

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2025

Budget Public Hearing

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, April 29, 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: 7 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Maxwell Sumner, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assemblymember Hale.

Mayor DeVries read a proclamation recognizing the National Day of Prayer into the record.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke to the Alaska Polar Fastpitch Organization and possible fee waiver request: Tanner Baird, Head Coach of Alaska Polar Fastpitch.

The following person spoke in support of the Jonesville Recreation project: Nancy Bertels.

The following person spoke in support of local libraries and spoke to Law Day and its history: Mary Robinson.

The following person spoke to concerns with a gravel pit at Mile 128 on the Parks Highway: Randy Crosby.

The following person requested support with seasonal snow removal for the Palmer Airport in the sum of \$50,000: Dave Cruz.

The following person spoke in support of the Palmer Library and the library receiving funds from residences borough-wide not just from City of Palmer residence and spoke in opposition to book banning: Cathleen Graber.

The following person spoke to obscenity in the schools and libraries and spoke in support of the Library Citizen's Advisory Committee and book reviews: Jackie Goforth.

The following person spoke to Road Service Area Advisory Board contracts and requested that the contracts awarded last year should go for rebid: Mokie Tew.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC HEARING

OR 25-025

An Ordinance Appropriating Monies From The Central Treasury For The Borough Operating Funds, Enterprise Funds, Education Operating Fund And Capital Funds, Establishing The Rate Of Levy For All Borough Functions For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025, And Ending June 30, 2026; And Setting The Surcharge Rate For The Wireline And Wireless Enhanced 911 Systems For The Period Of July 1, 2025, Through June 30, 2026.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person thanked the Borough for help with destination marketing and Gateway Visitor's Center: Casey Ressler, President and CEO of Mat-Su Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The following person spoke to the Sutton Library and requests continued support for the Borough libraries: Nancy Bertels.

There being no others present who wished to testify the public hearing closed.

Assemblymember Bernier moved to continue Ordinance Serial No. 25-025 to Thursday, May 1, 2025, at 6 p.m. in Assembly Chambers.

The motion passed without objection by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, Assemblymember Bernier, and Mayor DeVries

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Assemblymember Bernier said a prayer.

Ms. McKechnie spoke to Joell Church, Records Management Officer, and her retirement from the Clerk's Office.

Assemblymember Sumner spoke to the MEA Annual Meeting earlier in the day.

Mayor DeVries acknowledged that Ms. McKechnie has been with the Borough for 24 years. Spoke to the proclamation in recognition of the National Association of Letter Carriers Annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive that will happen at the May 6, 2025, meeting and how she plans to bring food to donate and encouraged others to do the same.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:14 p.m.