

# 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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023

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### A Quorum of Community Councils May be Present

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 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

The following entities had representatives present at the meeting:

- \* Glacier View Community Council;
- \* Meadow Lakes Community Council;
- \* Tanaina Community Council;
- \* Willow Community Council;
- \* Alaska State Troopers; and
- \* Governor Dunleavy's Office.

**Present:** 5 - Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Robert Yundt, Assemblymember Robert Yundt, Assemblymember Mokie Tew, and Assemblymember Mokie Tew

**Excused:** 1 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers

**Telephonic:** 2 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, 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 Assemblymember Yundt.

#### **V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

The following person spoke to concerns with snow removal being impeded by parked vehicles: James Harms.

The following person wanted to be able to have her junk removal business included in efforts to clean up the Borough: Sheree Napper, of Heavy Lifter Hauling.

#### **VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

##### **1. Community Clean Ups Discussion**

Discussion ensued regarding:

- \* the Borough's junk vehicle program;
- \* Code Compliance procedures;
- \* that Community Councils are a great source of information for problem properties;
- \* the importance of dealing with properties that are chronically a problem; and
- \* the possibility of budgeting for additional full time employees to assist with the issue.

## **VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT**

Assemblymember Bernier thanked everyone who attended the meeting. Stated that he sees a lot of positive ideas. Spoke to his desire to have a resolution to the junk and trash issue. Shared a discussion he had with his father regarding the recycling of junk. Said a prayer.

Assemblymember Tew thanked everyone that participated in the meeting. Thanked Mr. Ortiz for his presentation.

Mr. Brown stated that the Assembly provided clear direction on wanting enforcement on residents that push private snow that is pushed into the right-of-way. Advised that letters have been sent to a number of violators. Spoke to the process of how enforcement and citations would occur. Noted that staff is actively working on it.

Ms. McKechnie spoke to her surprise on how quickly hand count numbers were called in. Stated that there are two canvass boards now, so that all the kinks could be worked out before next year's election.

Assemblymember Fonov spoke to his pleasure of working with Deputy Manager Hays. Spoke to how easy it has been and how much he has learned. Spoke to the need to keep doing what is working so far as junk and trash removal proceeds. Noted that labor is the most expensive cost for cleaning up neighborhoods.

Assemblymember Yundt spoke to the cost of tabulating machines that the Borough used to use for elections. Opined that it's less expensive to have humans hand count ballots. Complimented Ms. McKechnie and her office for a job well done. Summarized the cost of the recent free dump days to assist in community cleanup. Spoke to a possible way for Code Compliance to address properties that are chronically a problem.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.