

# 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  
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, MAY 2, 2024

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### Budget Deliberations and Possible Adoption

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Thursday, May 2, 2024, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Mayor Edna DeVries.

#### II. ROLL CALL

**Present:** 6 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Robert Yundt, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, and Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov

**Telephonic:** 1 - Assemblymember Ron Bernier (entered at 6:06 p.m.)

#### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

#### IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assemblymember Hale.

#### V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was no one present who wished to testify.

#### VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

## **A. BUDGET DELIBERATIONS AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION**

**OR 24-024** 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, 2024, And Ending June 30, 2025; And Setting The Surcharge Rate For The Wireline And Wireless Enhanced 911 Systems For The Period Of July 1, 2024, Through June 30, 2025.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 24-024.**

**Technical Amendment. No. 1**

**Amendment No. 1  
Technical Amendment**

**Assemblymember Yundt moved the technical amendment as follows:**

**\* Tab: RSA, Page: 299, Dept: 000, Div: 000, Account 428.600 Annual Road Maintenance Contract, by striking \$940,000 and inserting \$1,001,519 in its place;**

**\* Tab: RSA, Page: 300, Dept: 000, Div: 000, Account 446.400 Transfer to 405/410 Capital Projects, by striking \$635,000 and inserting \$573,481 in its place;**

**\* Tab: RSA, Page: 343, Dept: 000, Div: 000, Account 428.600 Annual Road Maintenance Contract, by striking \$1,638,200 and inserting \$1,688,663 in its place; and**

**\* Tab: RSA, Page 344, Dept: 000, Div: 000, Account 446.400 Transfer to 405/410 Capital Projects, by striking \$208,500 and inserting \$158,037 in its place.**

**The primary amendment passed by the following vote:**

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

**Amendment No. 2**

**Port Enterprise Fund - Port Development and Proposed Positions  
Pages 435 and 542**

**Assemblymember Gamble moved a primary amendment and any other conforming changes as follows:**

**\* the Port Enterprise Fund, Port Development by adding a Port Operations Specialist Position;**

**\* increasing the permanent wages (411.100) appropriation by \$65,892 and the benefits (412.xxx) appropriation by \$50,294; and**

**\*decreasing the temp wages (411.200) appropriation by \$31,610, for an overall increases to the Port Enterprise fund budget of \$84,576.**

**The primary amendment passed by the following vote:**

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

### **Amendment No. 3**

**Areawide Fund - Nondepartmental (page 60) and Capital Projects (page 488)**

**Assemblymember Hale moved a primary amendment and any conforming changes as follows:**

**\* the areawide fund, non-departmental, transfer to 415/425/430/435/440/470 (445.220) by increasing the appropriation by the amount of \$250,000;**

**\* adding the capital project - Pioneer Peak Trailhead Expansion for the amount of \$250,000; and**

**\* the following project description: Austin Helmers Trailhead.**

**This project would expand the existing limited parking area and install a concrete vaulted toilet system at the trailhead. Currently, the existing parking is approximately 1/10th of an acre, and vehicles park on the narrow shoulder of the roadway, creating a safety hazard. The proposed improvements would expand the trailhead facilities to nearly 1 acre. There is currently a substandard outhouse at the trailhead that does not meet environmental regulations and is in a state of disrepair.**

**The primary amendment passed by the following vote:**

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

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to continue Ordinance Serial No. 24-024, to May 9, 2024.**

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

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

## **VII. VETO**

### **A. Motion to Override Any Possible Mayoral Veto on Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Items (Ordinance Serial No. 24-024)**

**There were no vetoes presented.**

## VIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Assemblymember Hale thanked the body for support of the Pioneer Peak Trailhead expansion project.

Assemblymember Nowers noted her support of all the amendments made this evening. Spoke to her attendance at the Academy Charter World Fair. Related that she had some enjoyable conversations with the kindergarteners.

Ms. McKechnie advised that she has family in town and will be in and out of the office. Requested that if the Assembly should need her for anything, to please call her cell phone.

Assemblymember Yundt related that there is a wrestling tournament all weekend long at the Menard Sports Complex, complete with food trucks.

Assemblymember Gamble noted that he also attended the Academy Charter World Fair. Stated that he was a judge and enjoyed looking at the displays. Noted that his favorite was the one that the fourth graders created. Commented that it was a lot of fun.

Assemblymember Fonov stated that he is looking forward to the Port generating more revenue. Noted he is looking forward to the remainder of the budget cycle.

Assemblymember Bernier opined that prayers should be said for all residents. Said a prayer.

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.



Mayoral Signature and Clerk Attestment

For

May 2, 2024, Assembly Budget Deliberations Minutes

(5 pages)

EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 06/04/24