

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

350 East Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska 99645 - 907-861-8683

BOROUGH MAYOR

Vern Halter

BOROUGH CLERK

Lonnie R. McKechnie, CMC

BOROUGH MANAGER

Michael Brown

BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Nicholas Spiropoulos



Tim Hale, District 1
Stephanie Nowers, District 2
George McKee, District 3
Robert Yundt, District 4
Mokie Tew, District 5
Jesse Sumner, District 6
Tam Boeve, District 7

MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2021

Budget Public Hearing

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Vern Halter.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Robert Yundt, Assemblymember Mokie Tew, Assemblymember Jesse Sumner, and Assemblymember Tam Boeve

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (3 Minutes Per Person)

The following persons spoke to concerns with the size of the downloadable budget file: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman and Mr. Jeremy Houston.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC HEARING (Three Minutes Per Person)

[OR 21-021](#) 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, 2021, And Ending June 30, 2022; And Setting The Surcharge Rate For The Wireline And Wireless Enhanced 911 Systems For The Period Of July 1, 2021, Through June 30, 2022.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke in opposition to the capital project funding for West Susitna Access without sufficient public input: Mr. Jeremy Houston.

The following person spoke to concerns with the availability of the budget ordinance: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

The following person spoke in support of funding for community enrichment programs: Mr. Elliott Hunker, Talkeetna Community Enrichment Coordinator.

Assemblymember Boeve moved to continue the budget public hearing to a time certain of April 29, 2021, at 6 p.m. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Mr. Brown spoke to the recently approved agreement between the Borough and NPI. Noted that there is a budget line item of \$722,000 in the Port budget. Spoke to the time frame in which the agreement kicks in and the number of years it covers. Advised that he will be bringing forward a road bond package and will request a special meeting for discussion for June 22, 2021. Related that the investment reports requested by Assemblymember Sumner has been provided to the Assembly.

Assemblymember Nowers noted the public testimony regarding concerns about the size of the downloadable budget. Requested that it be made easier for the public to download if possible.

Assemblymember Yundt advised that he will not be present at the next two budget public hearings as he will be supporting his son's hockey endeavors in Michigan.

Assemblymember Boeve requested that Director Barkley speak to the Lynx Lake project.

Mr. Barkley stated that the Alaska State Division of Forestry will be doing wildfire mitigation near Lynx Lake in Willow. Advised that there will be a virtual meeting at which the State will receive public input regarding fuel reduction. Stated that there is a link on the Borough's website where residents may sign up and then be able to attend the virtual meeting.

Assemblymember Boeve thanked Mr. Barkley for the update. Stated that she is pleased to see this project moving forward.

Mayor Halter noted that there was no public in attendance and that the public hearing meeting was short. Opined that the next two public hearings will have more people present to testify.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.