

# 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, MAY 11, 2021

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### **Budget Deliberations and Possible Adoption**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 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**

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

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

Mr. Brown informed the Assembly the bidding for the Houston Middle School project opened this morning, the current funding available without FEMA funds is 34.1 million and the lowest bid is \$33.6 million. Advised that the contract for Assembly approval will be on the June 1, 2021, meeting. Noted this will give us additional latitude from FEMA.

#### **IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Assemblymember Hale.

#### **V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

The following person spoke to an update on My House Mat-Su Homeless Youth Center: Ms. Michelle Overstreet, Founder and Executive Director.

The following persons spoke in opposition to decreasing the budget for the Sutton Library: Ms. Margie Hawkins and Jessica Tremaine.

The following persons spoke in opposition to decreasing funding of mileage reimbursement for District 7. Stated the representative should not have to pay out of pocket for meeting with constituents. Also spoke in opposition to decreasing funding for libraries: Ms. Ruth Woods and Mr. John Strassenburgh.

The following person spoke to concerns with the budget process, amendment documents not being available sooner, and to the increase to the Mayor's salary. Stated there should be zero funds given to the Port Mackenzie: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

The following persons spoke in opposition to decreasing the budget for libraries and mileage reimbursement: Ms. Brenda McCain and Mr. Bob Chlupach.

#### **VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

Mayor Halter issued Special Recognition Awards to three Station 6-2 firefighters for their exemplary, life saving work involving successfully rescuing three people from a residential structure fire on March 28.

#### **A. DELIBERATIONS AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET**

[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.

**MAIN MOTION PENDING: Assemblymember Boeve moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 21-021.**

**Amendment No. 1**

**Non-Areawide Services - Community Development - (Tab C, pages 187-195)**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved to amend non-areawide Services, Community Development as follows:**

- **Division 503, Sutton Library, by striking \$351,423 from the overall budget and inserting \$326,200 in its place for a reduction of \$25,223;**
- **Division 504, Talkeetna Library, by striking \$443,171 from the overall budget and inserting \$370,743 in its place for an overall reduction of \$72,428; and**
- **Division 505, Trapper Creek Library, by striking \$230,031 from the overall budget and inserting \$190,307 in its place for an overall reduction of \$39,724.**

**Assemblymember McKee moved to postpone the primary amendment a time certain of May 13, 2021.**

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

- Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve
- No:** 1 - Assemblymember Hale

## **Amendment No. 2**

**Non-Areawide Services - Assembly - Animal Care (Tab C, pages 179-181)**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to the Non-Areawide Services, Assembly, Animal Care and Regulation (200.100.606), by striking \$2,695,113 from the overall budget and inserting \$2,355,198 in its place for an overall reduction of \$339,915.**

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

- Yes:** 3 - Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Sumner
- No:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Boeve

## **Amendment No. 3**

**Mayor Halter recused himself from discussion and left the chambers.**

**Areawide - Mayor (Tab B, page 81)**

**Assemblymember McKee moved a primary amendment to the Areawide Fund, Mayor, Salaries and Wages (414.100), by striking \$29,975 and inserting \$50,000 in its place.**

**Assemblymember Yundt moved a secondary amendment by striking "\$50,000" and inserting "\$73,157.41" in its place.**

**Assemblymember Nowers called for the question (to stop debate).**

**There was no objection noted.**

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

- Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Sumner
- No:** 3 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, and Assemblymember Boeve

**Assemblymember McKee called for the question (to stop debate).**

**There was no objection noted.**

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

- Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Sumner
- No:** 3 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, and Assemblymember Boeve

#### **Amendment No. 4**

#### **Areawide - Mayor (Tab B, page 81)**

**Assemblymember McKee moved a primary amendment to the Areawide Fund, Mayor, Expenses Outside of Borough, by adding \$7,500 as follows:**

- 414.200, Expense Reimbursement, by striking \$1,800 and inserting \$5,550 in its place; and
- 414.400, Travel Tickets, by striking \$3000 and inserting \$6,750 in its place.

**Assemblymember McKee called for the question (to stop debate).**

**There was no objection noted.**

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

- Yes:** 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, and Assemblymember Tew

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

#### **Amendment No. 5**

##### **Areawide - Administration (Tab B, page 71)**

**Assemblymember McKee moved a primary amendment to the Areawide Funds, Administration, Other Professional Charges (426.900), by striking \$150,000 and inserting \$70,000 in its place for a reduction of \$80,000.**

**Assemblymember Yundt called for the question (to stop debate).**

**There was no objection noted.**

**The motion failed by the following note:**

**Yes:** 3 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember McKee, and  
Assemblymember Tew

**No:** 4 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Yundt,  
Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

#### **Amendment No. 6**

##### **Areawide - Community Development - Community Enrichment (Tab B, page 155)**

**Assemblymember Tew moved a primary amendment to the Areawide Fund, Community Development, Community Enrichment, Other Contractual (429.900), by striking \$0 and inserting \$27,500 in its place.**

**Assemblymember Tew called for the question (to stop debate).**

**There was no objection noted.**

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

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers,  
Assemblymember Yundt, and Assemblymember Tew

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

#### **Amendment No. 7**

##### **Areawide - Finance - Common Contractual (Tab B, page 90)**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to the Areawide, Finance, Common Contractual, Other Contractual (429.900), by striking \$862,000 and inserting \$140,000 in its place, for reduction of \$722,000.**

**Assemblymember McKee moved to postpone the primary amendment a time certain of May 13, 2021.**

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

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt,  
Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Boeve

**No:** 3 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, and  
Assemblymember Sumner

#### **Amendment No. 8**

##### **Capital Projects/Grants (Tab M. page 502)**

**Assemblymember Nowers moved a primary amendment to the Capital Projects/Grants, Pre-Design & Engineering, West Susitna Access, by striking \$100,000 and inserting \$50,000 in its place for a reduction of \$50,000.**

**Assemblymember McKee moved a secondary amendment by striking \$50,000 and inserting \$0.**

#### **The secondary amendment failed by the following vote:**

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

**No:** 4 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Boeve

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

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Boeve

**No:** 2 - Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Sumner

**Amendment No. 9**

**Areawide - Assembly (Tab B, page 61)**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to the Areawide Fund, Assembly, Dues and Fees (426.300), by striking \$41,000 and inserting \$20,993 in its place for a reduction of \$20,007.**

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

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

**No:** 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Boeve



## **Amendment No. 10**

### **Throughout Budget**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to amend Mileage Outside of Borough (414.100), Expense Reimbursement Outside of Borough (414.200), and Travel Tickets (414.400) throughout the budget as follows:**

- **Areawide, fund 100, strike \$150,162;**
- **Non-Areawide, fund 200, strike \$6,750;**
- **Enhanced 911, fund 202, strike \$12,670;**
- **Land Management, fund 203, strike \$200;**
- **Fire Fleet Maintenance, fund 245, strike \$7,100;**
- **Caswell FSA, fund 248, strike \$2,200;**
- **West Lakes FSA, fund 249, strike \$15,000;**
- **Central Mat-Su FSA, fund 250, strike \$99,000;**
- **Butte FSA, fund 251, strike \$8,300,**
- **Talkeetna FSA, fund 254, strike \$1,400;**
- **Willow FSA, fund 258, strike \$4,300;**
- **Admin Road Service Areas, strike \$265**
- **Talkeetna Water and Sewer SSA, fund 293, strike \$1,000;**
- **Solid Waste, fund 510, strike \$18,900; and**
- **Port, fund 520, strike, \$5,200.**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved to postpone the primary amendment a time certain of May 13, 2021.**

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

- Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve
- No:** 1 - Assemblymember Hale

**Assemblymember Boeve moved to continue Ordinance Serial No. 21-021 to May 13, 2021.**

### **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. VETO**

There were no vetoes presented.

### **A. Motion to Override Any Possible Mayoral Veto on Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Items (Ordinance Serial No. 21-021)**

There was no vetoes issued.

## **VIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT**

Mr. Brown provided an update to funds approved by Assembly in Ordinance Serial No. 21-041.

Assemblymember Sumner spoke concerns to funding My House Mat-Su Homeless Youth Center without subtracting funds from somewhere in the budget.

Assemblymember Yundt wished a Happy Birthday to Assemblymember Hale. Spoke to the good work that is done by My House Mat-Su Homeless Youth Center.

Assemblymember McKee noted he would have an amendment ready on May 13, for the My House Mat-Su Homeless Youth Center funding.

Assemblymember Hale thanked staff for their work on the budget.

Assemblymember Boeve wished a Happy Birthday to Assemblymember Hale.

Mr. McKechnie informed the Assembly to bring their copy of the pink amendments from tonight's meeting to the May 13, meeting.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.