

# 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



## BOROUGH ASSEMBLY

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 REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2024

## I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, July 16, 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:** 5 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

**Excused:** 2 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, and Assemblymember Robert Yundt

## III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

## IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assemblymember Fonov.

## V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

There were no minutes presented.

## VI. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

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

## **1. Reports From Cities**

There were no reports provided.

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

Katie Gardner, Deputy Superintendent of Business and Operations, reported on the countdown to the start of school, maintenance projects, and the fiscal year 2025 budget.

## **3. State of Alaska**

There were no reports provided.

## **4. North Lakes Community Council**

Rod Hanson, Chair of North Lakes Community Council, spoke to North Lakes Community Council Resolution Serial No. 24-01 and the council's concerns with the Bogard-Seldon Road corridor upgrades.

## **B. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

There were no reports provided.

### **2. Assembly Public Relations**

Assemblymember Fonov spoke to thanking God for former President Trump surviving an assassination attempt and the impact that it could have had on this nation.

## **C. MANAGER COMMENTS**

### **1. State/Federal Legislation**

### **2. Strategic Planning Issues**

Mr. Brown advised that the Alaska Department of Transportation extended Valley Transit's access to rural transit funding through June 2025. Noted that starting July 2025 the Borough will be applying for urban transit funding. Advised that staff is negotiating with Mat-Su Regional on health care costs. Spoke to Ordinance Serial No. 24-070 and 24-072 and encouraged the Assembly to review their IMs in detail.

## **D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

There was no report provided.

## E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule and noted pertinent election dates for the November 5, 2024, regular election included in the report.

## F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

### [24-097](#)

1. Abbreviated Plat: 06/05/24, 06/12/24, 06/19/24
2. Big Lake Community Council: 04/09/24, 04/23/24, 05/14/24
3. Big Lake RSA Board of Supervisors: 04/30/24, 05/13/24, Resolution No. 24-02
4. Enhanced 911 Advisory Board: 04/02/24
5. Local Road Service Area Advisory Board: 05/16/24
6. North Lakes Community Council: 04/25/24, 05/13/24, Resolution No. 24-01
7. Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board: 04/22/24
8. Planning Commission: Resolution No. 24-09, Resolution No. 24-11
9. Platting Board: 05/02/24, 05/16/24,
10. South Knik River Community Council: 04/18/24
11. Susitna Community Council: 05/02/24
12. Sutton Community Council: 07/26/23, 08/29/23, 10/25/23, 11/29/23, 12/29/23, 01/31/24, 02/28/24, 03/27/24, 05/29/24
13. Tanaina Community Council: 04/23/24
14. Wastewater & Septage Advisory Board: 03/06/24
15. Waterbody Setback Advisory Board: 03/26/24, 05/22/24, 06/11/24
16. West Lakes FSA Board of Supervisors: 05/13/24

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

## G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

### [IM 24-119](#)

Informing The Assembly Of A Memorandum Of Agreement Between The Matanuska-Susitna Borough And The City Of Palmer Which Has Been Signed By The Borough Manager, Regarding Maintenance Responsibilities For Bogard Road And Related Improvements, And Palmer Moose Drive.

[IM 24-129](#)

Informing The Assembly Of A Grant Amendment For A Budget Modification To Be Presented To The Borough Manager For Signature.

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.)

(Requires 11 Days Advance Notice And Must Otherwise Be In Compliance With The Necessary Code Requirements. If No Advance Notice Is Given, Persons Wishing To Speak May Do So Under The Audience Participation Section Of The Agenda.)

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

[OR 24-059](#)

An Ordinance Approving The Sale Of Borough-Owned Land Identified As 8784 East D Street And 8778 East D Street To The Adjacent Property Owner, Michael Barnes; And Repealing The Public Purpose Dedication Placed On The Borough Lots.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Jill Irisk, Land Disposal and Foreclosure Specialist, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

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

**Assemblymember Nowers moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 24-059.**

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

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Absent:** 2 - Assemblymember Hale, and Assemblymember Yundt

[OR 24-063](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$31,375 From The Mat-Su Trails And Parks Foundation As Partial Funding For The Purchase Of A Sutter 500 Trail Dozer.

RS 24-062: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget And Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into The Grant Agreement For A Sutter 500 Trail Dozer.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

No staff report was provided.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

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

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 24-063 and Resolution Serial No. 24-062.**

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

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Absent:** 2 - Assemblymember Hale, and Assemblymember Yundt

[OR 24-065](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating A Grant In The Amount Of \$25,000 From The Mat-Su Health Foundation For Emergency Services Personnel Supplies, Outreach Materials, And A Promotional Recruitment Video.

RS 24-066: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For A Mat-Su Health Foundation Grant For Emergency Services Ambulance Personnel Supplies, Outreach Materials, And A Promotional Recruitment Video.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Ken Barkley, Director of Emergency Services, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke to the working relationship between the Mat-Su Health Foundation and the Borough: Mary Robinson.

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

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 24-065 and Resolution Serial No. 24-066.**

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

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Absent:** 2 - Assemblymember Hale, and Assemblymember Yundt

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

The following person spoke to former Alaska Judge Joshua Kindred, the American Library Association, and the Library Citizens' Advisory Committee: Mary Robinson.

The following person spoke to the Library Citizens' Advisory Committee and Library Board: Jackie Goforth.

The following persons spoke to the Library Citizens' Advisory Committee and Assemblymember Fonov's Assembly Public Relations remarks: Karen Lewis and Mark Spohm.

The following persons spoke in support of the North Lakes Community Council Resolution Serial No. 24-01: Brent Taylor and John Miller.

The following person spoke in opposition to Ordinance Serial No. 24-053 and the role of the Planning Commission: Sam Hanson.

### D. CONSENT AGENDA

#### 1. RESOLUTIONS

#### 2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

[AM 24-081](#) Award Of Proposal No. 24-134P To Coffman Engineers, Inc. For The Contract Amount Of \$332,864.00 To Design Seismic Resiliency Improvements To The Dorothy Swanda Jones Building. Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to approve the consent as read into the record by the Clerk.**

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

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Absent:** 2 - Assemblymember Hale, and Assemblymember Yundt

### VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

## IX. VETO

There were no vetoes presented.

## X. NEW BUSINESS

### A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 08/06/24 Assembly Chambers)

[OR 24-053](#) An Ordinance Repealing MSB 17.48, Mobile Home Park Ordinance, In Its Entirety.

**Sponsors:** Yundt

[OR 24-066](#) An Ordinance Amending MSB Title 24, Animal Care And Regulation.

[OR 24-067](#) An Ordinance Establishing MSB 5.25.150 And Placing On The Ballot Of The November 5, 2024, Regular Election, The Unification Of The Willow Fire Service Area And The Caswell Fire Service Area.

RS 24-068: A Resolution Finding The Inclusion Of Properties In And Around The Willow And Caswell Fire Service Areas Into A Single, Unified Fire Service Area, Serves The Public Interest Without Circulation Of A Petition Among The Residents In Said Areas, As Allowed By MSB 5.10.015, Initiation By The Assembly.

[OR 24-068](#) An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$292,892.89 In Property Insurance Proceeds Related To The 2022 Windstorm Disaster.

[OR 24-069](#) An Ordinance Amending MSB 2.12, By Adding An Additional Audience Participation To The Agenda And Striking Persons To Be Heard.

**Sponsors:** Fonov

[OR 24-070](#) An Ordinance Relating To The Construction, Additions, Improvements, Betterments, Repair, Reconstruction, Or Acquisition Of Public Roads And Pathways And Facilities Related Thereto In The Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Together With All Necessary Equipment And Transportation Facilities Including Improving School Access, And The Acquisition Of Lands Or Rights In Lands In Connection Therewith; And A Debt Of The Borough, Authorizing The Issuance Of Areawide General Obligation Bonds Of The Borough In An Amount Not To Exceed The Sum Of \$33,320,000 To Finance The Cost, In Whole Or In Part, Of Such Public Roads, Facilities, And Lands, And Submitting The Proposition To The Voters At The November 5, 2024, Regular Borough Election.

**Sponsors:** Fonov



[OR 24-071](#) An Ordinance Approving To Offer Borough-Owned Lot 3, Block 1, Merri Belle Lake Subdivision Property In A Competitive Land Sale With The Minimum Bid Amount Based On Fair Market Value Determination By A Broker's Opinion Of Value.

[OR 24-072](#) An Ordinance Authorizing The Borough To Issue Areawide General Obligation Bonds In The Aggregate Principal Amount Of Not To Exceed \$58,146,600, To Finance The Acquisition, Design, Construction, Major Renovation And Renewal Of Educational And Related Capital Improvement Projects In The Borough, And To Submit The Question Of The Issuance Of Such Bonds To The Qualified Voters Of The Borough At The November 5, 2024, Borough Regular Election.

**Sponsors:** Yundt

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearings for August 6, 2024.**

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

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Absent:** 2 - Assemblymember Hale, and Assemblymember Yundt

## **B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

### **1. VACANCY REPORT**

[24-098](#) Mayoral Requests For Confirmation

Agriculture Advisory Board  
Alexandria Hoffman  
Local Emergency Planning Committee  
Cathi Kramer, resignation

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to confirm the appointments requested by the Mayor.**

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

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Absent:** 2 - Assemblymember Hale, and Assemblymember Yundt

### **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 presented.

### **XII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS**

Assemblymember McKee remarked she was thankful for the adjournment time as her son is at the Republican National Convention and she would like to see him in the crowd.

Assemblymember Bernier lead a prayer.

Assemblymember Nowers spoke in support of the North Lakes Community Council Resolution Serial No. 24-01. Noted her shock to the attack on former President Trump and political violence.

Assemblymember Gamble spoke to community councils and advisory boards being the eyes and ears of our community and thanked Mayor DeVries for attending the last Big Lake Community Council meeting.

### **XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

### **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.