

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



Michael Bowles, 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

MENARD SPORTS COMPLEX
1001 SOUTH CLAPP STREET, WASILLA

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026

Budget Public Hearing

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, April 28, 2026, at the Menard Sports Complex, 1001 South Clapp Street, Wasilla, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Edna DeVries.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Assemblymember Michael Bowles, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

Excused: 1 - Assemblymember Maxwell Sumner

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assemblymember Fonov.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person.)

The following person spoke to the organization REACH 907: Skyler DeBoer.

The following persons spoke to potential school closures: Patricia Fisher, Caroline Arnold, and Aunia Brasher.

The following persons spoke in support of Valley Transit: Brian McRumitt, Margaret Provost, Caroline Robinson, Zoë Sturtsy, Helen Katz, Brian Geary, Sonya Debec, and Steve McHomey.

The following person spoke in support of Meadow Lakes Elementary School: Riley Laws.

The following person thanked the Assembly for their grant to Hatcher Pass Avalanche Center: Heather Johnson.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC HEARING

OR 26-026 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, 2026, And Ending June 30, 2027; And Setting The Surcharge Rate For The Wireline And Wireless Enhanced 911 Systems For The Period Of July 1, 2026, Through June 30, 2027.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke to the proposed budget, Government Peak Chalet, and the funding formula for schools: Jim Colver.

Assemblymember Bernier moved to continue the public hearing on Ordinance Serial No. 26-026 to April 30, 2026, at 6 p.m. in the Borough Assembly Chambers.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Excused: 1 - Assemblymember Sumner

B. TRANSIT DISCUSSION

Jennifer Busch, Executive Director of Valley Transit, presented on public transit.

The meeting recessed at 7:52 p.m. and reconvened at 8:05 p.m.

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Assemblymember Bowles spoke to serving as an elected officials and requested the public reach out with their ideas.

Assemblymember Bernier said a prayer.

Assemblymember McKee spoke to her appreciation of public transit and thanked everyone for attending.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.



Mayoral Signature and Clerk Attestment

For

April 28, 2026, Assembly Budget Public Hearing Minutes

(3 pages)


EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 05/19/26