

# 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



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 SPECIAL MEETING

6:00 PM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2024

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

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Thursday, October 3, 2024, 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 Bill Gamble, Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

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

The agenda was approved as presented.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assemblymember Gamble.

#### **V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

The following person spoke to concerns of not knowing what this meeting was being conducted for: Michael J. Bernstein.

The following person stated that he would have liked to speak to the candidates after their interviews: Keith Rominske.

## **VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

### **A. Filling the Assembly District 4 Vacancy - Candidate Interviews**

Madam Mayor noted that there are four candidates that the Assembly intended to interview this evening. Noted that one candidate had called the Clerk and advised that he had to leave town due to a family emergency and that he had requested to be interviewed telephonically.

Ms. McKechnie advised that she would call Richard Payne and exited the room. Upon her return, she announced that Richard Payne advised that he wouldn't be able to participate in a telephonic interview as he is currently boarding his plane. Thanked the Assembly for their consideration of his application for the Assembly District 4 vacancy.

Candidate Interview No. 1 - Mark Carling.

Ms. McKechnie asked questions of Mark Carling.

Candidate Interview No. 2 - Maxwell Sumner

Ms. McKechnie asked questions of Maxwell Sumner

Candidate Interview No. 3 - Colleen Vague

Ms. McKechnie asked questions of Colleen Vague

## **VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (For Subjects That Tend To Prejudice The Reputation Or Character Of Any Person, Provided That Person May Request A Public Discussion; Matters Which By Law Are Required To Be Confidential; And Matters Involving Consideration Of Government Records That By Law Are Not Subject To Public Disclosure.)**

## **A. Filling the Assembly District 4 Vacancy - Discussion of Qualifications**

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to enter into executive session for subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation or character of any person, provided that person may request a public discussion; matters which by law are required to be confidential; and matters involving consideration of government records that by law are not subject to public disclosure. Those present during the executive session were the Mayor, the Assembly, the Manager, the Attorney, and the Clerk.**

**There was no objection noted and the Assembly entered into executive session at 8:40 p.m.**

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

**There was no objection noted and the Assembly exited executive session at 8:45 p.m.**

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to appoint Maxwell Sumner to fill the Assembly District 4 vacancy.**

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

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

**Ms. McKechnie issued the oath of office to Assemblymember Sumner with his term beginning immediately.**

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

Assemblymember Fonov noted his pleasure with the way the interviews went. Welcomed Assemblymember Sumner. Stated that he hopes that the candidates who were not selected will remain involved in the community.

Ms. McKechnie thanked the candidates for applying. Congratulated Assemblymember Sumner on being selected.

Assemblymember Haled thanked the candidates for their thoughtful answers to the interview questions. Welcomed Assemblymember Sumner.

Assemblymember Bernier thanked everyone for participating in the meeting. Said a prayer.

Mr. Spiropoulos thanked the applicants. Congratulated Assemblymember Sumner on being selected.

Mayor DeVries thanked everyone for their participation in the meeting.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.



Mayoral Signature and Clerk Attestment

For

October 3, 2024, Special Assembly Meeting Minutes

(4 pages)

EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 12/17/24