

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, MARCH 18, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, March 18, 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: 5 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Maxwell Sumner, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, and Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov

Telephonic: 2 - Assemblymember Tim Hale and Assemblymember Ron Bernier (at 6:13 p.m.)

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Assemblymember Sumner moved to place Ordinance Serial No. 25-047, under Introductions to the Referrals section of the agenda.

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 agenda was approved as amended without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by George Hays, Deputy Manager.

V. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

A. Mayoral Proclamation in Recognition of Education and Sharing Day

25-058

Mayoral Proclamation

Mayor DeVries read the proclamation in recognition of Education and Sharing Day and presented it to Rabbi Greenberg.

VI. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

There were no minutes presented.

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

Katie Gardner, Deputy Superintendent of Business and Operations, reported on spring vacation, upcoming ribbon cutting ceremony, and the budget.

3. State of Alaska

There were no reports provided.

4. Library Board

The Library Board report was postponed to the April 15, 2025, regular Assembly meeting.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee On School Issues

2. Assembly Public Relations

Mayor DeVries noted the astronauts are home.

Assemblymember Gamble spoke to traveling to Juneau and discussing the budget, term limits for school board members, Open Meetings Act rules, and the Jonesville Mine Recreation Area.

Assemblymember Nowers spoke to traveling to Juneau and discussing Trooper stations and fish runs.

Assemblymember Fonov spoke to traveling to Juneau and speaking to the success of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

George Hays, Deputy Manager, spoke to the Gateway Visitor Center groundbreaking April 11, 2025.

1. State/Federal Legislation
2. Strategic Planning Issues
3. Waterbody Setback Advisory Board Report

25-047 Report

Bill Kendig, Waterbody Setback Advisory Board Chairperson, presented the Waterbody Setback Advisory Board report.

Assemblymember Nowers requested that Waterbody Setback Advisory Board member CJ Koan speak to the Waterbody Setback Advisory Board report.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

CJ Koan, Waterbody Setback Advisory Board member, spoke to the board's report.

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

There was no report provided.

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

- 25-045**
1. Abbreviated Plat: 03/05/25
 2. Agriculture Advisory Board: 12/18/24
 3. Big Lake Community Council: 11/26/24, 01/14/25
 4. Chickaloon Community Council: 08/14/24, 12/11/24
 5. Local Road Service Advisory Board: 01/16/25
 6. Meadow Lakes RSA Board of Supervisors: 10/29/24, Resolution No. 25-01, 25-02
 7. Meadow Lake Community Council: 10/09/24, 11/13/24, 01/08/25, 02/12/25
 8. Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board: 10/28/24, 11/25/24
 9. Planning Commission: 02/03/25
 10. South Knik River Community Council: 11/21/24, Resolution No. 25-01, 25-02
 11. Sutton Community Council: 07/31/24, 08/28/24, 11/27/24
 12. Talkeetna Community Council: 02/03/25
 13. Transportation Advisory Board: 09/20/24, 11/15/24
 14. Trapper Creek Community Council: 01/16/25
 15. Waterbody Setback Advisory Board: 10/29/24, 02/05/25, 02/19/25, 02/26/25
 16. West Lakes FSA Board of Supervisors: 01/13/25

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

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

- IM 25-048** Reporting The Conclusion Of Contract For Bid No. 23-099B With Big Dipper Construction, Inc. For A Final Contract Amount Of \$1,979,601.45 To Construct The Station 6-2 Training Pad.
- IM 25-076** Informing The Assembly Of The Submittal Of The USDA Forest Service Federal Fiscal Year 2025 Community Wildfire Defense Grant Application Requesting \$540,328 To Purchase Equipment And Cover Wages For Wildfire Mitigation Activities.

IM 25-081 Informing The Assembly Of The Managers Signature On Five Grant Applications For Submission To The Alaska State Library For The Alaska Public Library Assistance Grants.

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 persons spoke in support of the Waterbody Setback Advisory Board's report: Michelle Huen; Jean Holt; Victoria Paulson; Ellen Van; Margaret Stern; and Rod Hanson, Chair of North Lakes Community Council.

The following person spoke to the Planning Commission, the Bogard Safety Corridor, and the Borough webpage: Father Randy Allman.

The following person opined they were thankful for Rabbi Greenberg's words, the Library Assistance grants, the Wasilla Pool reopening, and the Library Board and its vacancy: Mary Robinson.

The following persons spoke to library books and the Library Citizen's Advisory Committee: Linda Spohn and Mary Ravetta.

The following person spoke to a oil and gas refinery in Alaska: Sam Tanksley.

The following persons spoke in opposition to Ordinance Serial No. 25-017: DJ McBride, Caswell Lakes RSA Board of Supervisors member; Stephan Edwards, Meadow Lakes RSA Board of Supervisors member; Ned Sparks; Donna Massay, Trapper Creek RSA Board of Supervisors member; Stacey Johnson; John Strassenburgh, Greater Talkeetna RSA Board of Supervisors member; and Michael Leach.

The following person spoke to the Waterbody Setback Advisory Board Report and the fact the MSB Fish & Wildlife Commission has not reviewed it yet: Andy Couch, MSB Fish & Wildlife Commission member.

The following person spoke in opposition to Ordinance Serial No. 25-047: Bruce Owens.

The following person spoke to concerns with the Rose Group and the work they did for the Borough: Jackie Goforth.

The following person spoke to libraries and hired consultants: Victoria Hudson.

The following person spoke to Ordinance Serial No. 25-028 and a local oil refinery: Travis Friesen.

The following persons spoke to concerns with Ordinance Serial No. 25-012: Richard Stoffel and Cathy Harris.

The following person spoke to the Waterbody Setback Advisory Board Report and Ordinance Serial No. 25-047: Bill Klebasadel.

The following person spoke to government spending and in opposition to the Borough buying the Big Lake Lions Club: Mark Spohn.

The following person spoke in favor of the Borough purchasing the Big Lake Lions Club: Esther Huddleson.

The following person spoke to the Rose Group, improper use of funds, and to concerns with Ordinance Serial No. 25-012: Dave Johnson.

The following person spoke in opposition to the Waterbody Setback Advisory Board report: Butch Moore.

The following person spoke to the Rose Group, voting machines, and library books: Karen Lewis.

The following person spoke to Resolution Serial No. 25-034 and the lack of code enforcement: Michael Bowles.

The following person spoke in opposition to Ordinance Serial No. 25-017 and in support of the Waterbody Setback Advisory Board Report and libraries: Ruth Woods.

The following person spoke in opposition to Ordinance Serial No. 25-017 and in support of the Waterbody Setback Advisory Board Report: Patty Fisher.

The meeting recessed at 8:33 p.m. and reconvened at 8:48 p.m.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)

OR 25-020 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$21,500 From The American Society For The Prevention Of Cruelty To Animals, And Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Quality-Of-Life Project

RS 25-015: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Quality-Of-Life Grant From The American Society For The Ms McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

China Werner, Animal Care Shelter 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 Nowers moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-020 and Resolution Serial No. 25-015.

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 25-027 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$39,049.44 From The Alaska State Division Of Forestry Volunteer Fire Capacity Grant Program; And Appropriating \$3,904.94 In Matching Funds For Firefighter And Firefighting Equipment, Clothing, Supplies, And Communications Equipment.

RS 25-023: A Resolution Approving The Scopes Of Work And Budgets For The Alaska State Division Of Forestry Volunteer Fire Capacity Grants And Matching Funds For The Fire Service Areas Of Caswell, Willow, Talkeetna, And Sutton.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Ken Barkley, 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 Gamble moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-027 and Resolution Serial No. 25-023.

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 25-028 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$2,100,000 From The Environmental Protection Agency's Solid Waste Infrastructure For Recycling Grants For Communities.
RS 25-024: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Solid Waste Division's Sustainable Organic Materials Compost Program And Infrastructure Development.
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. 25-028 and Resolution 25-024.

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 25-029 An Ordinance Approving An Appropriation Of Road Service Fund Balances To That Road Service Area's Capital Project Fund.
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 queried the amount funds required: Sam Tanksley.

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

Assemblymember Gamble moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-029.

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 25-030 An Ordinance Establishing A Joint Assembly/School Board Committee
On School District Funding Issues.

Sponsors: Fonov

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mr. Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney, provided a staff report.

The following person spoke to the work between the Assembly and the
School Board and spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 25-030: Tom
Bergey.

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

**Assemblymember Fonov moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No.
25-030.**

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.)

The following person spoke in opposition to Resolution Serial No. 25-028, Ordinance Serial No. 25-047, and the Waterbody Setback Advisory Board: Colleen Vague.

The following person spoke to composting, oil, the Trump administration, and voting machines: Loy Thurman.

The following persons spoke to concerns with Ordinance Serial No. 25-012: Desiree Terry and Nan Potts.

The following person spoke in opposition of Resolution Serial 25-017: Paul Caitlin.

The following person spoke to South Knik River Community Council Resolution Serial No. 25-01 and Resolution Serial No. 25-02: Craig Price.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

RS 25-029 A Resolution Authorizing The Submittal Of A Grant Application To The Alaska State Office Of History And Archaeology On Behalf Of The Depriest Family Trust To Conduct Research And List The Depriest Farm Site, Including The Colony Barn, In The National Register Of Historic Places.

RS 25-034 A Resolution Terminating Staff Assistance For Developing A South Knik River Special Use District.

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

AM 25-025 Approval Of Utility Relocation Costs Of \$255,724.89 To Matanuska Telecom Association, Inc, For The Helen Lane Project In Borgard Road Service Area No. 25, With An Extended Completion Date Of December 15, 2025.

AM 25-026 Acceptance Of Late Filed And Retroactive Senior Citizen And Disabled Veteran Exemption Applications The Period Of January And February 2025.

AM 25-027 Award Of Proposal No. 25-058P To Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. For The Contract Amount Of \$286,772.45 To Design Tuxedo Avenue & Wade Drive Bridge Replacements.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Gamble 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

AM 25-024 Purchase Of Projectmates Software From Systemates, Inc. For An Initial Cost Of \$182,260 And The Year Two Cost Of \$94,750 For Project Management Software.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Fonov moved to adopted AM 25-024.

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

OR 25-012 An Ordinance Amending Title 25, Elections.

Sponsors: Fonov

MOTION PENDING: Assemblymember Fonov moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-012.

Assemblymember Fonov moved a primary amendment to MSB 25-030.025, Section 5:

*inserting the words "A poll watcher can be one of the following:" to Section 5(A);

*striking the word "additionally" from Section 5(A)(2); and

*inserting the words "A political party recognized by the state of Alaska may designate one person at a time to be a poll watcher in each precinct and early vote count location during election years that the Borough's election does not coincide with the State election. The persons designating a poll watcher shall be the precinct party committee, where an organized precinct committee exists, or the party district committee where no organized precinct committee exists, or the state party chairperson where neither a precinct nor a party district committee exists."

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

Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to MSB 25.26.010:

***by inserting the word "hand" in front the word "counting" and "counted" in the last sentence of Section 4 to read, " The hand counting of early voting ballots shall not begin before 8 P.M. on election day and shall be hand counted in accordance with MSB 25.35.081." ;**

***by inserting the word "hand" in front of the word "counted" Section 6(C) to read "(C) Hand-counted ballots. Hand-counted ballots shall be hand counted according to the following rules:"; and**

***by interesting the word "hand" in front of the word "counted" in Section 8(1) to read "(1) If there are write-in votes for a candidate whose name appears on the ballot of for an official write-in candidate, these write-in votes shall be hand counted.".**

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 Gamble moved to suspend the rules and to extend the meeting past 10:30 p.m. and not to exceed 11 p.m.

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 as amended by the following vote:

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

OR 25-017 An Ordinance Amending MSB 5.25, Service Areas, To Provide For A Five-Member Board Of Supervisors For The Road Service Areas In Caswell Lakes, Greater Willow, Meadow Lakes, Gold Trail, Greater Talkeetna, And Trapper Creek.

Sponsors: Bernier

MOTION PENDING: Assemblymember Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-017.

Assemblymember Sumner moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 25-017 to April 1, 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

RS 25-028 A Resolution In Support Of Alaska State Senate Bill 92.

Sponsors: Bernier

MOTION PENDING: Assembly Gamble moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 25-028.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Assemblymember Nowers declared a conflict of interest as her husband does business with a company that could be impacted by the legislation.

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

Assemblymember Nowers exited the meeting.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Assemblymember McKee declared a conflict of interest as her son works with Senator Yundt who sponsored the House Bill.

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

Assemblymember McKee exited the meeting.

Assemblymember Bernier moved to amend by substitute Resolution.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

Recused: 2 - Assemblymember Nowers and Assemblymember McKee

Assemblymember Fonov moved to postpone Resolution Serial No. 25-028 indefinitely.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

No: 1 - Assemblymember Bernier

Recused: 2 - Assemblymember Nowers and Assemblymember McKee

Assemblymember Nowers and Assemblymember McKee re-entered the meeting.

X. VETO

There were no vetoes presented.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 04/01/25 Assembly Chambers)

OR 25-026 An Ordinance Reappropriating \$122,108.95 From The Miscellaneous Capital Projects Fund To The Roads And Bridges Capital Projects Fund, To Acquire Right-Of-Way Property.
RS 25-022: A Resolution Amending The Scopes Of Work And Budgets For The Fiscal Year 2021 Permit Funding For Working In Alaska Department Of Transportation And Public Facilities Right-Of-Way, The Fiscal Year 2022 Right-Of-Way Management Of Acquired Parcels And The Fiscal Year 2019 Seward Meridian Parkway Phase II Project; Amending The Budgets Of The Fiscal Year 2021 Right-Of-Way Acquisition And The Fiscal Year 2022 Right-Of-Way Acquisition; Extending The Date Of Completion For The Project Fundings To June 30, 2027, For Right-Of-Way Acquisition Purposes.

OR 25-043 An Ordinance Amending MSB 18.04.035(A), Port Commission Membership, To Add An Assembly Seat That Is A Non-Voting Member.

Sponsors: Gamble

OR 25-045 An Ordinance Amending MSB 5.25.024, Knik Road Service Area No. 17, To Provide For A Three Member Board.

Sponsors: Gamble

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Gamble moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearings for April 1, 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

25-046

Mayoral Requests for Confirmation

Agriculture Advisory Board

Stephen Brown, removal as he passed away

Board of Equalization

Ulrike "Uli" Johnson

Meadow Lakes RSA No. 27

Esther Huddleston

Assemblymember Gamble moved to confirm the appointments and removals 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)

OR 25-046 An Ordinance Amending MSB 17.60, Conditional Uses, To Include Permit Requirements And Standards For Homeless Shelters.

Sponsors: Sumner and Gamble

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Sumner moved to refer Ordinance Serial No. 25-046 to the Planning Commission for 60 days.

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 25-047 An Ordinance Amending MSB 2.08.060 And MSB 2.12.060, Compensation For The Mayor And Assembly.

Sponsors: Fonov

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Sumner moved to refer Ordinance Serial No. 25-047 to the Commission on Salaries and Emoluments for 365 days.

Assemblymember Fonov moved a primary amendment to strike 365 days and insert 90 days.

The primary amendment fail by the following vote:

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

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

Assemblymember Fonov moved a primary amendment to strike 365 days and insert 180 days.

Assemblymember Gamble moved to suspend the rules and to extend the meeting past 10:30 and not to exceed 11 p.m.

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 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

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

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: 5 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner,
Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and
Assemblymember Bernier**

No: 2 - Assemblymember Hale, and Assemblymember Nowers

XII. RECONSIDERATION

There were no reconsiderations.

XIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Bernier thanked everyone for attending and said a prayer.

Assemblymember McKee directed Administration to investigate funds used for the Rose Group.

[There was no objection noted.]

Assemblymember Nowers spoke to the Rose Group and requested a report from staff about their work for the Borough. Spoke to the meeting turnout and level of community distrust and misinformation shared. Opined the importance of the Waterbody Setback Advisory Board and requested a joint meeting with the Waterbody Setback Advisory Board.

Mr. Hays, Deputy Borough Manager, clarified with Assemblymember McKee and Assemblymember Nowers what report will be brought back regarding the Rose Group.

Ms. McKechnie spoke to hand counting procedures in France. Noted that they count ballots throughout the day, not just after the polls close.

Assemblymember Sumner spoke to the Rose Group, the meeting turnout, and thanked everyone.

Assemblymember Gamble spoke to the BLM Alaska Long Trail comment period and would like to have the Assembly's Resolution included. Queried on how often the Health and Social Services Board meets and who is approving grants. Spoke to a new Narcotic Drug Treatment Center in the Big Lake.

Mayor DeVries spoke to the Waterbody Setback Advisory Board.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 p.m.



Mayoral Signature and Clerk Attestment

For

March 18, 2025, Regular Assembly Meeting Minutes

(22 pages)


EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 04/15/25