

# 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  
Mokie Tew, District 5  
Dmitri Fonov, District 6  
Ron Bernier, District 7

## MEETING MINUTES

WILLOW COMMUNITY CENTER  
MILE 69 PARKS HIGHWAY, WILLOW

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, APRIL 25, 2023

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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 25, 2023, at the Willow Community Center, Mile 69 Parks Highway Willow, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Mayor Edna DeVries.

#### II. ROLL CALL

**Present:** 6 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Robert Yundt, Assemblymember Mokie Tew, and Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov

**Excused:** 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 former Mayor Vern Halter.

## **V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

The following persons spoke in opposition of the Long Lake Timber harvest and requested the Assembly reconsider Resolution Serial No. 23-041: Barbara Kelly, David Kelly, James Carr, and Tryg Erickson.

The following persons spoke in opposition of the Long Lake Timber harvest: Mike Fraham, Glen Knickerbocker, Sandra Knickerbocker, Rodney McCambridge.

The following person spoke to the benefits and programs of the Willow Library and thanked the Assembly and recognized other library donors: Susan Whiten.

The following person suggested the budget include comparisons to past budgets. Spoke in opposition to the gravel ordinance and the 75 foot water body set back ordinance. Thanked the Assembly for coming: John Korta.

The following person queried why the budget meeting is being held at the Community Center rather than the Willow log cabin: George Mckee.

The following person thanked the Assembly for coming and responded to why the budget meeting is being held at the Willow Community Center and the renovation of the Willow log cabin: Vern Halter.

The following person thanked the Assembly for coming and spoke in opposition to the Long Lake timber harvest: Jake Warden.

The following person thanked the Assembly for coming and spoke in opposition to the 75 foot water body set back ordinance: Doyle Holmes.

The following person spoke to the public notification process for meetings. Spoke in opposition to the 75 foot water body set back ordinance and gravel pits in Willow. Spoke in opposition to the Long Lake timber harvest and requested the Assembly reconsider Resolution Serial No.23-041: Tina Owen.

Assemblymember Mckee directed staff to place the motion to rescind Resolution Serial No. 23-041 on the May 16, Regular Agenda.

## **VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

## A. PUBLIC HEARING

**OR 23-023** 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, 2023, And Ending June 30, 2024; And Setting The Surcharge Rate For The Wireline And Wireless Enhanced 911 Systems For The Period Of July 1, 2023, Through June 30, 2024.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

There was no one present who wished to testify.

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to continue the public hearing on Ordinance Serial No. 23-023 to Thursday, April 27, at 6 p.m at the Menard Sports Center.**

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Fonov

**Excused:** 1 - Assemblymember Bernier

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

Assemblymember Mckee thanked the Willow community for coming. Noted she wanted to confirm that the request to place the motion to rescind legislation on the May 16 agenda was done correctly.

Mr. Brown thanked the Willow community for their hospitality.

Mr. Spiropoulos thanked the Willow community for their hospitality and congratulated the community on the community center.

Assemblymember Hale thanked everyone for coming. Spoke to the Community Center and stated he will be home for the summer.

Assemblymember Fonov thanked the Willow community for the food and for everyone who attended.

Assemblymember Nowers thanked the willow community for hosting. Spoke to the public notification process for meetings.

Assemblymember Yundt thanked the Willow community and the hospitality and the great turnout. Spoke to the public notification process for meetings. Thanked Assemblymember Mckee for requesting the motion to rescind Resolution Serial No. 23-041.

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the process for rescinding legislation. Thanked and recognized the ladies who provided the food, Toasted Joe's for the coffee and the school district staff for the sound and recording. Noted the retirement celebration for Debra Wetherhorn in the Clerk's office and invited the Assemblymembers to attend.

Mayor DeVries congratulated Assemblymember McKee for teacher educator of the year award and thanked the Willow community for their hospitality.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.



Mayoral Signature and Clerk Attestment

For

April 25, 2023, Assembly Special Meeting Minutes

(4 pages)

  
EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 06/06/23