

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
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 REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, May 6, 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 an Eagle Scout from the audience.

V. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

Mayor DeVries presented certificates of achievement to the following Eagle Scouts for their projects:

- * Hunter Cameron, Palmer Troop 300 - Palmer birdie boxes;
- * Naythen Daiger, Palmer Troop 54 - First-Aid kits for people experiencing homelessness;
- * Sean Edwards, Wasilla Troop 300 - Garden bed/trash can receptacle;
- * Hans Erickson, Wasilla Troop 300 - Trailhead Wesleyan Garden, shelving, Gaga Ball;
- * Ezekiel Fisher, Palmer Troop 300 - Colony bench restoration;
- * Charles Goodell, Wasilla Troop 300 - 4-H and FFA Market photo backdrop;
- * Kalebor Inman, Wasilla Troop 300 - Finger Lake Elementary picnic tables;
- * Samantha Ivery, Palmer Troop 2300 - Family Promise birthday boxes;
- * Lucas Mansfield, Wasilla Troop 300 - Transportation Museum Kaman SH-2F Exhibit;
- * Leila Petersen, Palmer Troop 2300 - Little Library; and
- * Seamus Wheeler, Wasilla Crew 359 - Flag Box initiative.

A. Mayoral Proclamation in Recognition of National Public Works Week

Mayor DeVries read the proclamation in recognition of Public Works Week into the record and presented it to Tom Adams, Public Works Director.

B. Mayoral Proclamation in Recognition of The National Association of Letter Carriers Annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

Mayor DeVries read the proclamation in recognition of the National Association of Letter Carriers Annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive into the record and presented it to Tom Devros.

VI. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

There were no minutes of preceding meetings.

VII. 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

There was no report provided.

3. State of Alaska

There was no report provided.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee On School Issues

Mike Brown, Borough Manager, reported on the most recent meeting of the committee.

2. Assembly Public Relations

Mayor DeVries spoke to the Drive Your Tractor to Work Day event and noted that it was well attended.

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

1. State/Federal Legislation

2. Strategic Planning Issues

There was no report provided.

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

There was no report provided.

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule and noted that pertinent election dates will be included soon.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

[25-079](#)

1. Abbreviated Plat: 04/02/25, 04/09/25, 04/16/25, 04/23/25
2. Agriculture Advisory Board: 03/19/25, Resolution No. 25-02
3. Big Lake Community Council: 03/11/25
4. Butte Community Council: 03/12/25
5. Butte FSA Board of Supervisors: 01/09/25
6. Central Mat-Su FSA Board of Supervisors: 01/13/25, 02/03/25
7. Chase Community Council: 01/22/25
8. Enhanced 911 Advisory Board: 02/11/25
9. Greater Talkeetna RSA Board of Supervisors: 03/13/25
10. Lazy Mountain Community Council: 04/14/22, 09/08/22, 10/13/22, 05/11/23, 10/12/23, 04/11/24, 10/10/24, Resolution No. 24-0001
11. Library Board: 01/14/25, 02/11/25
12. Local Emergency Planning Committee: 01/15/25
13. MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission: 01/09/25, 02/13/25, 03/13/25
14. Meadow Lakes Community Council: 03/12/25
15. Meadow Lakes RSA Board of Supervisors: 03/06/25
16. Planning Commission: Resolution No. 25-05
17. Platting Board: 04/03/25
18. Port Commission: 10/07/24, 01/10/25
19. South Colony RSA Board of Supervisors: Resolution Nos. 25-001, 25-02
20. South Lakes Community Council: 04/07/25
21. Susitna Community Council: 03/06/25
22. Talkeetna Community Council: 03/03/25
23. Tanaina Community Council: 01/28/25, 02/25/25, 03/25/25
24. Trapper Creek Community Council: 03/27/25
25. Willow Area Community Organization: 03/05/25
26. West Lakes FSA Board of Supervisors: 03/10/25

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

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

[IM 25-101](#)

Informing The Assembly Of The Intent To Subdivide Lot 5, U.S. Survey No. 3483 Into Two Lots For The Purpose Of A Less Than Fair Market Value Sale Of Borough-Owned Property To The Louise/Susitna/Tyone Community Association For A Public Purpose.

[IM 25-103](#)

Informing The Assembly Of The Submittal Of A Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant Application Requesting \$22,935.48 To Purchase Fire Extinguisher Training Equipment.

Notifying The Assembly Of The Manager's Intent To Amend The Management Agreement With Valley Community For Recycling Solutions, Inc. To Transfer Maintenance Of The Recycling Facility, To The Mat-Su Borough Consistent With Other Borough Facilities.

The informational memorandums were presented, and no comments were noted.

VIII. SPECIAL ORDERS

A. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (You can speak under one of the audience participations on the agenda, but not both; Three Minutes Per Person.)

The following person thanked the Public Works Department, Assemblymember Fonov, and Mayor DeVries for their assistance in fixing a flooding issue in her neighborhood, spoke to concerns with road access to Shaw Elementary School, and to the need for traffic calming measures in that area: Melody McCullough.

The following person spoke in support of waiving user fees at Alcantra Ballfields: Tanner Baird, Alaska Polar Fast Pitch.

The following person opined that Borough libraries should utilize RFID tags on books to keep pornographic books out of the hands of children and to concerns with a Borough contract with the Rose Group: Karen Lewis.

The following person noted that locally sourced milk comes from Delta Junction, spoke to the need for a commuter rail, and in support of removing the old train tracks from downtown Palmer: Travis Friesen.

The following person spoke to concerns with pornographic books in libraries and concerns with Marxist social engineering: Jackie Goforth.

The following person urged the Assembly to put all road service area contracts back out to bid: Moke Tew, former member of the Assembly.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)

[OR 25-018](#)

An Ordinance Conveying The Borough's Remaining Interest In The Real Property Estate Identified As Tax Id Nos. 21N05W36A002 And 21N05W36A003 To Mark And Sandra Stahl; And Implement Agricultural Covenants, Conditions, And Restrictions.
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Suzanne Reilly, Asset Manager, 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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-018.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

[OR 25-055](#)

An Ordinance Reappropriating \$150,000 From The Solid Waste Operating Fund To A Solid Waste Project Fund To Purchase And Improve Software With Automated Lane Support For The New Landfill Entrance And Scale House.

RS 25-044: A Resolution Approving The Reappropriation Of \$150,000 From The Solid Waste Operating Fund To A Solid Waste Project Fund To Purchase And Improve Software With Automated Lane Support For The New Landfill Entrance And Scale House.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Tom Adams, Public Works Director, 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. 25-055 and Resolution Serial No. 25-044.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (You can speak under one of the audience participations on the agenda, but not both; Three Minutes Per Person.)

There was no one present who wished to testify.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

[RS 25-047](#) A Resolution Approving The Amended Scopes Of Work And Budgets For The Wasilla Creek Headwaters Trail, Haessler-Norris Trail System, Herning Trail, And Matanuska Riverfront Trail South, For Trail Bridge Reconstruction And Major Improvements Purposes.

[RS 25-048](#) A Resolution Removing The Driveway Permit Deposit Requirement To Improve Efficiency And Streamline Permitting Processes.

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

[AM 25-040](#) Approval Of Additional Costs To Enstar In The Amount Of \$73,851.70 For Utility Relocation For Midway Road Service Area No. 9 Grading, Drainage, And Paving Improvements Project; And To Extend The Completion Date To December 15, 2025.

[AM 25-041](#) Award Of Bid No. 25-137B To Alaska Resource Group In The Contract Amount Of \$274,145.60 For Trapper Creek Road Service Area No. 30 Annual Road Maintenance.

[AM 25-043](#) Award Of Bid No. 25-136B To Alaska Resource Group, LLC. In The Contract Amount Of \$796,720.90 For Greater Talkeetna Road Service Area No. 29 Annual Road Maintenance.

[AM 25-044](#) Award Of Bid No. 25-130B To Battleground, LLC. In The Contract Amount Of \$189,867.50 For Lazy Mountain Road Service Area No. 19 Annual Road Maintenance.

[AM 25-049](#) Award Of Bid No. 25-158B To Dirtworks Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$484,789.65 To Construct Melanie Lane And Brian Drive Street Improvements.

[AM 25-050](#) Award Of Bid No. 25-154B To BSI Equipment, LLC. In The Contract Amount Of \$138,466.88 To Purchase Compost Containers For Recycling At The Central Landfill.

[AM 25-051](#) Award Of Proposal No. 25-115P To HDL Engineering Consultants, LLC. In The Contract Amount Of \$773,636 To Design Engstrom North Extension To Tex-Al Drive.

[AM 25-052](#) Award Of Proposal No. 25-124P To PND Engineers, Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$124,919 For The Wolf And Hart Lakes Drainage Study And Improvements Design.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Assemblymember Hale requested to take up AM Nos. 25-042, 25-045, 25-046, and 25-047, together.

Mayor DeVries queried if there was any objection.

There was no objection noted.

[AM 25-042](#) Award Of Bid No. 25-131B To McKenna Brothers Paving In The Contract Amount Of \$902,884.40 For Greater Willow Road Service Area No. 20 Annual Road Maintenance.

[AM 25-045](#) Award Of Bid No. 25-133B To McKenna Brothers Paving In The Contract Amount Of \$700,139 For Greater Butte Road Service Area No. 26 Annual Road Maintenance.

[AM 25-046](#) Award Of Bid No. 25-129B To McKenna Brothers Paving In The Contract Amount Of \$829,879 For Caswell Lakes Road Service Area No. 15 Annual Road Maintenance.

[AM 25-047](#)

Award Of Bid No. 25-132B To McKenna Brothers Paving In The Contract Amount Of \$1,831,460.90 For South Colony Road Service Area No. 16 Annual Road Maintenance.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Assemblymember Sumner declared a conflict of interest with the contracts involving McKenna Brothers as he has done business with them in the past and requested an opinion from the Attorney and a ruling from the Mayor.

Mr. Spiropoulos requested a brief recess in order to have that discussion with Assemblymember Sumner and Mayor DeVries.

The meeting recessed at 7:05 p.m. and reconvened at 7:16 p.m.

RULING: Mayor DeVries ruled that Assemblymember Sumner had a conflict of interest and would be recused from voting.

Assemblymember Sumner exited the meeting.

Assemblymember Bernier moved to adopt AM Nos. 25-042, 25-045, 25-046, and 25-047.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

Recused: 1 - Assemblymember Sumner

Assemblymember Sumner re-entered the meeting.

[AM 25-048](#)

Approval Of Change Order No. 4 To Contract No. 23-002P(A) With Kinney Engineering, LLC. For The Fern Street Upgrade And Pathway Design To Add \$188,150 For Engineering Services To Complete Phase II Of The Project.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember McKee moved to adopt AM No. 25-048.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

[AM 25-050](#) Award Of Bid No. 25-154B To BSI Equipment, LLC. In The Contract Amount Of \$138,466.88 To Purchase Compost Containers For Recycling At The Central Landfill.
Assemblymember Sumner moved to adopt AM No. 25-050.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

X. VETO

There were no vetoes presented.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 05/20/25, Assembly Chambers)

[OR 25-023](#) An Ordinance Conveying And Merging The Borough's Development Rights Interest With The Agricultural Rights Title For Fee Simple Title With Agricultural Covenants For Tax Id No. 19N05W13C002, To Tory And Cynthia Oleck.

[OR 25-031](#) An Ordinance Confirming The Assessment Roll For The North Curt Circle Natural Gas Local Improvement District No. 650, Establishing The Method Of Terminating Assessments, And Making Refunds To Property Owners.
OR 25-032: An Ordinance Providing For The Financing Not To Exceed \$91,490 Principal Amount Of Special Assessment Internal Service Funds For The North Curt Circle Natural Gas Local Improvement District No. 650; And Fixing Details Of Said Financing.

[OR 25-033](#) An Ordinance Confirming The Assessment Roll For The Easy Street And Cozy Circle Natural Gas Local Improvement District No. 658, Establishing The Method Of Terminating Assessments, And Making Refunds To Property Owners.
OR 25-034: An Ordinance Providing For The Financing Not To Exceed \$66,625 Principal Amount Of Special Assessment Internal Service Funds For The Easy Street And Cozy Circle Natural Gas Local Improvement District No.658; And Fixing Details Of Said Financing.

[OR 25-035](#) An Ordinance Confirming The Assessment Roll For The Echo Lake Drive And Necrason Drive Natural Gas Local Improvement District No. 663, Establishing The Method Of Terminating Assessments, And Making Refunds To Property Owners.
OR 25-036: An Ordinance Providing For The Financing Not To Exceed \$231,239 Principal Amount Of Special Assessment Internal Service Funds For The Echo Lake Drive And Necrason Drive Natural Gas Local Improvement District No.663; And Fixing Details Of Said Financing.

[OR 25-037](#) An Ordinance Confirming The Assessment Roll For The Homestead Drive Natural Gas Local Improvement District No. 667, Establishing The Method Of Terminating Assessments, And Making Refunds To Property Owners.
OR 25-038: An Ordinance Providing For The Financing Not To Exceed \$68,456 Principal Amount Of Special Assessment Internal Service Funds For The Homestead Drive Natural Gas Local Improvement District No.667; And Fixing Details Of Said Financing.

[OR 25-039](#) An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating A Grant In The Amount Of \$113,500 From The Alaska State Department Of Environmental Conservation To Conduct Education and Outreach To Reduce Nonpoint Source Pollution In Riparian Areas Adjacent To Impacted Waterbodies.
RS 25-030: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Healthy Mat-Su Riparian Areas: Education And Outreach Project To Reduce Nonpoint Source Pollution In Riparian Areas Adjacent To Impacted Waterbodies.

[OR 25-048](#) An Ordinance Approving The Purchase Of The Big Lake Lions' Club Recreation Center And Adjacent Parking Lot At 2942 And 2863 South Lions Circle, Big Lake, Alaska For \$400,000, Subject To Appropriation In The Fiscal Year 2026 Budget; And Upon Such Terms And Conditions Within The Agreement.

- [OR 25-053](#) An Ordinance Reappropriating \$90,000 From The Animal Care And Regulation Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget To The Animal Care Project For The Cremator Purchase Subproject.
RS 25-039: A Resolution Renaming And Amending The Scope Of Work For The Cremator Refurbishment Subproject And Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Cremator Purchase.
- [OR 25-056](#) An Ordinance Extending The Time Limit For Completion Of Expiring Project Funds Through June 30, 2026.
- [OR 25-057](#) An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating A Grant For \$2,000 From The State Of Alaska For Reimbursement Of Travel Expensed To Attend The Association Of State Floodplain Managers Training Conference.
RS 25-045: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Reimbursement Of Travel Expenses To Attend The Association Of State Floodplain Managers Training Conference.
- [OR 25-058](#) An Ordinance Amending MSB 5.25.142, Annexing Three Parcels Off Of The Glenn Highway Into The Greater Palmer Consolidated Fire Service Area Without The Placement Of The Question On The Ballot; And Finding That It Serves The Public Interest.
RS 25-049: A Resolution Finding The Annexation Of Three Parcels Located On The Glenn Highway Into The Greater Palmer Consolidated Fire Service Area Serves The Public Interest.

Sponsors: Hale

- [OR 25-059](#) An Ordinance Amending MSB 4.80, Agriculture Advisory Board, To Remove Term Limits For The Board.

Sponsors: Sumner

- [OR 25-060](#) An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$2,064,750 From The City Of Houston For The King Arthur Drive Reconstruction Project.
RS 25-050: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget And Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into A Memorandum Of Agreement With The City Of Houston For The King Arthur Drive Reconstruction Project.

- [OR 25-062](#) An Ordinance Extending The Time Limit For The Emergency Services Station 12-9 Building Project To June 30, 2029.

[OR 25-063](#) An Ordinance Appropriating The 2025 Series B General Obligation School Refunding Bonds And The 2025 Series C General Obligation Transportation System Refunding Bonds Proceeds For Issuance Costs.

[OR 25-064](#) An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating 2025 Series A General Obligation School Bonds And Series D Taxable General Obligation Transportation System Bonds Proceeds, Including Issuance Costs And Additional Premium To Debt Service.

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 May 20, 2025.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

Mayoral Requests for Confirmation

Agriculture Advisory Board

Sharmin Outhout, resignation

Animal Care and Regulation Board

Amanda Taylor

Rebecca Bond-Knuth

Board of Ethics

Patrick McKay, resignation

Joint Assembly/School Board Committee on Funding Issues

Tom Bergey

Ole Larson

Andrew Shane

Library Citizen's Advisory Committee

Aaron Malone, resignation from Member 3 position

Sally Pollen, resignation

Aaron Malone, appointment to Alternate position

Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board

Ky Friedman

Planning Commission

C.J. Koan, resignation

Platting Board

Eric Koan, resignation

Greater Palmer FSA Board of Supervisors

Bill Klebesadel

West Lakes FSA Board of Supervisors

Jedediah Cox, resignation

Gold Trail RSA Board of Supervisors

Andy George

Maksim Zagorodniy

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

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

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.

XII. RECONSIDERATION

[RS 25-031](#) A Resolution Directing The Manager To Subdivide Tracts 10 And 13, Alaska State Land Survey No. 80-111 (Plat No. 82-80, Palmer Recording District), To Separate The Rail Transportation Corridor And Terminal Easements Of The Point MacKenzie Rail Extension Project From The Remaining Agricultural Land, In Preparation For Future Land Disposal. Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember McKee moved to reconsider Resolution Serial No. 25-031.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

The main motion passed by the following vote:

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

XIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos noted that there is an upcoming Lawyer Appreciation Day.

Assemblymember McKee noted she had a concern about how the Library Board was moving forward. Shared that she had a meeting with Jilliam Morrissey, Community Development Director, and had all her concerns addressed, which made her feel more comfortable.

Assemblymember Bernier thanked the public for attending the meeting. Said a prayer.

Assemblymember Hale noted that he is glad he got his hay under cover before the rain storm began.

Assemblymember Nowers spoke to her enjoyment of the Drive Your Tractor to Work event. Shared that Eric Koan resigning from the Platting Board is because he recently took the director position at the USDA Rural Development Office. Noted that she read the health care report provided by the Manager and expressed concerns that the Borough's health care billing system is overly complicated and messy.

Mr. Brown requested to schedule meetings, the first, to have a discussion regarding Port MacKenzie, on July 15, 2025, at 4 p.m. in Assembly Chambers; and the second, to have a discussion with the Alaska State Department of Public Safety, on August 2, 2025, at 10 a.m. at Station 6-5

Mayor DeVries queried if there was any objection to scheduling those meetings.

There was no objection noted.

Ms. McKechnie related that it is Municipal Clerks Week.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

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

THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2025

Budget Deliberations and Possible Adoption

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, May 8, 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 Katie Gardner, Deputy Superintendent of Business & Operations.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following persons came to speak to disc golf and funding for the Alcantra Disc Golf Course: Jeremy Ratliff, Jaxton Ratliff, Dexter (Last name not given), Tom Voight, Rhianna Fabrello, and Tae Voight.

The following person spoke to the Heather Way clean-up project and spoke to the proposed full time community cleanup position: Corine Hickey, Tanaina Community Council Member.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. BUDGET DELIBERATIONS AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION

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.

The meeting recessed at 6:58 p.m. and reconvened at 7:05 p.m.

Amendment No. 5

Areawide Fund - Non-Departmental (page 60) and Capital Project (Page 487)

Assemblymember Bernier moved a primary amendment as follows and any other conforming changes to the budget:

***Areawide Fund, Non-Departmental, transfer to 415/425/430/435/440/470 (446.700) by increasing the appropriation by the amount of \$75,000; and**

***adding the Capital Project - For a grant of \$75,000 to provide Firearm Safety Training to residents.**

Assemblymember Nowers moved a secondary amendment by striking "\$75,000" and inserting "\$50,000" in its place.

The secondary amendment failed by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Assemblymember Hale and Assemblymember Nowers

No: 5 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

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

Amendment No. 6

Areawide Fund - Non-Departmental (page 60) and Capital Project (page 473)

Assemblymember Fonov moved a primary amendment as follows and to make any other conforming changes to the budget:

***Areawide Fund, Non-Departmental, transfer to 415/425/430/435/440/470 (446.700) by increasing the appropriation by the amount of \$30,000; and**

***adding the Capital Project - Mat-Su Disc Golf Association Grant for \$30,000 to be used for obtaining contracted services for disc golf improvements.**

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

No: 3 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, and Assemblymember McKee

Amendment No. 7

**Areawide Fund - Planning & Land Use, Community Clean-Up
(page 129)**

Assemblymember Fonov moved a primary amendment as follows and to make any other conforming changes to the budget:

***Reduce the Areawide Fund, Planning & Land Use, Community Clean-Up, Temp Wages & Adjmts (411.200) by \$30,000; and**

***increase the Areawide Fund, Planning & Land Use, Community Clean-Up, Permanent Wages (411.100) by \$56,320 and Benefits (412.XXX) by \$49,970 adding 1.00 FTE Program Coordinator.**

Assemblymember Hale moved a secondary amendment by striking "\$30,000" and inserting "\$63,910" in its place and approving one FTE Program Coordinator and removing the on-call employee.

The secondary amendment passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

No: 1 - Assemblymember Nowers

The primary amendment passed as amended by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Fonov

No: 2 - Assemblymember Sumner and Assemblymember Bernier

**Amendment No. 8
Talkeetna Road Service Area (page 380)**

Assemblymember Bernier moved to a primary amendment as follows and to make any other conforming changes to the budget:

***The Annual Road Maintenance Contract by increasing the appropriation by the amount of \$47,530; and**

***re-appropriating \$25,530 from Project 30049 1800 Talkeetna Road Service Area Capital Project into the operating budget.**

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

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

**Amendment No. 9
Non-Areawide Fund - Non-Departmental (page 196) and Capital Project (page 473)**

Assemblymember Bernier moved a primary amendment as follows and to make any other conforming changes to the budget:

***The Non-Areawide Fund, Non-Departmental, transfer to 415/425/430/435/440/470 (446.700) by increasing the appropriation by the amount of \$48,000; and**

***adding the Capital Project - Willow Library Walking Trail (the Oval) for the amount of \$48,000 with the following project description: Design and Construction of an access walking trail behind library to provide a safe secondary ingress/egress to property.**

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

No: 1 - Assemblymember McKee

Amendment No. 10

Non-Areawide Fund - Non-Departmental (page 196) and Capital Project (page 473)

Assemblymember Bernier moved a primary amendment as follows and to make any other conforming changes to the budget:

***The Non-Areawide Fund, Non-Departmental, transfer to 415/425/430/435/440/470 (446.700) by increasing the appropriation by the amount of \$25,000; and**

***adding the Capital Project - Willow Library Meeting Room Sound Proofing for the amount of \$25,000 with the following project description: Improvement of the Willow Library Meeting Room Acoustics.**

The primary amendment failed by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Assemblymember Hale and Assemblymember Bernier

No: 5 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Fonov

Amendment No. 11

Areawide Fund - Non-Departmental (page 60), Land Management (page 227), and Capital Project (page 473 & 480)

Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment as follows and to make any other conforming changes to the budget:

***The Areawide Fund, Non-Departmental, transfer to 415/425/430/435/440/470 (446.700) by decreasing appropriation by the amount of \$530,000;**

***decreasing the Areawide Capital Project Big Lake Recreation Center by the amount of \$530,000; and**

***the Land Management Fund Non-Departmental, transfer to 415/425/430/435/440*470 (446.700), by increasing the appropriation by the amount of \$530,000;**

***increasing the Land Management Capital Project Big Lake Recreation Center by the amount of \$530,000; and**

***and appropriating \$530,000 from the Land Management Permanent Fund to the Fiscal Year 2026 Land Management Operating to fund the Big Lake Recreation Center Capital Project.**

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Fonov

No: 1 - Assemblymember Bernier

Amendment No. 12

Areawide Fund - Non-Departmental (page 60) and Education Operating Fund - Non-Departmental (page 232)

Assemblymember Fonov moved a primary amendment as follows and to make any other conforming changes to the budget:

***The Areawide Fund, Non-Departmental, transfer to Education Operating (445.220) by decreasing the appropriation by the amount of \$1,500,637; and**

***the Education Operating Fund, Non-Departmental, Areawide (367.110) by decreasing the appropriation by the amount of \$1,500,637.**

The primary amendment failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

No: 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Gamble

Amendment No. 13

Areawide Fund - Non-Departmental (page 60) and Education Operating Fund - Non-Department (page 232)

Assemblymember Bernier moved a primary amendment as follows and to make any other conforming changes to the budget, by reducing the Local Education Contribution amount by 4 percent.

The primary amendment failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

No: 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Gamble

Amendment No. 14

**Areawide Fund - Non-Departmental (page 60) and Education
Operating Fund - Non-Department (page 232)**

**Assemblymember McKee moved a primary amendment as follows
and to make any other conforming changes to the budget, by
reducing the Local Education Contribution by 3 percent.**

The primary amendment failed by the following vote:

- Yes:** 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Fonov, and
Assemblymember Bernier
- No:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers,
Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Gamble

Amendment No. 15

**Areawide Fund - Non-Departmental (page 60) and Education
Operating Fund - Non-Department (page 232)**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment as
follows and to make any other conforming changes to the budget,
by reducing the Local Education Contribution amount by \$1 for
the Fiscal Year 2026.**

Assemblymember Hale called for the question (to stop debate).

The motion failed by the following vote:

- Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers,
Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Gamble
- No:** 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Fonov, and
Assemblymember Bernier

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

- Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember McKee,
Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble,
Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier
- No:** 1 - Assemblymember Nowers

Amendment No. 16

Assemblymember Nowers moved a primary amendment to reduce the Fund Balance to \$250,000 and reduce the areawide mill rate by the corresponding number.

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

- Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier
- No:** 2 - Assemblymember Hale and Assemblymember Fonov

Amendment No. 17

Areawide Fund - Non-Departmental (page 60) and Capital Project (page 474)

Assemblymember Fonov moved a primary amendment as follows and to make any other conforming changes to the budget:

***The Areawide Fund, Non-Departmental, transfer from 415/425/430/435/440/470 (446.700) by decreasing the appropriation by the amount of \$25,000;and**

***amending the Capital Project - by decreasing the planning grant to the City of Palmer for snow removal at the City of Palmer Airport by striking "\$50,000" and inserting "\$25,000".**

The primary amendment failed by the following vote:

- Yes:** 2 - Assemblymember Fonov and Assemblymember Bernier
- No:** 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Gamble

Assemblymember Hale called for the question (to stop debate).

The motion failed by the following vote:

- Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers,
Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Gamble
- No:** 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Fonov, and
Assemblymember Bernier

Assemblymember Fonov moved to continue Ordinance Serial No. 25-025 to May 13, 2025.

The motion passed by the following vote:

- Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner,
Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier
- No:** 3 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, and
Assemblymember Gamble

VII. VETO

A. Motion to Override Any Possible Mayoral Veto on Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Items (Ordinance Serial No. 25-025)

There were no vetoes presented.

VIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Assemblymember McKee spoke to the Education Operating Fund and the Matanuska-Susitna School District's budget.

Assemblymember Bernier spoke to lowering taxes and said a prayer. Directed Administration to rebid Road Maintenance Contracts for Meadow Lakes Road Service Area No. 27 and Gold Trail Road Service Area No. 28.

Mayor DeVries declared the motion to rebid Road Maintenance Contracts was out of order because the discussion was not advertised and the public did not have the opportunity to give public input.

Assemblymember Hale spoke to the budget and to the May 13, 2025, special Assembly meeting.

Assemblymember Nowers spoke to education bonds and the budget.

Mr. Brown spoke to creating legislation regarding the road maintenance contracts for the May 20, 2025, regular Assembly meeting.

Assemblymember Fonov directed staff to create legislation to rebid the road maintenance contract for Bogard Road Service Area No. 25.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

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, MAY 13, 2025

Budget Deliberations and Adoption

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, May 13, 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: 6 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Maxwell Sumner, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, and Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov

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 John Aschenbrenner, Deputy Borough Attorney.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person thanked the Assembly for fully funding the School District's request: Dr. Randy Trani, School District Superintendent.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. BUDGET DELIBERATIONS AND ADOPTION

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.

Amendment No. 18

Areawide Fund – Nondepartmental (page 60) and Capital Projects (page 475).

Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment and to make any other conforming changes to the budget as follows:

- * the Areawide Fund, Nondepartmental, transfer to 415/425/430/435/440/470/ (446.700) by decreasing the appropriation by the amount of \$250,000; and**
- * Reducing the Capital Project – Public Transit by \$250,000, leaving \$750,000.**

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

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

Amendment No. 19

Areawide Fund – Nondepartmental (page196) and Capital Projects (page 474).

Assemblymember McKee moved a primary amendment and to make any other conforming changes to the budget as follows:

- * the Areawide Fund, Nondepartmental, transfer to 415/425/430/435/440/470/ (446.700) by increasing the appropriation by the amount of \$20,000; and**
- * Adding the Capital Project – For a grant to provide for low cost spay/neuter option for residents.**

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers,
Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Gamble,
Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

No: 1 - Assemblymember Sumner

Amendment No. 20

**Areawide Fund - Community Ice Arenas (page 176), Land
Management Fund – Nondepartmental (page 224) and Capital
Project Fund (page 473)**

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

*** the Land Management Fund, transfer to**

**415/425/430/435/440/470 (446.700) by decreasing appropriation by
the amount of \$530,000; and**

*** eliminating the appropriation from the Land Management Fund
for \$530,000.**

The primary amendment failed by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Assemblymember McKee and Assemblymember Fonov

No: 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers,
Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and
Assemblymember Bernier

Reconsideration

Amendment No. 2

**Areawide Fund Nondepartmental (page 60) and Capital Project
(page 474)**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved to reconsider Amendment No. 2
as follows and to make any other conforming changes to the
budget:**

*** Areawide Fund, Nondepartmental, transfer to**

**415/425/430/435/440/470 (446.700) by increasing the appropriation
by the amount of \$50,000; and**

*** Adding the Capital Project For a planning grant to the City of
Palmer for \$50,000 to allow for snow removal at the City of
Palmer Airport.**

Reconsideration failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Fonov, and
Assemblymember Bernier

No: 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers,
Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Gamble

Reconsideration

Amendment No. 3

**Areawide Fund Nondepartmental (page 60) and Capital Project
(page 474)**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved to reconsider Amendment No. 3
as follows and any other conforming changes to the budget:**

*** Areawide Fund, Nondepartmental, transfer to**

**415/425/430/435/440/470(446.7100) by increasing the
appropriation by the amount of \$26,000; and**

*** adding the Capital Project Jordan Lake Park Grant to the Big
Lake Community Council for the amount of \$26,000 with the
following project description: Completion of the park.**

Reconsideration failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Fonov, and
Assemblymember Bernier

No: 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers,
Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Gamble

Reconsideration

Amendment No. 4

Areawide Fund Community Clean Up (page 129)

**Assemblymember Sumner moved to reconsider Amendment No. 4
as follows and to make any other conforming changes to the
budget: the Areawide Fund, Nondepartmental, Community Clean
Up Vehicle Junk Removal (100.130.158.429.429.600) by increasing
the appropriation by the amount of \$75,000 for towing
reimbursement.**

Reconsideration failed by the following vote:

Yes: 1 - Assemblymember Sumner

No: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers,
Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Gamble,
Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Reconsideration
Amendment No. 5
Areawide Fund Non Departmental (page 60) and Capital
Project (Page 487)**

Assemblymember Sumner moved to reconsider Amendment No. 5 as follows and any other conforming changes to the budget:

***Areawide Fund, Non Departmental, transfer to 415/425/430/435/440/470 (446.700) by increasing the appropriation by the amount of \$75,000; and**

***adding the Capital Project For a grant of \$75,000 to provide Firearm Safety Training to residents.**

Reconsideration failed by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Assemblymember Sumner and Assemblymember Gamble

No: 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Reconsideration
Amendment No. 6
Areawide Fund Non Departmental (page 60) and Capital
Project (page 473)**

Assemblymember Sumner moved to reconsider Amendment No. 6 as follows and to make any other conforming changes to the budget:

***Areawide Fund, Non Departmental, transfer to 415/425/430/435/440/470 (446.700) by increasing the appropriation by the amount of \$30,000; and**

***adding the Capital Project Mat Su Disc Golf Association Grant for \$30,000 to be used for obtaining contracted services for disc golf improvements.**

Reconsideration failed by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Assemblymember Nowers and Assemblymember Sumner

No: 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

Assemblymember Hale moved to set the mill rates at 8.485 areawide and 0.371 nonareawide.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

MOTION PENDING: Assemblymember Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-025.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

VII. VETO

A. Motion to Override Any Possible Mayoral Veto on Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Items (Ordinance Serial No. 25-025)

There were no vetoes presented.

VIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Ms. McKechnie advised that for the May 20 meetings, that chambers would be split in half due to the Palmer City Special Election.

Assemblymember Nowers stated that she is pleased that the body was able to lower the mill rate. Noted that it was over 10 mills when she was first elected to the Assembly. Commented that she appreciates the hard work of staff in putting together the budget. Spoke to concerns with the State funding debt bond reimbursement.

Assemblymember Hale noted that this will be his last budget cycle. Spoke to several projects that have been funded over the years. Cautioned the body to be mindful in cutting the budget too much as it could have unintended consequences. Stated that it is good to have a low mill rate, but not too low. Commented that it has been a pleasure to serve the residents of the Borough as a member of the Assembly.

Assemblymember McKee thanked the body for supporting the spay and neuter clinic amendment. Opined that it will help lower costs for the shelter if there are less pets making more pets. Spoke to the unity of the body and how much it pleases her that they are all respectful to each other.

Assemblymember Bernier thanked everyone who attended the meeting. Spoke to his pleasure with a low mill rate. Said a prayer.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.