

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
Robert Yundt, District 4
Mokie Tew, 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, MAY 4, 2023

Budget Public Hearing

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Thursday, May 4, 2023, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Mayor Edna DeVries.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Robert Yundt, Assemblymember Mokie Tew, and Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov

Excused: 1 - Assemblymember Tim Hale

Telephonic: 1 - 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 Mayor DeVries.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke to concerns with the school and libraries budget and certain programs: Chris Tyree.

The following person spoke in support of the Borough's public libraries and requested the Assembly adopt the proposed library budget: Nancy Bartels.

The following person spoke to concerns with the librarians conference and spoke in opposition to pornography's in libraries and schools: Jackie Goforth and Karen Lewis.

The following quired if the Borough has taken a position on the Arctic Winter Games on transgender athletes: Eric Anderson.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC HEARING

OR 23-023

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, 2023, And Ending June 30, 2024; And Setting The Surcharge Rate For The Wireline And Wireless Enhanced 911 Systems For The Period Of July 1, 2023, Through June 30, 2024.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Cheyenne Heindel, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

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

The following person spoke on opposition to the Borough paying librarian union dues and librarian conference attendance: Jackie Goforth.

The following person spoke in favor of the proposed budget for the Matanuska-Susitna Convention and Visitors Bureau and to their partnership with the Arctic Winter Games: Mark Austin.

The following person reported on the School Boards Resolution Serial No. 23-006 amendment: Katie Gardner, Mat-Su Borough Deputy Superintendent.

Assemblymember Yundt moved to continue the public hearing on Ordinance Serial No. 23-0023 to Tuesday, May 9, at 6 p.m. in Assembly chambers.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

Excused: 1 - Assemblymember Hale

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Assemblymember Fonov requested more discussion being allowed in meetings and asked Mr. Spiropoulos how the rules for meetings are adopted and what it takes to change them.

Assemblymember Nowers thanked the school district for their report. Spoke to property tax reliance of the Borough and funding needs. Spoke to her attendance at the Academy Charter School World Fair event.

Assemblymember Yundt thanked the Mat-Su Borough school teachers and spoke to producing high test scores and how we can keep and attract good teachers and help reduce teachers cost of insurance.

Mr. Brown thanked the School Board and working with Katie Gardner. Spoke to a fiscal planning.

Assemblymember Tew thanked the School District for their Resolution.

Assemblymember Mckee spoke to the School Districts Resolution.

Mr. Spiropoulos spoke to the budget adoption.

Assemblymember Bernier thanked the School District. Said a prayer.

Mayor DeVries spoke to the public process for a meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.