

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



Jim Sykes, District 1
Matthew Beck, District 2
George McKee, District 3
Ted Leonard, District 4
Dan Mayfield, District 5
Jesse Sumner, District 6
Tam Boeve, District 7

MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

11:00 AM

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2019

Joint Assembly/Municipality of Anchorage

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Thursday, October 3, 2019, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 11:12 a.m. by Mayor Vern Halter.

II. MSB ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Assemblymember Jim Sykes, Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Ted Leonard, Assemblymember Dan Mayfield, Assemblymember Jesse Sumner, and Assemblymember Tam Boeve

Excused: 1 - Assemblymember Matthew Beck

MOA ROLL CALL

Assemblymember Fred Dyson, Assemblymember Suzanne LaFrance, Assemblymember Crystal Kennedy, Assemblymember Pete Peterson, Assemblymember Felix Rivera, Assemblymember Meg Zaletel, Assemblymember Forrest Dunbar (appeared telephonically), and Assemblymember John Weddleton.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Halter queried if there was any objection to removing Item D. Vote by Mail, from the agenda.

There was no objection noted.

Mayor Halter queried if there were any other changes to the agenda.

Assemblymember Sumner requested to include a second audience participation post items of business.

Mayor Halter queried if there was any objection.

There was no objection noted.

Mayor Halter queried if there were any other changes to the agenda.

Assemblymember Rivera requested to remove Item C, Education Funding.

Mayor Halter queried if there was any objection.

There was no objection noted and the agenda was approved as amended.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Terry Dolan, Public Works Director.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke in support of Eaglexit (MOA District 2 becoming its own municipality): Mr. Michael Tavoriero, Eaglexit Chairman.

The following person spoke to the need to increase fish returns and to the need for the municipalities to work together: Mr. Michael Wood, MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission Chair.

The following person spoke to the need for a regional wastewater and septage treatment facility in the Mat-Su Borough: Ms. Helen Munoz.

The following person spoke to concerns with the public process and opined the meeting should wait until the video streaming system is fixed: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

VI. JOINT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

**A. Update on Multiple Aspects of Wastewater/Septage and Septage Facilities
(Requested by Assemblymember Sykes)**

Assemblymember Sykes summarized the status of the Borough wastewater and septage treatment facility.

Mr. Mark Corsentino, General Manager of Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility reported on the status of changes to Anchorage's wastewater and leachate facilities.

Mr. Mark Spafford, Solid Waste Services Director, reported on Anchorage's efforts on converting waste to energy.

The meeting recessed at 12:07 p.m. and reconvened at 12:24 p.m.

B. Transportation Coordination Between Both Municipalities (Requested by Assemblymember Sykes)

Assemblymember Sykes spoke to the former Transportation Subcommittee made up of members of both bodies. Noted that the Alaska Railroad had some passenger service plans at one time, but no longer does. Spoke to the need to ensure that there is more than one-way in and out of Anchorage.

Assemblymember Dyson reported that the municipality of Anchorage is looking at installing a reader board on the inbound lane.

Assemblymember Sykes moved to create a Joint Transportation Subcommittee with two members from each body appointed by their respective mayor or chair. The motion passed without objection from either body.

C. Education Funding (Requested by Municipality of Anchorage)

[Clerk's Note: education funding was removed from the agenda at approval of the agenda.]

D. Vote by Mail (Requested by Municipality of Anchorage)

[Clerk's Note: Vote by Mail was removed from the agenda at approval of the agenda.]

E. Status of Eagle River Incorporation (Requested by Assemblymember Sumner)

Assemblymember Sumner noted that his curiosity is peaked every time he drives into Anchorage and sees the Eaglelexit sign. Stated that he wondered if the Anchorage Assembly supports this issue.

Assemblymember Dyson summarized some of the options that are being considered.

F. General Partnership Opportunities (Requested by Municipality of Anchorage)

The body discussed the following:

possibility of getting the State to re-evaluate letting fires burn and causing poor air quality;

the need to be firewise around personal property;

the need for more State Probation/Parole Officers, State prosecutors, State Public Defenders, and Alaska State Troopers;

the need for more substance abuse treatment centers; and

possibility of creating an ad hoc subcommittee that meets biannually, for discussion of items of mutual interest to both bodies;

possibility of creating a Metropolitan Planning Organization;

the possibility of the Port of Alaska gaining statewide support; and

the possibility of having a joint Port of Alaska and Port MacKenzie meeting.

G. Discussion of Items of General Interest to Both Municipalities

Assemblymember Rivera noted that the Anchorage Assembly created a committee to ensure hard-to-count populations are counted during the 2020 Census.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person spoke in opposition to the Central Landfill being the site for the wastewater and septage facility: Mr. Howard Hinden.

The following person thanked the fire fighters from various organizations within the Borough that assisted with the MLK Fire in Anchorage: Mr. Bill Pausey, Municipality of Anchorage Manager.

The following person spoke to concerns with homelessness: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Assemblymember Peterson stated that the bodies need to remember that between Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the municipalities have the most representation in Juneau. Spoke to the need to come together on mutual issues and leverage that representation so the Legislature sees a united front.

Assemblymember Weddleton noted that it was a beautiful day for a drive to the Mat-Su. Noted that he did not quite know where he was going to get here and Google gave him a tour of every road construction project in the valley.

Assemblymember Sykes thanked the Anchorage Assembly for coming out. Spoke to his appreciation of the information received. Stated that he looks forward to more of these meetings, even though he will be termed out soon.

Assemblymember Mayfield thanked the Anchorage Assembly for coming to the meeting. Stated that it is important to bring the two bodies together as we represent the largest populations in the state. Noted that he looks forward to working together.

Mayor Halter thanked the Anchorage Assembly for coming to the meeting. Noted that the joint bodies will be meeting twice a year. Requested that Chairman Rivera chair the next joint meeting.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.



Mayoral Signature and Clerk Attestment


For

October 3, 2019, Joint Borough Assembly/Anchorage Assembly Meeting Minutes

(5 pages)


VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 10/15/19