

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

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

## BOROUGH MAYOR

Vern Halter

## BOROUGH CLERK

Lonnie R. McKechnie, CMC

## BOROUGH MANAGER

John Moosey

## BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Nicholas Spiropoulos



## BOROUGH ASSEMBLY

Jim Sykes, District 1

Matthew Beck, District 2

George McKee, District 3

Ted Leonard, District 4

Dan Mayfield, District 5

Barbara J. Doty, District 6

Randall Kowalke, District 7

## MEETING MINUTES

### ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2017

## I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, December 19, 2017, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Vern Halter.

## II. ROLL CALL

**Present:** 7 - Assemblymember Jim Sykes, Assemblymember Matthew Beck, Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Ted Leonard, Assemblymember Dan Mayfield, Assemblymember Barbara J. Doty, and Assemblymember Randall Kowalke

## III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Halter inquired if there were any changes to the agenda.

Assemblymember Kowalke requested to pull Action Memorandum No. 17-114 from the consent agenda.

Assemblymember Sykes requested to pull Resolution Serial No. 17-086 from the consent agenda.

The agenda was approved as amended without objection.

## IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Sonya Conant, Human Resources Director.

## V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

[17-078](#)

A. Regular Meeting Minutes: 12/05/17

Mayor Halter queried if there were any changes to the meeting minutes as presented.

**The minutes were approved as presented by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

## VI. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

### A. AGENCY REPORTS (MSB 2.12.082; Seven minutes per person)

#### 1. Reports From Cities

Mayor Bert Cottle, City of Wasilla, spoke to the activities of the city.

#### 2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

There was no report from the School District.

### B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### 1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee On School Issues

There was no report provided.

#### 2. Assembly Public Relations

Assemblymember Sykes spoke to the recent Whistle Stop session with the Mayor regarding Borough police powers.

### C. MANAGER COMMENTS

#### 1. State/Federal Legislation

#### 2. Strategic Planning Issues

#### 3. Local Hazard Mitigation Planning

Ms. Jessica Smith, Chief Planner, reported on local hazard mitigation planning and the role of the Local Emergency Planning Committee

#### **4. Update On State Health Care Authority On Borough Plan**

6:04 Mr. Greg?? - health care state - sb74 health care authority, public comments, legislation drafted to present to the senate lowering health care costs

#### **5. LNG Pipeline Project And Terminus**

Mr. Moosey provided a status update on the LNG Pipeline project and noted there would be more information provided in the future.

#### **6. Veterans Wall Committee**

Mr. Moosey reported on the Veterans Memorial Wall relocation project funding from the City of Wasilla and the Mat-Su Health Foundation.

Mr Moosey spoke to Governor Walker's proposed budget.

Mr Moosey reported on a letter from the State Assessor regarding the audit performed by the state assessor in June 2017. He noted the Borough received a rating of 100%.

**Assemblymember Beck moved to direct the Manager to schedule special meetings on Tuesday, January 30 and Tuesday, February 6, 2018, at 4 p.m. for the purpose of reviewing and amending MSB 03.04.075 and 03.04.045. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

#### **D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

#### **E. CLERK COMMENTS**

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule.

#### **F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

[17-075](#)

1. Agriculture Advisory Board: 09/20/17, 10/18/17
2. Aviation Advisory Board: 11/09/17 Recommended Items
3. Caswell FSA Board of Supervisors: 08/09/17
4. Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board: 10/23/17
5. Planning Commission: 10/23/17, 11/06/17, Resolution Nos. 17-52 and 17-55
6. Platting Board: 10/19/17
7. Transportation Advisory Board: 08/23/17, 09/27/17
8. Joint Central and West Lakes FSA Board of Supervisors: 10/09/17
9. Sutton Community Council: 07/19/17, 08/23/17, 09/20/17, 10/18/17
10. Trapper Creek Community Council: 09/21/17

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

## G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

[IM 17-210](#)

Notification To The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly That The City Of Palmer Is Exercising The Option To Purchase Fire Station 3-1 Property, Identified As Lots 10, 11, And 12, Block 12, Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corporation No. 1 Subdivision, And All Improvements Thereon In Accordance With Terms Of The Lease Agreement By And Between The Matanuska-Susitna Borough And The City Of Palmer (MSB007352).

**Sponsors:** Borough Manager

[IM 17-212](#)

Reporting Of Conclusion Of Contract 17-116B To Ficklin Construction, LLC For The Final Contract Amount Of \$286,423.35 For Construction Of The Joe Redington Junior/Senior High School Running and Ski Trails.

**Sponsors:** Borough Manager

[IM 17-214](#)

Reporting Of Conclusion Of Contract For Bid No. 17-102B To Sandstrom & Sons Inc., For The Final Contract Amount Of \$548,780.61 For The Port Mackenzie Open Cell Dock Repairs/Preliminary Work Project.

**Sponsors:** Borough Manager

The informational memorandums were presented and no comments were noted.

## VII. SPECIAL ORDERS

**A. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (MSB 2.12.081; Three Minutes Per Person.)**

There were no persons to be heard.

**B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)**

[OR 17-151](#) An Ordinance Amending MSB 5.25.145, To Annex 266 Properties Located On And Around The Susitna Parkway Area Into The West Lakes Fire Service Area No. 136.

RS 17-082: A Resolution Finding The Annexation Of Properties Located On And Around Susitna Parkway Into The West Lakes Fire Service Area No. 136 Serves The Public Interest Without The Placement Of The Question On The Ballot.

**Sponsors:** Mayfield

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in opposition of Ordinance Serial No. 17-151 and Resolution Serial No. 17-082: Ms. Cheri Morris

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 17-151 and Resolution Serial No. 17-082: Ms. Linda Lipse, Mr. Pat Daniels, Ms. Audrey Williford, Mr. Keith Lipse, and Ms. Terry Snyder

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

**Assemblymember Mayfield moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 17-151 and Resolution Serial No. 17-082. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

**No:** 1 - Assemblymember McKee

[OR 17-152](#)

An Ordinance Requesting Reappropriations Of \$8,200 From The Butte Fire Service Area Capital Projects Budget, Fund 405, Project No. 45067-6606, To Project No. 45067-6604, To Expand The Gear Storage Project; And \$4,200 From Project No. 45067-6605, To Project No. 45142-6606, To Purchase Communications Equipment For The Compressed Air Foam System Truck.

RS 17-084: A Resolution Amending The Budgets For Project Nos. 45067 And 45142, And Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Project No. 45067-6604, To Allow For The Purchase Of Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Storage Equipment And Project No. 45142-6606, To Purchase Compressed Air Foam System Truck Communications Equipment.

**Sponsors:** Borough Manager

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

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

**Assemblymember Sykes moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 17-152 and Resolution Serial No. 17-084. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

[OR 17-153](#) An Ordinance To Reappropriate \$1,732,505 From The Valley Pathways School Capital Project No. 40188, Fund 400, To The Palmer High School Renovation Capital Project No. 40181, Fund 400.  
RS 17-085: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Palmer High School Renovation, Capital Project No. 40181.

**Sponsors:** Borough Manager

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

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

**Assemblymember Beck moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 17-153 and Resolution Serial No. 17-085. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

#### **C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person.)**

There were persons who spoke under Audience Participation.

#### **D. CONSENT AGENDA**

##### **1. RESOLUTIONS**

[RS 17-087](#) A Resolution Amending The Scope Of Work For Project No. 45257, To Purchase A Forklift, And Cab And Chassis Vehicle For The Emergency Services Fleet Maintenance Division.

**Sponsors:** Borough Manager

[RS 17-088](#) A Resolution Establishing Dates Certain For Payment, Delinquency, Protest, And Appeal Of 2018 Regular Assessment And Tax Rolls, Business Inventory Filing, And For The Commencement Of Hearings Before The Board Of Equalization.

**Sponsors:** Borough Manager

Ms. McKechnie read the above legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Beck moved to approve the Consent Agenda as read into the record by the Clerk. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

[RS 17-086](#) A Resolution Discontinuing The Marijuana Advisory Committee Prior To The Sunset Date Of June 30, 2018.

**Sponsors:** Halter

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Sykes moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 17-086. The motion passed by the following vote:**

## 2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

[AM 17-114](#) Approval Of Contract Extension To Contract No. 13-093P With The Boutet Company For Construction Management Services To December 31, 2018, And To Add Additional Change Order Authority.

**Sponsors:** Borough Manager

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Kowalke moved to approve Action Memorandum No. 17-114. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

## VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PENDING MOTION: Assemblymember Sykes Moved To Direct The Manager To Facilitate A Panel And Have Community Meetings Regarding Crime.

**Sponsors:** Sykes

**Assemblymember Sykes moved a primary amendment by adding the following four tasks to be accomplished between January 1 and March 31, 2018:**

**1) January: Outreach to form a committee made up of those who may have abilities to help reduce crime through enforcement measures, education, prevention strategies, early intervention, and rehabilitation. They may include, but are not limited to:**

**Law Enforcement - cities or police officials from Wasilla, Palmer, the Alaska State Troopers, retired officers, tribal peace officers, Alaska State Department of Corrections, and parole officers.**

**Private security firms for residential and business**

**Crimestoppers**

**Neighborhood watch, community councils, and community policing**

**Borough Attorney - for legal options that are available, structure, process, and possible costs**

**Rehabilitated convicts willing to share how other potential offenders can be routed away from crime**

**School District - education and prevention programs**

**Opioid Task Force, My House, other treatment facilities**

**Mat-Su Health Foundation**

**Youth Court**

**Governor's Office and State Troopers - budget items for the increase in public safety and neighborhood watch**

**2) Late January and February: Fact gathering - a summary of the current situation narrative, and reliable statistics where available:**

**The number of law enforcement and peace officers available in cities, the Borough, and other agencies**

**What are the impacts of education efforts, neighborhood watch, youth court, neighborhood policing, the connection of drug usage to property and other crimes**

**3) Late February: Creating a list of possible options and opportunities for cooperation among the groups aforementioned.**

**Include voluntary, cost-effective, private sector, grant, possible formation of police districts and what may be required.**

**4) March: Holding at least two major public meetings at a school or other public facility to bring ideas to the general public for consideration, gather new ideas and opportunities to find complimentary and cost-effective strategies for reducing crime, both short-term and long-term.**

**Assemblymember Beck moved a secondary amendment to change the timeframe as follows:**

- 1) by striking "January" and inserting "May" in its place;**
- 2) by striking "January and February" and inserting "May and June" in its place;**
- 3) by striking "February" and inserting "June" in its place; and**
- 4) by striking "March" and inserting "July" in its place.**

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

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

**No:** 1 - Assemblymember Sykes  
addition to amendment - see Sykes motion verbiage  
Beck primary amendment to change the meeting schedule to May June July timeframe

1. May
2. May - June
3. June
4. July

sykes opposed; all others yes  
main motion as amended -

**The main motion as amended passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Doty

**No:** 2 - Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Kowalke

## **IX. VETO**

There were no vetoes presented.

## **X. NEW BUSINESS**

## A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing January 2, 2018, Assembly Chambers)

[OR 17-142](#) An Ordinance Establishing A Nonconforming Use Section Within MSB 17.29, And Modifying MSB 17.80, By Eliminating References To Nonconforming Uses In Flood Hazard Areas.

**Sponsors:** Borough Manager

[OR 17-154](#) An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$14,548.57 From Matanuska Telephone Association To Fund 440, Project No. 20323, For Upgrading And Enhancing The Telecommunications And Information Services Within The Matanuska-Susitna Library Network.

**Sponsors:** Borough Manager

Ms. McKechnie read the above legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Beck moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the clerk and set the public hearings for January 2, 2018. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

## B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

### 1. VACANCY REPORT

[17-076](#) 12/19/17 - Vacancy Report

**Sponsors:** Halter

Emergency Medical Services Board  
Resignation of Mia Mangione

**Assemblymember Beck moved to confirm the Mayor's resignation. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

## 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**

Ms. McKechnie wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr. Moosey noted that Ms. Helen Munoz had called his office and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Assemblymember Doty wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Assemblymember McKee spoke to public support regarding the plastic bag ordinance and gave information on the usage of plastic bags in the Borough.

Assemblymember Sykes thanked the Assembly for the discussion on the meeting items. He expressed condolences to the families of Mr. Charlie VonGunten and Mr. Gary VanDusen. He wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Assemblymember Leonard wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Assemblymember Kowalke wished everyone happy holidays. He commented that he was happy to include the 266 properties into the West Lakes Fire Service Area and noted that he wanted to resolve the issues of those Borough residents not being covered by fire service areas. He spoke to the lack of public support for a taxation for Borough police powers.

Assemblymember Mayfield spoke to the residents of the West Lakes Fire Service Area regarding limited fire services. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Assemblymember Beck expressed condolences to the family of Ms. Brandy Reed, a recent victim of a motor vehicle accident. He thanked the Borough staff for their hard work for the Borough citizens. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Halter spoke to the potential LNG pipeline project at Point MacKenzie. He spoke to creating a committee to research the possibility of the Borough instituting areawide police powers. He wished citizens and the Borough staff a Merry Christmas.

## **XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

#### **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.