

# 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, DECEMBER 3, 2024

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, December 3, 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 Maxwell Sumner, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

**Excused:** 1 - Assemblymember Tim Hale

**Telephonic:** 1 - Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov

### **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. 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**

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**

There was no report provided.

**2. Assembly Public Relations**

There were no reports provided.

**C. MANAGER COMMENTS**

**1. State/Federal Legislation**

**2. Strategic Planning Issues**

Mr. Brown noted that the State Senate will not be present at the coming State Delegation meeting on December 19. Requested that the Assembly schedule a strategic planning session after the first of the year. Stated that he suggests conducting it at Station 6-5 on February 8 or March 1.

Mayor DeVries queried if there was any objection to March 1.

There was no objection noted.

Mr. Brown requested that the Assembly consider topics they would like up for discussion at that meeting and to let him know.

**3. Solid Waste Division Update**

Jeff Smith, Solid Waste Division Manager, provided a Solid Waste Division update.

**D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

There was no report provided.

## **E. CLERK COMMENTS**

Ms. McKechnie reported on the upcoming meeting schedule. Noted that she will be at the Alaska Association of Municipal Clerk's Association Conference on December 9 and 10. Spoke to being called up for jury duty in January of 2025 along with other Clerk's staff.

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

- 24-156**
1. Abbreviated Plat: 10/30/24, 11/06/24, 11/13/24, 11/20/24
  2. Agriculture Advisory Board: 10/16/24
  3. Big Lake RSA Board of Supervisors: 01/08/24, 09/09/24, 10/14/24, Resolution Nos. 24-03, 24-04, 24-05
  4. Butte FSA Board of Supervisors: 07/11/24, 10/10/24
  5. Chase Community Council: 07/17/24
  6. Greater Palmer Consolidated FSA Board of Supervisors: 07/30/24
  7. Greater Talkeetna RSA Board of Supervisors: 10/10/24
  8. Greater Willow RSA Board of Supervisors: 12/28/23
  9. Library Board: 10/08/24
  10. Local Emergency Planning Committee: 07/17/24
  11. MSB Fish & Wildlife Commission: 08/29/24, 09/26/24, 10/24/24
  12. Planning Commission: 10/21/24
  13. South Knik River Community Council: 09/19/24
  14. Susitna Community Council: 10/05/23
  15. Talkeetna Sewer and Water Board: Resolution No. TWSB-03
  16. Willow Area Community Organization: 10/02/24
  17. Waterbody Setback Advisory Board: 10/14/24

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

## **G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS**

- IM 24-222** Informing The Assembly Of Time Extension Only Grant Amendments For Two Alaska State Homeland Security Grants, To Be Presented To The Manager For Signature.
- The informational memorandum was presented, and no comments were noted.

## **VII. 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 invited the Assembly to the Birchtree Charter School Holiday Market on December 7, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.: Michael Kahler, Birchtree Charter Parents Guild Member.

The following person spoke in support of the proposed landfill expansion and additional recycling opportunities. Spoke to the need to develop a bio diesel program. Spoke to the need for more pedestrian pathways and the need for increased bike and pedestrian safety: Travis Friesen.

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

**OR 24-108** An Ordinance Amending MSB 4.28.020 (A), Enhanced 911 Advisory Board Composition.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Ken Barley, Emergency Services 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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 24-108.**

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

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

**OR 24-110** An Ordinance Appropriating \$248,823 From The Areawide Fund Balance For Bridge And Railroad Crossing Major Maintenance And Repair; And The Dust Control Program.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Cheyenne Heindel, Finance 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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 24-110.**

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

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

**OR 24-111** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating A Grant In The Amount Of \$137,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Natural Resources, Division Of Forestry And Fire Protection, To Operate Collection Sites And Dispose Of Spruce Beetle Killed Or Infested Wood And Other Woody Biomass Considered Hazardous Fuels.  
RS 24-115: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For An Alaska State Department Of Natural Resources, Division Of Forestry And Fire Protection Grant, To Operate Collection Sites And Dispose Of Spruce Beetle Killed Or Infested Wood And Other Woody Biomass Considered Hazardous Fuels.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Cheyenne Heindel, Finance 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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 24-111 and Resolution Serial No. 24-115.**

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

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

**OR 24-112** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating A Grant From The Alaska State Department Of Commerce, Community, And Economic Development In The Amount Of \$2,000,000 For The City Water Interconnect Project.

RS 24-118: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget And Authorizing The Manager To Execute The Agreement For The City Water Interconnect Project.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Cheyenne Heindel, Finance 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 Sumner moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 24-112 and Resolution Serial No. 24-118.**

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

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

**OR 24-113** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating A Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund Grant From The Alaska State Department Of Commerce, Community, And Economic Development In The Amount Of \$8,000,000 For The Mat-Su First Responder Training Facility Project.  
**RS 24-119:** A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget And Authorizing The Manager To Execute The Agreement For The Mat-Su First Responder Training Facility Project.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Cheyenne Heindel, Finance 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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 24-113 and Resolution Serial No. 24-119.**

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

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

**OR 24-114** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating School District Funds  
Totaling \$450,000 To Support The Design Of The New Birchtree Charter  
School Project.  
RS 24-122: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget To  
Support The Design Of The New Birchtree Charter School Project.  
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Cheyenne Heindel, Finance Director, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 24-114  
and Resolution Serial No. 24-122: Michael Kahler, Birchtree Charter  
Parents Guild Member.

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

**Assemblymember Sumner moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No.  
24-114 and Resolution Serial No. 24-122.**

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

**Yes:** 6 - 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.)**

The following person spoke to the process of how books are up for  
challenge before the Library Citizen's Advisory Committee. Spoke to  
concerns with pornography in the adult section of a public library. Spoke  
to a form she personally created that became a public record and is being  
circulated on social media; Jackie Goforth.

**D. CONSENT AGENDA**

**1. RESOLUTIONS**

**RS 24-123** A Resolution Authorizing The Manager To Sell The Moraine Ridge  
Salvage Timber Harvest.

**2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS**



- AM 24-118** Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly Regular and Joint Meeting Schedule for 2025.
- AM 24-133** Approval Of Change Order No. 2 For Contract No. 23-002P(A) With Kinney Engineering, LLC. For The Fern Street Upgrade And Pathway Project To Extend The Completion Date To December 31, 2026.
- AM 24-134** Approval Of Change Order No. 5 For Contract No. 22-078P(B) With The Boutet Company, Inc. For The Lakes Boulevard Upgrade Project To Extend Completion Date To October 31, 2025.
- AM 24-135** Approval Of Change Order No. 5 For Contract No. 22-078P(A) With Lounsbury & Associates, Inc. To Add \$11,311 For The Hidden Hills Road Reconstruction Project And To Extend The Completion Date To December 31, 2025.
- AM 24-136** Award Of Bid No. 25-078B To Andela Products In The Contract Amount Of \$185,022 To Purchase A Glass Pulverizer For The Solid Waste Division, Public Works Department.
- AM 24-137** Approval Of Bid No. 25-091C To General Fire Apparatus/Rosenbauer In The Contract Amount Of \$1,243,546 To Purchase Fire Rescue Engine For The West Lakes Fire Service Area. Ms. McKecnie read the consent agenda 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:** 6 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

## **VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

## **IX. VETO**

There were no vetoes.

## **X. NEW BUSINESS**

## **A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 12/17/24, Assembly Chambers)**

**RS 24-124** A Resolution Approving Changes To Update The Fiscal Year 2026 Schedule Of Rates And Fees, Effective July 1, 2025.

**OR 24-096** An Ordinance Amending MSB 17.73 To Clarify That Mobile Home Parks Are Not Permitted In The Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

**Sponsors:** Nowers

**OR 24-115** An Ordinance Approving A Request From The Agricultural Rights Owners Paul And Margaret Cook, And Ben Raevsky, To Subdivide A 320-Acre Farm Consisting Of 2 Parcels Into Two 40-Acre Parcels And One 240-Acre Parcel); To Construct One Permanent And One Temporary Residence To Accommodate The Farm Families; And Implement An Updated Farm Plan With An Additional Subunit Farm Plan.

**OR 24-117** An Ordinance Amending MSB 5.25.060(C), Service Area No. 36: Talkeetna Sewer And Water Service Area To Amend The Operating Rules, Rates, And Procedures.

**OR 24-118** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$315,790 In Fiscal Year 2025 Community Assistance Program Funding.  
RS 24-128: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Community Assistance Program And Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into Agreements With 20 Unincorporated Communities Within The Borough.

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 December 17, 2024.**

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

**Yes:** 6 - 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**

Board of Adjustment and Appeals

Tina Crawford

Borough Area Schools Site Selection Committee

Kristina Adamczak

Enhanced 911 Advisory Board

Jared Eison

Joint Assembly/School Board Committee on School Issues

Maxwell Sumner

Labor Relations

Daniel Bowen

Local Emergency Planning Committee

Michael Chmielewski

Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board

Ruth Wood

Platting Board

Christian Chiavetta

Big Lake RSA No. 21

Nate Suing

Board RSA No. 25

Jennifer Noffke

Greater Butte No. 26

Lucy Klebesadel

Trapper Creek RSA No. 30

Becky Badillo

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

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

**Yes: 6 - 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.

## **XI. RECONSIDERATION**

There were no reconsiderations.

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

Assemblymember Bernier thanked everyone for attending. Said a prayer.

Assemblymember Nowers stated that she is happy for the grant for the new fire station. Noted what an asset it will be to the Borough. Spoke to her pleasure that the water infrastructure plan is moving forward. Spoke to her support of the cities working together to ensure water connectivity for the future.

Mr. Brown stated that he requested that Resolution Serial No. 24-124 be introduced and have a public hearing so that it would be out for the public to view before any action was taken on it. Advised that there are no remarkable changes. Spoke to the importance of the document when the Assembly enters the budget cycle.

Assemblymember Gamble stated that he appreciated the Solid Waste Division presentation and is looking forward to the coming improvements to the landfill.

## **XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session held.

## **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.



Mayoral Signature and Clerk Attestment

For

December 3, 2024, Regular Assembly Meeting Minutes

(12 pages)

EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 12/17/24