

# 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

John Moosey

## BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Nicholas Spiropoulos



## BOROUGH ASSEMBLY

Tim Hale, District 1  
Stephanie Nowers, District 2  
George McKee, District 3  
Ted Leonard, District 4  
Dan Mayfield, District 5  
Jesse Sumner, District 6  
Tam Boeve, District 7

## MEETING MINUTES

### ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2019

## I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, December 17, 2019, 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 Ted Leonard, Assemblymember Dan Mayfield, Assemblymember Jesse Sumner, and Assemblymember Tam Boeve

## III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Halter queried if there were any changes to the agenda.

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

## IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. Monica Goyette, Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District Superintendent.

## V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

Mayor Halter queried if there were any changes to the minutes.

The minutes were approved as presented.

## **VI. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

### **A. AGENCY REPORTS (MSB 2.12.082; Seven minutes per person)**

#### **1. Reports From Cities**

Mayor Bert Cottle, city of Wasilla, reported on the activities of the City.

Mayor Virgie Thompson, city of Houston, spoke in favor of starting the process to repair or replace Houston Middle School.

#### **2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District**

Dr. Monica Goyette, Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District Superintendent, reported on the activities of the School District.

#### **3. Transportation Advisory Board**

Ms. Cindy Bettine, Transportation Advisory Board Chair, reported on the activities of the Board. Introduced Josh Cross, Transportation Advisory Board Chair for 2020.

### **B. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee On School Issues**

There was no report provided.

#### **2. Assembly Public Relations**

There were no reports provided.

### **C. MANAGER COMMENTS**

#### **1. State/Federal Legislation**

## 2. Strategic Planning Issues

Mr. Moosey reported on the funding for repairs to Houston Middle School.

**Assemblymember Mayfield moved to direct the manager to move forward with acquiring professional engineering design on the repair and replace of Houston Middle School as a result of the damages sustained in the November 30, 2018, earthquake.**

**Assemblymember Mayfield called for the question (to stop debate). The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

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

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**No:** 1 - Assemblymember McKee

[19-198](#)

12/17/19 - Interior Energy Project PPT

Mr. Dan Britton, Interior Gas Utility General Manager reported on the interior utility project.

[19-199](#)

12/17/19 - Police Powers Task Force Briefing

Mr. George Hays, Deputy Borough Manager, provided an update regarding the Police Powers Task Force.

Mr. John Harris, Borough State Lobbyist, provided an update regarding Governor Dunlevy's budget.

Mr. Moosey provided an overview of the Alaska Municipal League and the Borough's relationship with them.

**Assemblymember Mayfield move to direct the Manager to renew the Borough's membership in the Alaska Municipal League effective as soon as possible but no later than January 1, 2020. The source of funds is to be left to the discretion of the Manager.**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved primary amendment the Borough will rejoin Alaska Municipal League if the Alaska Municipal League Pays the Borough \$5,000 a year.**

**The primary motion failed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, and Assemblymember Sumner

**No:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve

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

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve

**No:** 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, and Assemblymember Sumner

#### D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

There was no comments provided.

## E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule. Noted there was a request to change the Joint Assembly/School Board meeting currently scheduled for January 23, 2020, at 4 p.m. to January 22, 2020, at 4 p.m. Queried if this was a change the Assembly would like to make.

Mayor Halter queried if there was any objection.

There was no objection noted.

## F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

[19-195](#)

1. Local Road Service Area Advisory Board: 10/17/19
2. MSB Fish And Wildlife Commission: 09/19/19, 10/17/19
3. Platting Board: 10/17/19
4. Meadow Lakes Community Council: 10/09/19
5. South Knik River Community Council: 10/17/19

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

## G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

There were no informational memorandums presented.

## VII. SPECIAL ORDERS

### A. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (MSB 2.12.081; Three Minutes Per Person.)

There were no person's to be heard.

### B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)

The meeting recessed at 7:50 p.m. and reconvened at 7:55 p.m.

[OR 19-134](#)

An Ordinance Approving A Reappropriation Of \$75,000 From The Road Improvement Project List, Project No. 30049 To Talkeetna Road Service Area No. 29 Fund Balance, Fund 283.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mr. Terry Dolan, Public Works Director, provided a staff report.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

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

**Assemblymember Boeve moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 19-134. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person.)**

The following persons spoke to concerns with the Houston Middle School rebuild/repair: Mr. Rick Taylor and Mr. Jeff Taylor.

The following person spoke to concerns with commercial development in Finger Lake Subdivision: Ms. Vicki Wintz.

The following person spoke to concerns with the Police Powers Task Force: Mr. Robert Hall.

The following person spoke to the Borough's State and Federal priorities: Mr. Todd Smolden, Director of Governor Dunleavy's Mat-Su Office.

**D. CONSENT AGENDA**

**1. RESOLUTIONS**

[RS 19-102](#) A Resolution Establishing Dates Certain For Payment, Delinquency, Protest, And Appeal Of 2020 Regular Assessment And Tax Rolls, Business Inventory Filing, And For The Commencement Of Hearings Before The Board Of Equalization.  
A resolution Establishing Dates Certain For Payment, Delinquency, Protest, And Appeal Of 2020 Regular Assessment And Tax Rolls, Business Inventory Filing, And For The Commencement Of Hearings Before The Board Of Equalization.

[RS 19-103](#) A Resolution Supporting And Approving Transit Service Project Priorities For Transit Providers Within The Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

**2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS**

[AM 19-123](#) Approval Of A Contract Amendment To Contract No. 17-086P With Clark Engineering Corporation, To Extend The Project Completion Time To December 31, 2020, For The Professional Services Of The Septage And Leachate Treatment And Disposal Facility.

[AM 19-129](#)

Destruction Of Ballots From The November 5, 2019, Regular Borough Election.

**Assemblymember Mayfield 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 Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

[RS 19-100](#)

A Resolution Approving Fiscal Year 2021 Borough Priorities And Project Funding.

**Assemblymember Mayfield moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 19-100.**

**Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to delete ssections B and F.**

**The primary amendment passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 19-100 by inserting the following as the first project under Borough Action Priorities:**

**KNIK-GOOSE BAY ROAD RECONSTRUCTION (CENTAUR AVENUE TO VINE ROAD) - \$120-150 Million, This federally funded project will expand Knik-Goose Bay Road to a four lane divided highway from Centaur Avenue near the city of Wasilla to Vine Road, a major north-south arterial that connects to the Parks Highway. The project also includes signalizes intersections, drainage improvements and a reconstructed separated pathway. Construction will be phased with Phase 1, Centaur Avenue to Fairview Loop, anticipated to start late 2021 and construction Phase 2, Fairview Loop to Settlers Bay Drive in 2023. Design is currently at approximately 75 percent. Right-of-way services contract to be advertised in 2020. Construction is expected to begin in 2023.**

**The primary amendement passed by the following vote:**

**Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve**

**Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 19-100 by inserting the following as the first project under Borough Funding Priorities::**

**HOUSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - \$13 Million, On November 30, 2018 South Central Alaska's 7.1 earthquake caused significant damage to Houston Middle School. Although major damage occurred to both public and private facilities, Houston Middle School was most significant.**

**The Borough has received \$15 Million in insurance proceeds but this is woefully short of providing a safe and effective facility for our future students of Houston. A need for \$13 Million to repair and replace the facility is requested by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.**

**The primary amendment passed by the following vote:**



**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**Assemblymember Hale moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 19-100 by inserting the following as the second item under Borough Funding Priorities: Borough Funding Priorities, by inserting a new (B) to read as follows: Full funding as voted upon by citizens on October 10, 2010 for a 70/30 share of construction of necessary schools and school improvements for the fast growing Mat-Su Borough. Citizens willingly chose to pay more for these important education opportunities under of the state's School Debt Service program.**

**It is imperative that our citizens can go to the ballot box with full faith that their decision will be carried out as presented. Without this confidence in their decision, the citizens' ability to trust our governmental systems is shattered.**

**The Matanuska-Susitna Borough continues to be a growing community. Population has increased in the past 10 years from 84,314 to 105,743, a 25% growth. This growth resulted in the need for additional schools. The cuts to the School Bond Reimbursement Program unequally and negatively impact the residents of the Mat-Su Borough.**

**In 2010 Governor Walker eliminated \$5.7 Million from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The 2019 State Budget eliminated \$9 Million. The Borough's services to our voters were negatively impacted. Another loss of \$9.7 Million, as placed in the Governor's budget, will hurt the Borough's ability to perform necessary services and again drive home the idea that our word with our citizens is not secure.**

**The primary amendment passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**The main motion passed as amended by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

[RS 19-101](#) A Resolution Approving Federal Legislative Priorities For 2021.  
**Assemblymember Mayfield moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 19-101:**

**Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 19-101 by inserting the following as the first two projects:**

**by moving to the first item: KINK-GOOSE BAY ROAD RECONSTRUCTION (CENTAUR AVENUE TO VINE ROAD) - \$120-150 Million**

**This federally funded project will expand Knik-Goose Bay Road to a four lane divided highway from Centaur Avenue near the City of Wasilla to Vine Road, a major north-south arterial that connects to the Parks Highway. The project also includes signalized intersections, drainage improvements and a reconstructed separated pathway. Construction will be phased with Phase 1, Centaur Avenue to Fairview Loop, anticipated to start late 2021 and construction Phase 2, Fairview Loop to Settlers Bay Drive in 2023. Design is currently at approximately 75 percent. Right-of-way services contract to be advertised in 2020. Construction is expected to begin in 2023.**

**HOUSTON MIDDLE SCHOOL - \$13 Million, On November 30, 2018, South Central Alaska's 7.1 earthquake caused significant damage to Houston Middle School. Although major damage occurred to both public and private facilities, Houston Middle School was most significant.**

**The Borough has received \$15 Million in insurance proceeds but this is woefully short of providing a safe and effective facility for our future students of Houston. A need for \$13 Million to repair and replace the facility is requested by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.**

**The primary amendment passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to strike the Gateway Visitor Center, Final Phase 4 from the project list.**

**The primary amendment failed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 2 - Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Sumner

**No:** 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

## **VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There were no unfinished business presented.

## **IX. VETO**

There were no vetoes presented.

## **X. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 01/07/20, Assembly Chambers)**

[OR 20-001](#) An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake Disaster Relief Monies In The Amount Of \$1,050,943.70 From The Federal Emergency Management Agency And \$350,314.56 From The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management, To Fund 445, Project Nos. 55026 And 55027.

RS 20-001: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For A Portion Of The 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake Disaster Relief Monies, Project Nos. 55026 And 55027.

[OR 20-002](#)

An Ordinance Approving Dual Land Classification Of Reserved Use And Public Recreation Lands For A Five-Year Period On Borough-Owned Land Identified As Tax Parcel 18N02E33A015 To Allow Palmer Little League Time And Opportunity To Seek Funding For Construction Of An Indoor\_Baseball Facility (MSB007513).

**Assemblymember Mayfield moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearings for January 7, 2020. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

**1. VACANCY REPORT**

[19-196](#)

Mayoral Recommendations

**Sponsors:**

Halter

Board of Adjustment and Appeals

David Boulter

Board of Ethics

Tayva Taylor (term begins 1/1/20)

Borough Area Schools Site Selection Committee

Jesse Sumner

Historical Preservation Commission

Kevin Toothaker

Jt. Assembly/SB Committee on School Issues

Stephanie Nowers

Platting Board

Wilfred Fernandez (term begins 1/1/20)

Wastewater & Septage Advisory Board

Thomas Stoelting (term begins 1/1/20)

Caswell FSA # 135

Cheryl Newsome

Talkeetna FSA # 24

Stephen Hanson

Meadow Lakes RSA # 27

Stephen Edwards (term begins 1/1/20)

**Assemblymember Mayfield moved to confirm the appointments requested by the Mayor. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers,  
Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard,  
Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and  
Assemblymember Boeve

**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)**

There were no referrals.

**XI. RECONSIDERATION**

There were no reconsiderations.

## **XII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS**

Mr. Moosey clarified the Matanuska Susitna Borough's lobbyist is John Harris and that Mr. Stolte is a contractor to Mr. Harris. Wished the body Merry Christmas.

Mr. Spiropoulos wished the body Merry Christmas. Spoke to his absence for 1/7/2020 Regular Assembly meeting. Spoke to recognition of Cheyenne Heindel, Matanuska Susitna Borough Finance Director.

Assemblymember Nowers spoke of appreciation to the Manager's Report. Spoke to the hard work of Mr. George Hays, Deputy Borough Manager regarding the Police Powers Task Force. Wished the body Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Assemblymember Sumner spoke to concerns regarding the Alaska Municipal League.

Assemblymember Leonard spoke to needing more information on the state law and police powers.

Assemblymember Hale spoke to the Alaska Municipal League's membership fees. Wished Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year to everyone.

Assemblymember Mayfield spoke to Police Powers Task Force. Wished the body a Merry Christmas.

Mayor Halter thanked the Assembly for doing the work session. Thanked Mr. George Hays, Deputy Borough Manager, for work on the task force. Wished the body a Merry Christmas.

## **XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

## **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.