

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
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 SPECIAL MEETING

6:00 PM

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 2024

Budget Deliberations and Possible Adoption

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, May 9, 2024, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Mayor Edna DeVries.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov, and 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 Assemblymember Nowers.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was no one present who wished to testify.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. BUDGET DELIBERATIONS AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION

OR 24-024

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, 2024, And Ending June 30, 2025; And Setting The Surcharge Rate For The Wireline And Wireless Enhanced 911 Systems For The Period Of July 1, 2024, Through June 30, 2025.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Amendment No. 4

Gold Trail Road Service Area (RSA) - Non-Departmental (pages 356 and 359) and Capital Project (page 505)

Assemblymember Fonov moved a primary amendment and any other conforming changes to the budget as follows:

*** Gold Trail RSA, reduce the mill rate from 1.880 to 1.70, thereby reducing property tax revenues (311.100) by \$244,908; and**

*** The Gold Trail RSA, Non-Departmental, Transfer to 455/4105 (446.400) by decreasing the appropriation by the amount of \$244,908.**

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

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

Amendment No. 5

Areawide Fund - Non-Departmental (page 60) and Capital Project (page 488)

Assemblymember Yundt moved a primary amendment and any other conforming changes to the budget as follows:

*** The Areawide Fund, Non-Departmental, Transfer to 415/425/430/435/440/470 (446.700) by increasing the appropriation by the amount of \$50,000; and**

*** Adding the Capital Project - Colony Baseball Field Improvement Grant for the amount of \$50,000 with the following project description: A grant will be provided to the Colony Knight Baseball Booster Club for the purpose of improving the Colony Baseball Field.**

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

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

Amendment No. 6

Areawide Fund - Non-Departmental (page 60) and Capital Project (page 487)

Assemblymember Yundt moved a primary amendment and any other conforming changes to the budget as follows:

*** The Areawide Fund, Non-Departmental, Transfers - City of Wasilla Planning (449.205) by increasing the appropriation by the amount of \$100,000; and**

*** Increasing the Capital Project City of Wasilla - Planning Grant by the amount of \$100,000.**

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

Amendment No. 7

Areawide Fund - Planning and Land Use, Community Cleanup (page 111), Public Works, Project Management (page 121), Road Service Administration Fund (page 293) and Capital Projects, Public Works (page 488)

Assemblymember Yundt moved a primary amendment and any other conforming changes as follows:

***The Areawide Fund Planning and Land Use, Community Cleanup, Permanent Wages and Benefits eliminating the new Cleanup Coordinator position and decreasing the appropriation for Wages (411.100) by the amount of \$55,024 and Benefits (412.XXX) by \$52,184.**

Assemblymember Yundt moved a secondary amendment by
***The Areawide Fund Planning and Land Use, Community Cleanup, Cleanup Coordinator position would be a one year employee.**

The secondary amendment passed by the following vote:

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

Assemblymember Fonov moved a secondary amendment by
***Making the Cleanup Coordinator position a 1,000 hour employee**

The secondary amendment passed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Assemblymember McKee, Yundt, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

No: 3 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, and Assemblymember Gamble

[Clerk's Note: This amendment kept \$53,604 in the budget for wages.]

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

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

No: 2 - Assemblymember Hale, and Assemblymember Nowers

Amendment No. 8

**Areawide Fund - Planning and Land Use, Community Cleanup
(page 111)**

**Assemblymember Fonov moved a primary amendment to the
Areawide Fund and make any other conforming changes to the
budget as follows:**

*** The Other Contractual appropriation of \$150,000 shall be
utilized \$75,000 for the vehicle removal program and \$75,000
for community cleanup on private property.**

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

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

Amendment No. 9

Areawide Fund - Non-Departmental (page 60) and Capital Project/Grants (page 485)

Assemblymember Fonov moved a primary amendment and make any other conforming changes to the budget as follows:

- * The Areawide Fund, Non-Departmental, Transfer to 415/425/430/435/440/470 (466,700) by decreasing the appropriation by the amount of \$281,886; and**
- * Decreasing the Capital Project EMS Zoll X Series Cardiac Monitors by the amount of \$281,886.**

Assemblymember Gamble moved a secondary amendment by striking an additional \$281,886 for a total of \$563,772 to zero out the project.

The secondary amendment passed by the following vote:

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

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

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

Amendment No. 10

Areawide Fund - Non-Departmental (page 60) and Capital Projects/Grants (page 488)

Assemblymember Gamble moved a primary amendment and make any other conforming changes to the budget as follows:

- * The Areawide Fund, Non-Departmental, transfer to 415/425/430/435/440/470 (446.770) by increasing the appropriation by the amount of \$20,000; and**
- * Adding the Capital Project - Jay Nolfi Park Light Installation for the amount of \$20,000.**

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

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

Amendment No. 11

Areawide Fund, Community Development, Parks & Recreation (page 154)

Assemblymember Bernier moved a primary amendment and any conforming changes as follows:

- *The Areawide Fund, Community Development, Parks and Recreation, and Other Contractual (429.900) by increasing the appropriation by the amount of \$5,000; and**
- *The increase in appropriation will provide \$4,500 to rename the Willow Area Community Center to The Rosalie White Community Center, and \$500 to provide a protective overhang to the Willow Museum entrance.**

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

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

Amendment No. 12

Areawide Fund - Non-Departmental (page 60) and Capital Project (page 487)

Assemblymember Bernier moved a primary amendment and any other conforming changes as follows:

- * The Areawide Fund, Non-Departmental, Transfer to 415/425/430/435/440/470 (446.700) by increasing the appropriation by the amount of \$75,000; and**
- * Adding the Capital Project - For a grant to provide Firearm Safety Training to residents.**

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

- Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember McKee, Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier
- No:** 2 - Assemblymember Hale, and Assemblymember Nowers

Amendment No. 13

Areawide Fund - Non-Departmental (page 60) and Education Fund (pages 216 & 217)

Assemblymember McKee moved a primary amendment and any other conforming changes to the budget as follows:

- * The Areawide Fund, Non-Departmental, Education Operating (445.220) by decreasing the appropriation by the amount of \$1,092,697, and**
- * The Education Fund, Non-Departmental by decreasing both Transfers from Other Funds, Areawide (376.110) and Education - Operating (406.100) by \$1,092,697.**

Assemblymember Bernier moved a secondary amendment by striking "\$1,092,697" and inserting "\$1,200,000" in its place.

The secondary amendment failed by the following vote:

- Yes:** 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier
- No:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Yundt, and Assemblymember Gamble

The primary amendment failed by the following vote:

- Yes:** 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier
- No:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Yundt, and Assemblymember Gamble

Amendment No. 14

Areawide Fund - Non-Departmental (page 60) and Capital Project (page 487)

Assemblymember Bernier moved a primary amendment and any other conforming changes as follows:

- * The Areawide Fund, Non-Departmental, Transfer to 415/425/430/435/440/470 (446.700) by increasing the appropriation by the amount of \$5,000; and**
- * Adding the Capital Project - Alaska SCTP Non-Profit Grant for the amount of \$5,000 with the following project description: A grant to provide for building materials.**

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

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

The meeting recessed at 8:38 p.m. and reconvened at 8:47 p.m.

Assemblymember Bernier moved a primary amendment to set the areawide mill rate at 8.748 and the nonareawide mill rate at .38.

The primary amendment passed as follows:

- Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier
- No:** 2 - Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Fonov

The main motion passed as amender by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

No: 2 - Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Fonov

VII. VETO

A. Motion to Override Any Possible Mayoral Veto on Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Items (Ordinance Serial No. 24-024)

There were no vetoes presented.

VIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Assemblymember Bernier said a prayer.

Assemblymember Nowers stated she is thankful for the Borough's budget process. Spoke to the Mat-Su Health Foundation.

Ms. McKechnie noted that the Assembly has until 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 10, 2024, for submit a reconsideration for the budget. If no reconsideration is received the May 14, 2024 Assembly Special Meeting Re: Budget Deliberations and Possible Adoption will be cancelled.

Assemblymember Yundt spoke to the Mat-Su Health Foundation. Stated that he would be providing maps of unmaintained roads within the borough for the body to review.

Assemblymember Gamble noted concern for the Matanuska-Susitna School District's budget process.

Assemblymember Fonov noted he has concerns with the Matanuska-Susitna School District's budget process.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.