

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, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, September 16, 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: 6 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Maxwell Sumner, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

Telephonic: 1 - Assemblymember Tim Hale

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Deputy Mayor Ron Bernier.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

There were no minutes of preceding meetings.

VI. 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, Mat-Su Borough School District Assistant Superintendent reported on the activities of the School District.

3. State of Alaska

There was no report provided.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committees

There were no reports provided.

2. Assembly Public Relations

Assemblymember Fonov took a moment of silence for Charlie Kirk. Spoke to his admiration of him.

Assemblymember Bernier spoke in admiration of Charlie Kirk. Said a prayer.

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

1. State/Federal Legislation

2. Strategic Planning Issues

Leah Jones, Information and Technology Director, provided an update on the new Borough website.

Mr. Brown noted that the new website will be changing domains from Matsugov.us to Matsu.gov and that the old address will still lead to the Borough webpage. Spoke to a letter than he sent to the Federal Delegation regarding the Talkeetna dike repair.

25-144 Emergency Preparedness Expo Handout

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

There were no comments provided.

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule and pertinent election dates. Noted that the Assembly had been previously provided a copy of the draft election brochure. Spoke to editorial changes that Assemblymember Nowers had brought to her attention that would be made.

Mayor DeVries queried if there were any additional changes to the election brochure.

Assemblymember Sumner moved to include an "in memoriam" statement in the election brochure, to be inserted on the back side of the front cover, to read as follows: "In Memoriam

As we prepare for civic participation and to exercise our democratic rights during this election season, we pause to honor those who have paid the ultimate price in defense of free speech and liberty.

Throughout the history of democracy there are individuals who have stood for the right to speak freely, to challenge authority, to gather peacefully, and to live by conscience. Some have done so in public squares, on campuses, in protests, during rallies, in legislatures, or in the media. And too many have met in violence for that struggle.

Their sacrifice is not in vain.

Freedom of expression is the cornerstone of democracy. It is the right our founding fathers placed first among their amendments. It is the foundation on which we build honest discourse, responsible governance, and meaningful community. In honoring those who have fallen—regardless of background, belief, or political persuasion—we reaffirm our commitment to civil dialogue, peaceful engagement, and the right of every citizen to speak their truth without fear or reprisal.

In the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, where liberty is a cherished value, we are reminded that democracy does not take care of itself—it must be protected, nurtured, and renewed. The integrity of our elections, the accountability of our elected

officials, and the resilience of our communities all depend on our willingness to stand up for these freedoms.

Let us remember with reverence the men and women who have given their lives for liberty. And let us honor them not only in words, but through our actions—in voting our principles, in listening with patience, in speaking with respect, and in standing firm for the rights of others, even when we disagree.

Freedom continues only when we defend it. May their courage serve to inspire ours."

Assemblymember Fonov moved a primary amendment to insert at the end of the statement, the words, "In Memoriam of Charlie Kirk, 1993-2025."

Assemblymember Nowers moved a secondary amendment to insert the words "and other victims of political violence" after the words "Charlie Kirk."

The secondary amendment passed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Gamble

No: 3 - Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

Assemblymember Bernier moved a secondary amendment to insert the following language: "In God We Trust" Centered, at the end of the statement.

The secondary amendment 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 passed as amended by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

No: 2 - Assemblymember Hale and Assemblymember Sumner

The Election Brochure was approved as amended.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

25-136 1. Big Lake Community Council: 05/27/25, 07/08/25
2. Butte FSA Board of Supervisors: 04/09/25
3. Local Road Service Area Advisory Board: 07/17/25
4. Colony North RSA Board of Supervisors: 11/12/24
5. North Lakes Community Council: 05/29/25, 06/26/25
6. Sutton Community Council: 04/30/25, 05/28/25, 06/25/25, 07/30/25

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

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

IM 25-196 Informing The Assembly Of The Submittal Of The 2025 Department Of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency Port Security Grant Application Requesting \$600,000 To Purchase Enhanced Security Equipment For Port Mackenzie.

IM 25-198 Informing The Assembly Of 12 Fiscal Year 2026 Winter Trail Care And Grooming Grant Agreements That Will Be Provided To The Manager For Signature.

IM 25-202 Informing The Assembly Of Acceptance Of Glass And Glass Recycling Taking Place At The Valley Center For Recycling Solutions Beginning September 9, 2025.

IM 25-203 Informing The Assembly Of The Managers Signature On And Submittal Of A United States Geological Survey Grant Application For LiDAR Acquisition.

The informational memorandums were presented, and no comments were noted.

VII. 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 person spoke to how she felt the Library Citizens' Advisory Committee were acting inappropriately: Jackie Goforth.

The following person spoke to concerns with pornographic books in Borough libraries: Karen Harris.

The following person spoke in support of AM No. 25-121: Rod Hanson, North Lakes Community Council.

The following person spoke to concerns with road service area maintenance: Jason Dunn.

The following person opined that schools should not be voting precincts: Tom Roberson.

The following person thanked Assemblymember Sumner for his statements on political violence: Patti Fisher.

The following person spoke to concerns with the lack of Christian authors in Borough libraries: Karen Crandall, Library Board member.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 25-073: Laura Wright,

The following person opined that there has been no inappropriate activities of the Library Board: Ruth Wood.

The following person spoke in support of the Library Board and of Ordinance Serial No. 25-073: Annemarie Fife.

The following person thanked Assemblymember Fonov for his remarks about Charlie Kirk: Victor Fonov.

The following person spoke to concerns with lack of setback areas on islands: Ray Davis.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)

OR 25-073 An Ordinance Amending MSB 17.02, Mandatory Land Use Permit; MSB 17.55, Setback And Screening Easements; MSB 17.65, Variances; MSB 17.80, Nonconforming Structures; And MSB 17.125, Definitions.

Sponsors: Hale

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Alex Strawn, Planning and Land Use Director, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 25-073 and suggested that the current committee be kept on for future advisory needs: Rod Hanson, North Lakes Community Council President.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 25-073: Kim Zazo.

The following person spoke to concerns with Ordinance Serial No. 25-073 and read a letter from the Meadow Lakes Community Council into the record: Steven Edwards.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 25-073 and to a 75-foot setback: Patricia Fisher.

The following person spoke to concerns with Ordinance Serial No. 25-073: Esther Huddleston.

The following person spoke to concerns with the lack of setback areas on islands and other concerns with Ordinance Serial No. 25-073: Al Bolea

The following person spoke in opposition of Ordinance Serial No. 25-073: Lori Boltz.

The following person spoke to concerns that Ordinance Serial No. 25-073 does not provide enough waterbody protection: Andy Couch.

The following persons spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 25-073: Ruth Wood, John Strasenburg, and Laura Wright.

The following persons spoke to the need to protect waterbodies within the Borough: Jessica Speed, Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership Coordinator; and Margaret Stern, Susitna River Coalition Program and Communications Director.

(The meeting recessed at 7:55p.m. and reconvened at 8:08 p.m.)

Assemblymember Hale moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-073.

Assemblymember Nowers moved a primary amendment to strike all new proposed language, retain current code language:
***except for MSB 17.55.020(D), by striking that language; and**
*** keeping the added language in MSB 17.55.005.**

The primary amendment failed by the following vote:

Yes: 1 - Assemblymember Nowers

No: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember McKee,
Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble,
Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

Assemblymember Fonov 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 failed by the following vote:

No: 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers,
Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner,
Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and
Assemblymember Bernier

OR 25-085 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating A Grant In The Amount Of \$44,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Health And Social Services, For The Continued Management Of Points Of Dispensing And Medical Countermeasures

RS 25-071: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Continued Management Of Points Of Dispensing And Medical Countermeasures.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-085.

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 25-093 An Ordinance Repealing The Public Purpose Dedication Placed On A Borough-Owned Lot Identified As 49715 South Bendapole Road And Approving The Sale Of The Borough Parcel To The Adjacent Property Owner, Carlos Perez.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-093.

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 25-095 An Ordinance Approving An Appropriation Of \$108,578 From The Areawide Fund Balance For Bridge And Railroad Crossing Major Maintenance And Repair And The Dust Control Program.
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-095.

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 25-096 An Ordinance Approving The Fair Market Value Sale Of Borough-Owned Land To The Alaska State Department Of Transportation And Public Facilities For The Purpose Of Public Right-Of-Way Needed For The Bogard Road At Engstrom Road Improvements.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-096.

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 25-097 An Ordinance Reappropriating \$300,000 From Solid Waste Project Fund 25048-2400-2428 To Solid Waste Project Fund 25020-2400-2413 For The Enlargement Of Municipal Solid Waste Cell 4.
RS 25-084: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Enlargement Of Municipal Solid Waste Cell 4.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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. 25-097 and Resolution Serial No. 25-084.

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 25-098 An Ordinance Extending Northeast Tehneta Communications Tower Funding.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-098.

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 25-099 An Ordinance Appropriating \$16,271 From Willow-Caswell Fire Service Area Fund Balance To Willow-Caswell Fire Service Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-099.

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 25-100 An Ordinance Appropriating \$4,092,915 From School Debt Service Fund Balance And Reappropriating \$521,681.23 In Remaining Insurance Proceeds From The Mat-Su Central School Construction Project To Fund The Shortfall In State School Construction Bond Debt Service Reimbursement.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-100.

Assemblymember Nowers moved a primary amendment by striking "\$4,092,915" and inserting "\$4,614,597" in its place, from School Debt Service Fund Balance and delete the "reappropriating \$521,6681.23 in remaining insurance proceeds from the Mat-Su Central School Construction Project" throughout the legislation.

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

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 25-101 An Ordinance Reappropriating \$229,652.85 From Grant Match - Local And Tribal Consistency Funding To Community Transportation Program Match For The Inner/Outer Springer Loop Pathway Project.
RS 25-085: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-101.

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 support of Ordinance Serial No. 25-073: David Palmer.

The following person spoke in opposition of AM No. 25-121: Michael Bowles.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

RS 25-092 A Resolution Authorizing Borough Administration To Include Indirect Costs At The Granting Agency's De Minimis Rate For Grant Applications, If Allowed By The Granting Agency.

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

AM 25-115 Authorization To Purchase Fiscal Year 2026 Computer Replacements From Government Computer Sales Under The National Association Of State Procurement Officials Agreement In The Amount Of \$184,508.

AM 25-118 Approval Of Contract Amendment No. Three To Contract No. 23-055P With Heartland Water Technology To Extend The Completion Date To October 31, 2025, For The Design Build Leachate Management System.

AM 25-119 Acceptance Of Late Filed And Retroactive Senior Citizen And Disabled Veteran Exemption Applications For The Period Of July And August 2025.

AM 25-120 Approval of Change Order For Contract No. 25-050B With Orion Construction, Inc. In The Amount Of \$88,930.19 To Widen The Scale House Drive Lane Area.

AM 25-122 Approval Of Additional Authority For Administration To Add Up To \$600,000 To Contract No. 25-004B With Neeser Construction, Inc. For The Edgerton Parks Road And Mountain Trails Drive Upgrade And Pathway Project; And To Extend The Final Completion Date Up To One Year.

Ms. McKechnie read the consent agenda into the record.

Assemblymember Bernier moved to approve the consent agenda as read into the record by the Clerk.

Assemblymember Sumner moved to divide the question to take up AM Nos. 25-116 and 25-121, separately.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

FIRST SEGMENT: The motion to approve the consent agenda, with the exception of AM Nos. 25-116 and 25-121, passed by the following vote:

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

AM 25-116 Award Of Bid No. 26-014B To BSI Equipment LLC In The Contract Amount Of \$488,866 To Purchase A Front-Loading Compact Truck.

SECOND SEGMENT: Assemblymember Bernier moved to adopt AM No. 25-116.

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 25-121 Award Of Proposal No. 25-117P To Valley Transit In The Contract Amount Of \$2,226,420 To Provide Public Transportation Services In The Borough.

THIRD SEGMENT: Assemblymember Bernier moved to adopt AM No. 25-121.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

IX. VETO

There were no vetoes.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 10/07/25, Assembly Chambers)

OR 25-104 An Ordinance Naming An Area Of The Crevasse Moraine Trail System In Memory Of Dot Helm.

Sponsors: Nowers

OR 25-105 An Ordinance Amending MSB 5.25.038, Service Area No. 24: Talkeetna Fire Service Area; Annexing Parcels Located In The Area Of East Rollie L. Circle, South Leroy Davies Road, And Riddle Avenue Into The Talkeetna Fire Service Area Without The Placement Of The Question On The Ballot And Finding That It Services The Public Interest.

RS 25-087: A Resolution Finding The Annexation Of Eight Parcels In The Area Of East Rollie L. Circle, South Leroy Davies Road, And Riddle Avenue Into The Talkeetna Fire Service Area Serves The Public Interest.

Sponsors: Bernier

OR 25-106 An Ordinance Amending MSB 5.25.145, Service Area No. 136: West Lakes Fire Service Area By Annexing Six Parcels Off Of West Susitna Parkway Into The Fire Service Area Without The Placement Of The Question On The Ballot And Finding That It Services The Public Interest.

RS 25-088: A Resolution Finding The Annexation Of Six Parcels Off The West Susitna Parkway Into The West Lakes Fire Service Area Serves The Public Interest.

Sponsors: Gamble

OR 25-107 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating A Grant From The United States Fish And Wildlife Service And Required Match Funding From The Fiscal Year 2023 Areawide Budget Appropriation For Cottonwood Creek At Fern Street Fish Passage.

RS 25-089: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget And Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into An Agreement For Cottonwood Creek At Fern Street Fish Passage; And Approving The Time Extension Of The Fiscal Year 2023 Areawide Budget Appropriation For Fish Passage Improvements Match Funds.

OR 25-108 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$10,712 From The Mat-Su Disc Golf Association For The Alcantra Saw Crew Project.

RS 25-090: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget And Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into The Grant Agreement For The Alcantra Saw Crew Project.

OR 25-109 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$319,837 From The Alaska State Department Of Health And Social Services For The Human Services Community Matching Grant Program
RS 25-091: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Human Services Community Matching Grant Program.

OR 25-110 An Ordinance Approving An Appropriation Of \$800,000 From The Central Mat-Su Fire Service Area Fund Balance To Purchase A Wildland Apparatus.

RS 25-093: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work For A Project To Purchase A Wildland Apparatus For The Central Mat-Su Fire Service Area.

Assemblymember Bernier moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearings for October 7, 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

25-138 Mayoral Requests for Confirmation

Planning Commission
Maksim Zagorodniy

Assemblymember Bernier moved to confirm the appointment 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 25-103 An Ordinance Repealing MSB 17.02, Mandatory Land Use Permit In Its Entirety; And Adopting MSB 17.07, Land Use Review.

Sponsors: Sumner

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Sumner moved to refer Ordinance Serial No. 25-103 to the Planning Commission for 90 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 25-111 An Ordinance Amending MSB 17.55 To Reduce The Minimum Building Setback Requirement From Pedestrian Easements.

Sponsors: Nowers

Assemblymember Nowers moved to refer Ordinance Serial No. 25-111 to the Planning Commission for 90 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

XI. RECONSIDERATION

There were no reconsiderations.

XII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos stated that if members have ideas that they would like to see implemented for the waterbody setback issue to please see him. Noted that the principle of equal protections applies. Provided examples of how variances are applied when property is sold. Commented that it is a complicated process.

Assemblymember McKee thanked Assemblymembers Fonov and Bernier for the Charlie Kirk memorial. Spoke to expansion of interested young republicans being interested since this incident.

Assemblymember Bernier said a prayer.

Assemblymember Hale urged the Assembly to carefully consider riparian buffer requirements when the waterbody setback legislation is crafted. Spoke to how successful riparian buffers are.

Assemblymember Nowers thanked staff and volunteers who contributed to the Williwaw cleanup. Spoke to her disappointment that the waterbody setback issue is still unresolved. Noted that she intends to work hard on that issue.

Mr. Brown noted that briefing will occur at the next meeting regarding the Williwaw cleanup. Spoke to how impressive the support was to make the cleanup happen. Noted that it was a learning experience and largely led by the Planning Department.

Assemblymember Sumner thanked staff for their support of the Williwaw cleanup. Noted that it was one property that sparked the beginning and was very impressive.

Assemblymember Gamble thanked staff for the open house at the Big Lake Recreation Center. Spoke to his surprise how well it was attended. Noted games and food that were available for attendees. Spoke to a vigil that his son had recently attended for Charlie Kirk, which moved him greatly.

Assemblymember Fonov thanked the public for attending the meeting. Stated that he is looking forward to the final report on the Williwaw cleanup. Thanked all those that participated.

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

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (For Matters, Which The Immediate Public Knowledge Of Would Clearly Have An Adverse Effect Upon The Finances Of The Borough; And Matters Which By Law, Municipal Charter, Or Ordinance Are Required To Be Kept Confidential; And To Discuss Matters Involving Consideration Of Borough Records That By Law Are Not Subject To Public Disclosure; And Discussion Of Matters Subject To Attorney/Client Privilege.)

A. Federal Transit Administration Ferry Obligations

Assemblymember Bernier moved to enter into executive session for matters, which the immediate public knowledge of would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough; and matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be kept confidential; and to discuss matters involving consideration of Borough records that by law are not subject to public disclosure; and discussion of matters subject to attorney/client privilege. In particular, to discuss Federal Transit Administration Ferry Obligations. Those present during the executive session were the Mayor, the Assembly, the Manager, the Attorney, and the Clerk.

The motion passed without objection and the Assembly entered into executive session at 9:39 p.m.

Assemblymember Bernier moved to exit executive session.

The motion passed without objection and the Assembly exited executive session at 10:20 p.m.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 p.m.



Mayoral Signature and Clerk Attestment

For

September 16, 2025, Assembly Regular Meeting Minutes

(20 pages)

EDNA DEVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 11/18/25