

# 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, APRIL 30, 2024

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### Budget Public Hearing

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Mayor Edna DeVries.

#### II. ROLL CALL

**Present:** 5 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Robert Yundt, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, and Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov

**Excused:** 1 - Assemblymember Tim Hale

**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 Assemblymember McKee.

## **V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

The following person spoke to his church and offered to pray for those interested: Tom Roberson.

The following persons spoke to the American Library Association and the Borough's budget regarding libraries: Jackie Goforth and Karen Lewis.

The following person spoke to survey done by Palmer High School students and in support of recycling glass in the Mat-Su: Travis Friesen.

The following person spoke to the Hatcher Pass Avalanche Center: Andy Dennis, Hatcher Pass Avalanche Center Board of Directors Board Chair.

The following person thanked the Assembly for the Borough's junk and trash removal and is in favor of continuing the funding for the program: Glenda Smith.

## **VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

### **A. PUBLIC HEARING**

[OR 24-024](#)

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, 2024, And Ending June 30, 2025; And Setting The Surcharge Rate For The Wireline And Wireless Enhanced 911 Systems For The Period Of July 1, 2024, Through June 30, 2025.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person thanked the Assembly for including funding destination marketing in the budget and spoke to it being an investment in economic development: Casey Ressler, Mat-Su Convention & Visitors Bureau.

The following person spoke to the budget items regarding libraries and potentially giving city libraries aid: Nicholas (Last name indiscernible.)

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

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to continue Ordinance Serial No. 24-024 to Thursday, May 2, at 6 p.m. in Assembly Chambers.**

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

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

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

Assemblymember Bernier said a prayer.

Mr. Brown noted that the Borough does not pay fees to the American Library Association. Noted there will be an update on policy changes and the Library Citizens' Advisory Committee by staff at the next regular meeting. Updated there is glass recycling equipment in the budget and grant funding for the Hatcher Pass Avalanche Center is in the capital budget. Spoke to city libraries being a non-area-wide function and the Borough does not have the authority to offer funding. Noted there will be an update on road service area contracts at the next regular meeting.

Ms. McKechnie stated budget deliberations start Thursday, May 2, 2024, and requested amendments to the budget by the morning of the first meeting.

Mayor DeVries updated on the Library Citizens' Advisory Committee appointments and applications.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.