transportation System Projects, By Reallocating \$496,256 From The Skeetawk Bus Access Road Project, To The Echo Lake Drive Improvements Project.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember McKee moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 25-083.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Fonov

AM 25-110 Approval Of Change Order No. 6 For Contract No. 22-104P(C) With Dowl, LLC. To Add \$790,622 For The Shaw Elementary Turn Lane Project; And To Extend The Contract To December 1, 2028.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember McKee moved to adopt AM No. 25-110.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Fonov

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

IX. VETO

There were no vetoes.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 09/16/25, Assembly Chambers)

OR 25-066 An Ordinance Amending MSB 17.23, Port Mackenzie Special Use District, Repealing The Port Development Permit And Associated Standards.

Sponsors: Gamble

[Clerk's Note: Ordinance Serial No. 25-066 was pulled from introduction to be introduced at a later date.]

OR 25-073 An Ordinance Amending MSB 17.02, Mandatory Land Use Permit; MSB 17.55, Setback And Screening Easements; MSB 17.65, Variances; MSB 17.80, Nonconforming Structures; And MSB 17.125, Definitions.

Sponsors: Hale

OR 25-085 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating A Grant In The Amount Of \$44,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Health And Social Services, For The Continued Management Of Points Of Dispensing And Medical Countermeasures
RS 25-071: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Continued Management Of Points Of Dispensing And Medical Countermeasures.

OR 25-093 An Ordinance Repealing The Public Purpose Dedication Placed On A Borough-Owned Lot Identified As 49715 South Bendapole Road And Approving The Sale Of The Borough Parcel To The Adjacent Property Owner, Carlos Perez.

OR 25-095 An Ordinance Approving An Appropriation Of \$108,578 From The Areawide Fund Balance For Bridge And Railroad Crossing Major Maintenance And Repair And The Dust Control Program.

- OR 25-096** An Ordinance Approving The Fair Market Value Sale Of Borough-Owned Land To The Alaska State Department Of Transportation And Public Facilities For The Purpose Of Public Right-Of-Way Needed For The Bogard Road At Engstrom Road Improvements.
- OR 25-097** An Ordinance Reappropriating \$300,000 From Solid Waste Project Fund 25048-2400-2428 To Solid Waste Project Fund 25020-2400-2413 For The Enlargement Of Municipal Solid Waste Cell 4.
RS 25-084: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Enlargement Of Municipal Solid Waste Cell 4.
- OR 25-098** An Ordinance Extending Northeast Tehneta Communications Tower Funding.
- OR 25-099** An Ordinance Appropriating \$16,271 From Willow-Caswell Fire Service Area Fund Balance To Willow-Caswell Fire Service Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget.
- OR 25-100** An Ordinance Appropriating \$4,092,915 From School Debt Service Fund Balance And Reappropriating \$521,681.23 In Remaining Insurance Proceeds From The Mat-Su Central School Construction Project To Fund The Shortfall In State School Construction Bond Debt Service Reimbursement.
- OR 25-101** An Ordinance Reappropriating \$229,652.85 From Grant Match - Local And Tribal Consistency Funding To Community Transportation Program Match For The Inner/Outer Springer Loop Pathway Project.
RS 25-085: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.
Assemblymember Hale moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearings for September 16, 2025.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Fonov

B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

25-130 Mayoral Requests For Confirmation

Local Emergency Planning Committee
Andrew Gorn, resignation

Assemblymember Hale moved to confirm the resignation requested by the Mayor.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Fonov

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)

OR 25-102 An Ordinance Amending MSB 43.20, Subdivision Development Standards To Allow Lots To Be Reduced To 30,000 Square Feet Within Single-Family Residential Land Use Districts.

Sponsors: Sumner

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Sumner moved to refer Ordinance Serial No. 25-102 to the Planning Commission for 90 days.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Fonov

XI. RECONSIDERATION

There were no reconsiderations.

XII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Gamble spoke to the need to ensure that new school sites include traffic studies.

Ms. McKechnie stated that the State is responsible for deciding the locations of voting precincts. Advised that the School District intends to close schools for an in-service day on years that the State's election coincides with the Borough's election.

Mr. Brown noted that the groundbreaking ceremony for American Charter Academy is scheduled for September 4, 2025, at 1 p.m. Stated that the Big Lake Lions Club Recreation Center will have a grand reopening on September 12, 2025, at 3 p.m. Advised that the Palmer Job Corp Center was constructed on land that the Borough owns and that he is monitoring the funding in the event that it is defunded after the current one-year lease expires. Spoke to the coming Williwaw community cleanup that will occur next week. Spoke to the fuel excise tax open houses that have been scheduled at the request of the Assembly.

Assemblymember Nowers thanked Assemblymember Gamble for the history of the Big Lake Lion's Club. Spoke to concerns that there are no incentives for developers to construct sidewalks in conjunction with subdivision development. Noted that sidewalks provide safe walking areas for residents

Assemblymember Hale thanked the Butte Community for sharing space for his father's memorial ceremony. Spoke to the new park that is being constructed in the Butte.

Assemblymember McKee spoke in support of government transparency.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

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
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Dmitri Fonov, District 6
Ron Bernier, District 7

MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, 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: 6 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Maxwell Sumner, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

Telephonic: 1 - Assemblymember Tim Hale

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Deputy Mayor Ron Bernier.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

There were no minutes of preceding meetings.

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

Katie Gardner, Mat-Su Borough School District Assistant Superintendent reported on the activities of the School District.

3. State of Alaska

There was no report provided.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committees

There were no reports provided.

2. Assembly Public Relations

Assemblymember Fonov took a moment of silence for Charlie Kirk. Spoke to his admiration of him.

Assemblymember Bernier spoke in admiration of Charlie Kirk. Said a prayer.

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

1. State/Federal Legislation

2. Strategic Planning Issues

Leah Jones, Information and Technology Director, provided an update on the new Borough website.

Mr. Brown noted that the new website will be changing domains from Matsugov.us to Matsu.gov and that the old address will still lead to the Borough webpage. Spoke to a letter than he sent to the Federal Delegation regarding the Talkeetna dike repair.

25-144 Emergency Preparedness Expo Handout

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

There were no comments provided.

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule and pertinent election dates. Noted that the Assembly had been previously provided a copy of the draft election brochure. Spoke to editorial changes that Assemblymember Nowers had brought to her attention that would be made.

Mayor DeVries queried if there were any additional changes to the election brochure.

Assemblymember Sumner moved to include an "in memoriam" statement in the election brochure, to be inserted on the back side of the front cover, to read as follows: "In Memoriam

As we prepare for civic participation and to exercise our democratic rights during this election season, we pause to honor those who have paid the ultimate price in defense of free speech and liberty.

Throughout the history of democracy there are individuals who have stood for the right to speak freely, to challenge authority, to gather peacefully, and to live by conscience. Some have done so in public squares, on campuses, in protests, during rallies, in legislatures, or in the media. And too many have met in violence for that struggle.

Their sacrifice is not in vain.

Freedom of expression is the cornerstone of democracy. It is the right our founding fathers placed first among their amendments. It is the foundation on which we build honest discourse, responsible governance, and meaningful community. In honoring those who have fallen—regardless of background, belief, or political persuasion—we reaffirm our commitment to civil dialogue, peaceful engagement, and the right of every citizen to speak their truth without fear or reprisal.

In the Matanuska–Susitna Borough, where liberty is a cherished value, we are reminded that democracy does not take care of itself—it must be protected, nurtured, and renewed. The integrity of our elections, the accountability of our elected

officials, and the resilience of our communities all depend on our willingness to stand up for these freedoms.

Let us remember with reverence the men and women who have given their lives for liberty. And let us honor them not only in words, but through our actions—in voting our principles, in listening with patience, in speaking with respect, and in standing firm for the rights of others, even when we disagree.

Freedom continues only when we defend it. May their courage serve to inspire ours."

Assemblymember Fonov moved a primary amendment to insert at the end of the statement, the words, "In Memoriam of Charlie Kirk, 1993-2025."

Assemblymember Nowers moved a secondary amendment to insert the words "and other victims of political violence" after the words "Charlie Kirk."

The secondary amendment passed by the following vote:

- Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Gamble
- No:** 3 - Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

Assemblymember Bernier moved a secondary amendment to insert the following language: "In God We Trust" Centered, at the end of the statement.

The secondary amendment passed by the following vote:

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

The primary amendment passed as amended by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

No: 2 - Assemblymember Hale and Assemblymember Sumner

The Election Brochure was approved as amended.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

25-136

1. Big Lake Community Council: 05/27/25, 07/08/25
2. Butte FSA Board of Supervisors: 04/09/25
3. Local Road Service Area Advisory Board: 07/17/25
4. Colony North RSA Board of Supervisors: 11/12/24
5. North Lakes Community Council: 05/29/25, 06/26/25
6. Sutton Community Council: 04/30/25, 05/28/25, 06/25/25, 07/30/25

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

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

IM 25-196

Informing The Assembly Of The Submittal Of The 2025 Department Of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency Port Security Grant Application Requesting \$600,000 To Purchase Enhanced Security Equipment For Port Mackenzie.

IM 25-198

Informing The Assembly Of 12 Fiscal Year 2026 Winter Trail Care And Grooming Grant Agreements That Will Be Provided To The Manager For Signature.

IM 25-202

Informing The Assembly Of Acceptance Of Glass And Glass Recycling Taking Place At The Valley Center For Recycling Solutions Beginning September 9, 2025.

IM 25-203

Informing The Assembly Of The Managers Signature On And Submittal Of A United States Geological Survey Grant Application For LiDAR Acquisition.

The informational memorandums were presented, and no comments were noted.

VII. SPECIAL ORDERS

A. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (You can speak under one of the audience participations on the agenda, but not both; Three Minutes Per Person.)

The following person spoke to how she felt the Library Citizens' Advisory Committee were acting inappropriately: Jackie Goforth.

The following person spoke to concerns with pornographic books in Borough libraries: Karen Harris.

The following person spoke in support of AM No. 25-121: Rod Hanson, North Lakes Community Council.

The following person spoke to concerns with road service area maintenance: Jason Dunn.

The following person opined that schools should not be voting precincts: Tom Roberson.

The following person thanked Assemblymember Sumner for his statements on political violence: Patti Fisher.

The following person spoke to concerns with the lack of Christian authors in Borough libraries: Karen Crandall, Library Board member.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 25-073: Laura Wright,

The following person opined that there has been no inappropriate activities of the Library Board: Ruth Wood.

The following person spoke in support of the Library Board and of Ordinance Serial No. 25-073: Annemarie Fife.

The following person thanked Assemblymember Fonov for his remarks about Charlie Kirk: Victor Fonov.

The following person spoke to concerns with lack of setback areas on islands: Ray Davis.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)

OR 25-073 An Ordinance Amending MSB 17.02, Mandatory Land Use Permit; MSB 17.55, Setback And Screening Easements; MSB 17.65, Variances; MSB 17.80, Nonconforming Structures; And MSB 17.125, Definitions.

Sponsors: Hale

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Alex Strawn, Planning and Land Use Director, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 25-073 and suggested that the current committee be kept on for future advisory needs: Rod Hanson, North Lakes Community Council President.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 25-073: Kim Zazo.

The following person spoke to concerns with Ordinance Serial No. 25-073 and read a letter from the Meadow Lakes Community Council into the record: Steven Edwards.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 25-073 and to a 75-foot setback: Patricia Fisher.

The following person spoke to concerns with Ordinance Serial No. 25-073: Esther Huddleston.

The following person spoke to concerns with the lack of setback areas on islands and other concerns with Ordinance Serial No. 25-073: Al Bolea

The following person spoke in opposition of Ordinance Serial No. 25-073: Lori Boltz.

The following person spoke to concerns that Ordinance Serial No. 25-073 does not provide enough waterbody protection: Andy Couch.

The following persons spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 25-073: Ruth Wood, John Strassenburg, and Laura Wright.

The following persons spoke to the need to protect waterbodies within the Borough: Jessica Speed, Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership Coordinator; and Margaret Stern, Susitna River Coalition Program and Communications Director.

(The meeting recessed at 7:55p.m. and reconvened at 8:08 p.m.)

Assemblymember Hale moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-073.

**Assemblymember Nowers moved a primary amendment to strike all new proposed language, retain current code language:
*except for MSB 17.55.020(D), by striking that language; and
* keeping the added language in MSB 17.55.005.**

The primary amendment failed by the following vote:

Yes: 1 - Assemblymember Nowers

No: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

Assemblymember Fonov called for the question (to stop debate).

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

The main motion failed by the following vote:

No: 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

OR 25-085 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating A Grant In The Amount Of \$44,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Health And Social Services, For The Continued Management Of Points Of Dispensing And Medical Countermeasures
RS 25-071: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Continued Management Of Points Of Dispensing And Medical Countermeasures.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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. 25-085.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

OR 25-093 An Ordinance Repealing The Public Purpose Dedication Placed On A Borough-Owned Lot Identified As 49715 South Bendapole Road And Approving The Sale Of The Borough Parcel To The Adjacent Property Owner, Carlos Perez.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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. 25-093.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

OR 25-095 An Ordinance Approving An Appropriation Of \$108,578 From The Areawide Fund Balance For Bridge And Railroad Crossing Major Maintenance And Repair And The Dust Control Program.
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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. 25-095.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

OR 25-096 An Ordinance Approving The Fair Market Value Sale Of Borough-Owned Land To The Alaska State Department Of Transportation And Public Facilities For The Purpose Of Public Right-Of-Way Needed For The Bogard Road At Engstrom Road Improvements.
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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. 25-096.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

OR 25-097 An Ordinance Reappropriating \$300,000 From Solid Waste Project Fund 25048-2400-2428 To Solid Waste Project Fund 25020-2400-2413 For The Enlargement Of Municipal Solid Waste Cell 4.
RS 25-084: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Enlargement Of Municipal Solid Waste Cell 4.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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. 25-097 and Resolution Serial No. 25-084.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

OR 25-098 An Ordinance Extending Northeast Tehneta Communications Tower Funding.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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. 25-098.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

OR 25-099 An Ordinance Appropriating \$16,271 From Willow-Caswell Fire Service Area Fund Balance To Willow-Caswell Fire Service Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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. 25-099.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

OR 25-100 An Ordinance Appropriating \$4,092,915 From School Debt Service Fund Balance And Reappropriating \$521,681.23 In Remaining Insurance Proceeds From The Mat-Su Central School Construction Project To Fund The Shortfall In State School Construction Bond Debt Service Reimbursement.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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. 25-100.

Assemblymember Nowers moved a primary amendment by striking "\$4,092,915" and inserting "\$4,614,597" in its place, from School Debt Service Fund Balance and delete the "reappropriating \$521,6681.23 in remaining insurance proceeds from the Mat-Su Central School Construction Project" throughout the legislation.

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

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

OR 25-101 An Ordinance Reappropriating \$229,652.85 From Grant Match - Local And Tribal Consistency Funding To Community Transportation Program Match For The Inner/Outer Springer Loop Pathway Project.
RS 25-085: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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. 25-101.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (You can speak under one of the audience participations on the agenda, but not both; Three Minutes Per Person.)

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 25-073: David Palmer.

The following person spoke in opposition of AM No. 25-121: Michael Bowles.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

RS 25-092 A Resolution Authorizing Borough Administration To Include Indirect Costs At The Granting Agency's De Minimis Rate For Grant Applications, If Allowed By The Granting Agency.

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

AM 25-115 Authorization To Purchase Fiscal Year 2026 Computer Replacements From Government Computer Sales Under The National Association Of State Procurement Officials Agreement In The Amount Of \$184,508.

AM 25-118 Approval Of Contract Amendment No. Three To Contract No. 23-055P With Heartland Water Technology To Extend The Completion Date To October 31, 2025, For The Design Build Leachate Management System.

AM 25-119 Acceptance Of Late Filed And Retroactive Senior Citizen And Disabled Veteran Exemption Applications For The Period Of July And August 2025.

AM 25-120 Approval of Change Order For Contract No. 25-050B With Orion Construction, Inc. In The Amount Of \$88,930.19 To Widen The Scale House Drive Lane Area.

AM 25-122 Approval Of Additional Authority For Administration To Add Up To \$600,000 To Contract No. 25-004B With Neeser Construction, Inc. For The Edgerton Parks Road And Mountain Trails Drive Upgrade And Pathway Project; And To Extend The Final Completion Date Up To One Year.

Ms. McKechnie read the consent agenda into the record.

Assemblymember Bernier moved to approve the consent agenda as read into the record by the Clerk.

Assemblymember Sumner moved to divide the question to take up AM Nos. 25-116 and 25-121, separately.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

FIRST SEGMENT: The motion to approve the consent agenda, with the exception of AM Nos. 25-116 and 25-121, passed by the following vote:

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

AM 25-116 Award Of Bid No. 26-014B To BSI Equipment LLC In The Contract Amount Of \$488,866 To Purchase A Front-Loading Compact Truck.

SECOND SEGMENT: Assemblymember Bernier moved to adopt AM No. 25-116.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

AM 25-121 Award Of Proposal No. 25-117P To Valley Transit In The Contract Amount Of \$2,226,420 To Provide Public Transportation Services In The Borough.

THIRD SEGMENT: Assemblymember Bernier moved to adopt AM No. 25-121.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

IX. VETO

There were no vetoes.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 10/07/25, Assembly Chambers)

OR 25-104 An Ordinance Naming An Area Of The Crevasse Moraine Trail System In Memory Of Dot Helm.

Sponsors: Nowers

OR 25-105 An Ordinance Amending MSB 5.25.038, Service Area No. 24: Talkeetna Fire Service Area; Annexing Parcels Located In The Area Of East Rollie L. Circle, South Leroy Davies Road, And Riddle Avenue Into The Talkeetna Fire Service Area Without The Placement Of The Question On The Ballot And Finding That It Services The Public Interest.
RS 25-087: A Resolution Finding The Annexation Of Eight Parcels In The Area Of East Rollie L. Circle, South Leroy Davies Road, And Riddle Avenue Into The Talkeetna Fire Service Area Serves The Public Interest.

Sponsors: Bernier

OR 25-106 An Ordinance Amending MSB 5.25.145, Service Area No. 136: West Lakes Fire Service Area By Annexing Six Parcels Off Of West Susitna Parkway Into The Fire Service Area Without The Placement Of The Question On The Ballot And Finding That It Serves The Public Interest.
RS 25-088: A Resolution Finding The Annexation Of Six Parcels Off The West Susitna Parkway Into The West Lakes Fire Service Area Serves The Public Interest.

Sponsors: Gamble

OR 25-107 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating A Grant From The United States Fish And Wildlife Service And Required Match Funding From The Fiscal Year 2023 Areawide Budget Appropriation For Cottonwood Creek At Fern Street Fish Passage.
RS 25-089: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget And Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into An Agreement For Cottonwood Creek At Fern Street Fish Passage; And Approving The Time Extension Of The Fiscal Year 2023 Areawide Budget Appropriation For Fish Passage Improvements Match Funds.

OR 25-108 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$10,712 From The Mat-Su Disc Golf Association For The Alcantra Saw Crew Project.
RS 25-090: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget And Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into The Grant Agreement For The Alcantra Saw Crew Project.

OR 25-109 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$319,837 From The Alaska State Department Of Health And Social Services For The Human Services Community Matching Grant Program
RS 25-091: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Human Services Community Matching Grant Program.

OR 25-110 An Ordinance Approving An Appropriation Of \$800,000 From The Central Mat-Su Fire Service Area Fund Balance To Purchase A Wildland Apparatus.
RS 25-093: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work For A Project To Purchase A Wildland Apparatus For The Central Mat-Su Fire Service Area.

Assemblymember Bernier moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearings for October 7, 2025.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

25-138 Mayoral Requests for Confirmation

Planning Commission
Maksim Zagorodniy

Assemblymember Bernier moved to confirm the appointment requested by the Mayor.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

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)

OR 25-103 An Ordinance Repealing MSB 17.02, Mandatory Land Use Permit In Its Entirety; And Adopting MSB 17.07, Land Use Review.

Sponsors: Sumner

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Sumner moved to refer Ordinance Serial No. 25-103 to the Planning Commission for 90 days.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

OR 25-111 An Ordinance Amending MSB 17.55 To Reduce The Minimum Building Setback Requirement From Pedestrian Easements.

Sponsors: Nowers

Assemblymember Nowers moved to refer Ordinance Serial No. 25-111 to the Planning Commission for 90 days.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

XI. RECONSIDERATION

There were no reconsiderations.

XII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos stated that if members have ideas that they would like to see implemented for the waterbody setback issue to please see him. Noted that the principle of equal protections applies. Provided examples of how variances are applied when property is sold. Commented that it is a complicated process.

Assemblymember McKee thanked Assemblymembers Fonov and Bernier for the Charlie Kirk memorial. Spoke to expansion of interested young republicans being interested since this incident.

Assemblymember Bernier said a prayer.

Assemblymember Hale urged the Assembly to carefully consider riparian buffer requirements when the waterbody setback legislation is crafted. Spoke to how successful riparian buffers are.

Assemblymember Nowers thanked staff and volunteers who contributed to the Williwaw cleanup. Spoke to her disappointment that the waterbody setback issue is still unresolved. Noted that she intends to work hard on that issue.

Mr. Brown noted that briefing will occur at the next meeting regarding the Williwaw cleanup. Spoke to how impressive the support was to make the cleanup happen. Noted that it was a learning experience and largely led by the Planning Department.

Assemblymember Sumner thanked staff for their support of the Williwaw cleanup. Noted that it was one property that sparked the beginning and was very impressive.

Assemblymember Gamble thanked staff for the open house at the Big Lake Recreation Center. Spoke to his surprise how well it was attended. Noted games and food that were available for attendees. Spoke to a vigil that his son had recently attended for Charlie Kirk, which moved him greatly.

Assemblymember Fonov thanked the public for attending the meeting. Stated that he is looking forward to the final report on the Williwaw cleanup. Thanked all those that participated.

Assemblymember Bernier moved to suspend the rules and to extend the meeting past 10 p.m. and not to exceed 10:30 p.m.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

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. Federal Transit Administration Ferry Obligations

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. In particular, to discuss Federal Transit Administration Ferry Obligations. Those present during the executive session were the Mayor, the Assembly, the Manager, the Attorney, and the Clerk.

The motion passed without objection and the Assembly entered into executive session at 9:39 p.m.

Assemblymember Bernier moved to exit executive session.

The motion passed without objection and the Assembly exited executive session at 10:20 p.m.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

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
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 REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, 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: 6 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Maxwell Sumner, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

Telephonic: 1 - Assemblymember Dee McKee

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. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

There were no minutes of preceding meetings.

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 was no report provided.

3. State of Alaska

There was no report provided.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committees

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

25-152 Williwaw Subdivision Project Report

Jason Ortiz, Planning and Land Use Deputy Director; and Wade Long, Development Services Manager, reported on the Williwaw Subdivision Project.

Mayor DeVries provided a token of appreciation to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints for their work on the Williwaw Subdivision clean-up project.

Mr. Brown noted that the state and federal priorities will be up for public hearing on October 21, 2025. Requested if the Assembly has any changes, to please let him know as soon as possible so that he can have amendments prepared in advance of the meeting. Spoke to seeking state funding for the Talkeetna dike and revetment repair project. Advised that with the support of Madam Mayor, that staff reports for legislation on all items but complex issues will be eliminated. Noted that questions can still be asked and that the intent is to cut-down on the length of Assembly meetings.

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos noted that neglected and deteriorating properties are a nationwide issue. Commented that Jason Ortiz has presented at the last two Alaska Municipal Attorneys Association conferences about neglected and deteriorating properties. Stated that other municipalities have had a lot of interest in how the Borough is accomplishing these types of projects.

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule and pertinent election dates. Introduced Amber Outzs, a temporary employee assisting with the coming election.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

25-147

1. Agriculture Advisory Board: 08/20/25
2. Glacier View Community Council: 05/22/25
3. Library Board: 08/12/25
4. Planning Commission: 08/18/25, Resolution No. 25-13
5. Platting Board: 08/21/25
6. South Lakes Community Council: 09/08/25
7. Susitna Community Council: 08/07/25
8. Talkeetna Community Council: 07/07/25, 08/04/25
9. Talkeetna FSA Board of Supervisors: 12/30/24
10. Tanaina Community Council: 05/27/25, 06/24/25
11. Willow Area Community Organization: 06/04/25, 07/02/25, 08/06/25
12. West Lakes FSA Board of Supervisors: 08/11/25

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

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

IM 25-204 Reporting Conclusion Of Contract No. 24-156B With Tutka, LLC. For A Total Contract Amount Of \$326,463.39 For The Tanya Court Improvements Project.

IM 25-214 Reporting Conclusion Of Contract No. 24-125B with Granite Construction For a Total Contract Amount Of \$740,984.10 For The Knik Knack Mud Shack Road Improvements Project.

- IM 25-218** Informing The Assembly Of The Request For The Managers' Signature On The Agreement For Mutual Aid/Automatic Aid For Emergency Services Between The Borough And The City Of Houston.
- IM 25-219** Informing The Assembly Of A Grant Amendment For The State Homeland Security Program For Time Extension Only That Will Be Presented To The Manager For Signature.
- IM 25-220** Informing The Assembly That The Land Management Division Will Be Conducting A Competitive Sale Of Previously Approved And Offered Tax Foreclosure Properties In The Fall Of 2025.
- IM 25-221** Reporting Conclusion Of Contract No. 25-052B With CGC Services, LLC. For A Total Contract Amount Of \$417,336 For The Wasilla High School Boiler Upgrades Project.
- IM 25-225** Informing the Assembly of the Manager's Signature on a Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the Alaska State Department of Transportation's Fiscal Year 2025 Port Infrastructure Development Program Grant Application for the Port Mackenzie Multimodal Freight Expansion Project.
- IM 25-226** Informing The Assembly Of The Submittal Of Fiscal Year 2025 Port Infrastructure Development Program Grant Requesting \$6,281,645 For The Port Mackenzie Cell 1 Replacement And Dry Storage Project.
The informational memorandums were presented, and no comments were noted.

VII. SPECIAL ORDERS

A. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (You can speak under one of the audience participations on the agenda, but not both; Three Minutes Per Person.)

The following persons spoke in opposition to the statement included in the 2025 Election brochure, and the need for the election brochure to be impartial and free of religious statements: Fran Seger-Boss, Dave Musgrave, Ginger Bain, Peg Redding, Hannah Peitrich, Matt McHenry, Doug Hill, Angie Fraker, Linda Sloan, Ellen Vande Visse, Michael Hannon, Mable Wimmer, Jim Sykes, Bill Campbell, Abigail Saltonstall, Liz Jackson, and Norm Harris.

The following person spoke to concerns with the cost of road improvements as listed in the capital improvement projects for Meadow Lakes Road Service Area: Esther Huddleston.

The following persons spoke in support of the statement included in the election brochure and to their admiration of Charlie Kirk: Linda Spohn and Mark Spohn.

The following person spoke to concerns with pornographic books in Borough libraries: Jackie Goforth.

The following person spoke to concerns with excessively luminous headlights: John Miller.

The following person spoke to the Empty Library Memorial in Berlin, Germany that is dedicated to the memory of the Nazi book burnings of May 10, 1933 and noted that this is Banned Books week: Kathy Kysar.

The following persons spoke to their admiration of Charlie Kirk, to concerns that the partisan and religious language in the election brochure could be offensive to some, and in opposition of the excise fuel tax: Janice Norman, Dave Johnson, Desiree Terry.

The following person spoke to the pros and cons of Charlie Kirk and to concerns with a directional sign on Bogard Road: Travis Friesen.

The meeting recessed at 7:50 p.m. and reconvened at 8:01 p.m.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)

OR 25-104 An Ordinance Naming An Area Of The Crevasse Moraine Trail System In Memory Of Dot Helm.

Sponsors: Nowers

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 25-104:
Colleen Vague.

Assemblymember Nowers moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-104.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

OR 25-105 An Ordinance Amending MSB 5.25.038, Service Area No. 24: Talkeetna Fire Service Area; Annexing Parcels Located In The Area Of East Rollie L. Circle, South Leroy Davies Road, And Riddle Avenue Into The Talkeetna Fire Service Area Without The Placement Of The Question On The Ballot And Finding That It Services The Public Interest.
RS 25-087: A Resolution Finding The Annexation Of Eight Parcels In The Area Of East Rollie L. Circle, South Leroy Davies Road, And Riddle Avenue Into The Talkeetna Fire Service Area Serves The Public Interest.

Sponsors: Bernier

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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. 25-105 and Resolution Serial No. 25-087.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

OR 25-106 An Ordinance Amending MSB 5.25.145, Service Area No. 136: West Lakes Fire Service Area By Annexing Six Parcels Off Of West Susitna Parkway Into The Fire Service Area Without The Placement Of The Question On The Ballot And Finding That It Serves The Public Interest. RS 25-088: A Resolution Finding The Annexation Of Six Parcels Off The West Susitna Parkway Into The West Lakes Fire Service Area Serves The Public Interest.

Sponsors: Gamble

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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 Gamble moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-106 and Resolution Serial No. 25-088.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

OR 25-107 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating A Grant From The United States Fish And Wildlife Service And Required Match Funding From The Fiscal Year 2023 Areawide Budget Appropriation For Cottonwood Creek At Fern Street Fish Passage.

RS 25-089: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget And Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into An Agreement For Cottonwood Creek At Fern Street Fish Passage; And Approving The Time Extension Of The Fiscal Year 2023 Areawide Budget Appropriation For Fish Passage Improvements Match Funds.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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 Sumner moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-107 and Resolution Serial No. 25-089.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

OR 25-108 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$10,712 From The Mat-Su Disc Golf Association For The Alcantra Saw Crew Project.

RS 25-090: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget And Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into The Grant Agreement For The Alcantra Saw Crew Project.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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 Fonov moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-108 and Resolution Serial No. 25-090.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

OR 25-109 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$319,837 From The Alaska State Department Of Health And Social Services For The Human Services Community Matching Grant Program
RS 25-091: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Human Services Community Matching Grant Program.
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person opined that the grant funds should be dedicated to supporting addiction treatment and not be provided to the communities: Michael Bowles.

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

Assemblymember Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-109 and Resolution Serial No. 25-091.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

OR 25-110 An Ordinance Approving An Appropriation Of \$800,000 From The Central Mat-Su Fire Service Area Fund Balance To Purchase A Wildland Apparatus.

RS 25-093: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work For A Project To Purchase A Wildland Apparatus For The Central Mat-Su Fire Service Area.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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 Sumner moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-110 and Resolution Serial No. 25-093.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (You can speak under one of the audience participations on the agenda, but not both; Three Minutes Per Person.)

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 25-104: Steven Marquiss.

The following person spoke to concerns with property tax assessment increases that are scheduled to increase exponentially in only the Butte area: Michael Bowles.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

RS 25-099 A Resolution Amending The Scope Of Work For HVAC System For Central Landfill Warm Storage Facility To Enlarge Municipal Solid Waste Cell 4.

RS 25-101 A Resolution Amending The Allocation Percentage Breakdown Of Opioid Remediation Funds.

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

AM 25-123 Award Of Bid No. 26-037B To Tutka, LLC. In The Contract Amount Of \$131,750 For Site Improvement Activities For A Future Warm-Storage Fire Station And Truck Fill Site.

AM 25-126 Award Of Proposal No. 26-052P To NV5 Geospatial, Inc. In The Amount Of \$499,974.28 For Aerial Imagery Acquisition 2026-2028.

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 Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

RS 25-094 A Resolution Amending The Scope Of Work For The Online Auction Services Project To Complete The Material Site Development And Reclamation Project.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember McKee moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 25-094.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

AM 25-117 Award Of Bid No. 25-057C To Kendall Ford Of Anchorage In The Amount Of \$337,920 To Replace Six Fleet Vehicles.
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember McKee moved to adopt AM No. 25-117.

Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment by striking the purchase of all six Ford Rangers.

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

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

AM 25-124 Award Of Bid No. 26-045B To Steppers Construction, Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$264,975 For The Design/Build Of A Covered Storage Building At The Operations And Maintenance Facility.
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember McKee moved to adopt AM No. 25-124.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

No: 2 - Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Fonov

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

IX. VETO

There were no vetoes.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 10/21/25, Assembly Chambers)

- RS 25-072** A Resolution Approving 2026 State Legislative Priorities.
- RS 25-073** A Resolution Approving 2026 Federal Legislative Priorities.
- OR 25-112** An Ordinance Appropriating Talkeetna Sewer And Water Fund Reserves In The Amount Of \$40,353.38 To Pay Off Debt Associated With Talkeetna Community Water Upgrades.
- OR 25-113** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating A Grant In The Amount Of \$9,700 From The American Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals For The Dog Kennel Enrichment Upgrades Project.
RS 25-095: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Dog Kennel Enrichment Upgrades Project.
- OR 25-114** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating A Grant In The Amount Of \$35,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Military And Veterans' Affairs For Phase One Of A Tsunami Warning Sirens Project.
RS 25-097: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Phase One Of A Tsunami Warning Sirens Project.
- OR 25-115** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$37,220 From The Mat-Su Trails And Parks Foundation For Signage For The Government Peak Recreation Area.
RS 25-098: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Signage For The Government Peak Recreation Area.

OR 25-116 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating Additional Disaster Relief Funds In The Amount Of \$447,459 For The November 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake.

RS 25-100: A Resolution Approving The Amended Scope Of Work And Budget For November 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake Disaster Relief Funds.

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 October 21, 2025.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

25-149 Mayoral Requests for Confirmation

Agriculture Advisory Board

Melissa Lytwyn, resignation

Borough Area Schools Site Selection

Richard Allen

Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board

Kimberly Waychoff, resignation

Alpine RSA No. 31

Traci Barickman

Assemblymember Bernier moved to confirm the resignations and appointments requested by the Mayor.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

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.

XI. RECONSIDERATION

There were no reconsiderations.

XII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos advised that he and Ms. Bodolay will be at the National Attorney's Conference and will not be present at the next meeting.

Assemblymember Bernier thanked those that attended the meeting and said a prayer.

Assemblymember Hale thanked the public who testified to concerns with the language that was added to the election brochure. He noted that he agrees with them that it was a partisan statement and has no place in the Borough's election brochure. He further added that something of this magnitude should have had public input. Noted that he voted against the amendments that included it, but voted in support of the main motion to adopt the amended election brochure. He stated his regret that he did not vote against it.

Assemblymember Nowers spoke to the need to be cautious in what is included in future election brochures. Spoke in opposition to political violence and in support of free speech.

Assemblymember McKee spoke to her appreciation for the testimony that was provided and the civility with which it was presented.

Mr. Brown addressed the public testimony that the Borough is raising land assessment values by 400 percent or more in the Butte area. Related that a screenshot of a training tool was either taken out of context or misunderstood, giving rise to the rumor that the Borough was trying to pull a fast one. Advised that at no time was the Borough considering such a massive correction to the inventory of land values. Stated that the Assessor annually reports to the Assembly on land valuations, prior to tax assessments being sent out. Noted he was excited to announce that he signed a new permit for Alaska Range Resources for a Port District permit, for a mining exploration contract.

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the number of election workers that are still needed. Noted that there is training and compensation provided.

Assemblymember Sumner thanked everyone that testified to their concerns about the election brochure. Noted that the Assembly does not always get everything right and that he has regrets as to how it has played out. Spoke to concerns with the length of the state and federal priorities legislation that will be up for public hearing at the next meeting. Advised that he will be making a motion to split it up into shorter more prioritized lists.

Assemblymember Gamble expressed concern about the assessment training tool being released to the public.

Mr. Brown spoke to the speed with which misinformation travels on social media. Summarized to how property values are determined. Noted that it was a training document and publicly available record, with sample values listed at four to five times the normal assessment. Noted that the Borough strives for transparency with all things and that the release of the training screenshot is not something to be concerned with because the Borough has nothing to hide. Noted that there is a disparity in land values all over the Borough and they need to be brought into equal standing.

Assemblymember Gamble spoke to his pleasure with the success of the Port MacKenzie open house. Noted how well attended it was. Thanked Mr. Brown and staff for their hard work on the event.

Assemblymember Fonov spoke to his desire to be able to correct the public when they speak to misinformation. Spoke to his decision to move the amendment to the election brochure. Noted his admiration of Charlie Kirk.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

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

Tim Hale, 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



Doug Glenn, District 1
Richard Allen, District 2
Brendan Carpenter, District 3
Michael Collins, District 4
Linn McCabe, District 5
Maksim Zagorodniy, District 6
Curt Scoggin, District 7

MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

JOINT ASSEMBLY/PLANNING COMMISSION

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Joint Assembly/Planning Commission meeting was held on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 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. ASSEMBLY ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Maxwell Sumner, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov, Assemblymember Ron Bernier, and Assemblymember Edna DeVries

Excused: 2 - Assemblymember Tim Hale and Assemblymember Dee McKee

PLANNING COMMISSION ROLL CALL

Present: Richard Allen, Brendan Carpenter, Linn McCabe, Maksim Zagorodniy, and Curt Scoggin.

Excused: Doug Glenn and Michael Collins

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Planning Commissioner Richard Allen.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person.)

The following person spoke to the need for thoughtful discussion regarding the Community Growth Solutions Study and ensuring public input: Rod Hanson.

VI. JOINT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Community Growth Solutions Study (Requested by Administration)

25-161 Study Handout

Alex Strawn, Planning and Land Use Director, provided a presentation on the Community Growth Solutions Study.

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, PLANNING COMMISSION, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Commissioner Zagorodniy spoke to his appreciation of the opportunity to participate. Stated that he is looking forward to working on community growth.

Commissioner Carpenter spoke to the need to focus on pedestrian paths and trails for safety. Noted the potential for growth down Knik Goose Bay Road. Spoke to the many impacts when it comes to locating schools.

Assemblymember Nowers spoke to townsite plans that were brought forward by former Mayor DeVilbiss. Spoke to the need to ensure safe travel for residents. Opined that the study is a good start. Noted the need to incentivize developers.

Commissioner McCabe spoke to the need to grow the economy and have a solid direction for growth.

Mr. Brown noted that the presentation was only an overview to provide information. Encouraged the Assembly to determine what projects they want to see worked on. Noted that the study will come forward as an informational memorandum. Commended the Borough's first responders for their dedication to the active shooter exercise this past weekend. Noted the many agencies that collaborated to make it happen. Advised that it was the largest exercise of its kind in the history of Alaska.

Commissioner Allen thanked Mr. Strawn for the presentation.

Ms. McKechnie advised that she had last reported that 19 hand count officials are still needed for the election., which is almost seven precincts. Requested that if the body knows anyone to please send them to the Clerk's Office.

Assemblymember Sumner spoke to the volume of the handout that was provided to the body. Stated that he has a lot of questions and concerns that he will be addressing. Spoke to the need to figure out a way to manage growth. Noted that he learned that Houston, Texas is the largest metropolitan community without zoning. Stated that he is unsure if the Borough needs zoning as Houston, Texas is doing well. Spoke to recent testimony about a fire that had occurred and noted that he had requested that report to fully understand what had occurred.

Assemblymember Gamble spoke to the need to protect recreation options and should be included in the report. Spoke to an event that the Mat-Su Health Foundation conducted with the communities of Houston and Big

Lake where projects were discussed that could be funded by the foundation. Noted projects that were chosen by the communities. Thanked the Foundation for hosting the event.

Assemblymember Fonov spoke to information presented in the fire report being conflicted with testimony presented. Noted that it was likely an emotional event for the owners. Stated that he would go through the growth study and things that he wanted to address. Spoke to the need to not overregulate development and growth to add layers of difficulties to development. Opined that some things in the growth study were more restrictive than he would like to see.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.