

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

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

Tim Hale, District 1  
Stephanie Nowers, District 2  
Dee McKee, District 3  
Robert Yundt, District 4  
Mokie Tew, District 5  
Jesse Sumner, District 6  
Ron Bernier, District 7



Doug Glen, District 1  
Richard Allen, District 2  
Patricia Chesbro, District 3  
Michael Rubeo, District 4  
Chris Elder, District 5  
Stafford Glashan, District 6  
Curt Scoggin, District 7

## MEETING MINUTES

### ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

JOINT ASSEMBLY/PLANNING COMMISSION

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022

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

The Joint Assembly/Planning Commission meeting was held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 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. ASSEMBLY ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 4 - Assemblymember Robert Yundt, Assemblymember Mokie Tew, Assemblymember Jesse Sumner, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier (attended telephonically until he entered the meeting at 6:16 p.m.)

**Excused:** 1 - Assemblymember Dee McKee

**Telephonic:** 2 - Assemblymember Tim Hale (entered at 6:01 p.m.) and Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers

### **PLANNING COMMISSION ROLL CALL**

Present: Planning Commissioner Doug Glenn, Planning Commissioner Richard Allen, Planning Commissioner Chesbro, Planning Commissioner Rubeo, Planning Commission Chair Stafford Glashan, and Planning Commissioner Curt Scoggin.

Excused: Planning Commissioner Chris Elder

### **III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Planning Commission Chair Stafford Glashan.

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

The following person spoke in opposition to have a shooting range near Redington High School: Clay Chapman.

The following persons spoke in support of repealing the shooting range ordinance and to concerns with air quality monitoring: Brian Endle and Jeremiah Hammerick

The following person spoke to the need to support air quality monitoring and the misinformation about it on social media: Jim Sykes.

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

##### **A. Parks Highway Alternative Corridor Planning and Environmental Linkages Study and associated Partnership Agreement (Requested by Administration)**

Mike Brown, Borough Manager, noted that the Borough has lobbied the State for years for a regional office. Stated that the State has recently acquired a property off Seward-Meridian and introduced Clint Adler, Chief of the Mat-Su District Office.

Kelly Summers, Alaska State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, introduced Rene Whitesell, who would be making a presentation this evening.

Rene Whitesell, Senior Project Manager with DOWL Engineering, reported on the Parks Highway Alternative Corridor Planning and Environmental Linkages Study and Associated Partnership Agreement.

##### **B. Metropolitan Planning Organization Discussion (Requested by Assemblymember Sumner)**

Kim Sollien, Planning Services Manager, reported on the Metropolitan Planning Organization.

##### **C. Gravel Permitting Discussion (Requested by Assemblymember Sumner)**

Alex Strawn, Planning and Land Use Director, led the discussion regarding gravel permitting.

##### **D. Subdivision Construction Manual (Requested by Assemblymember Sumner)**

Alex Strawn, Planning and Land Use Director, reported on the Subdivision Construction Manual.

**E. Air Quality Ordinance and Monitoring Equipment Location Discussion (Requested by Assemblymember Sumner)**

Ted Eischeid, Planner II, led the discussion regarding the air quality ordinance and monitoring equipment.

**F. Shooting Range Permitting Discussion (Requested by Assemblymember Sumner)**

Alex Strawn, Planning and Land Use Director, led the discussion regarding shooting range permitting.

**G. Zoning Discussion (Requested by Assemblymember Sumner)**

Alex Strawn, Planning and Land Use Director, led the discussion regarding zoning in the Borough.

## **VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, PLANNING COMMISSION, AND STAFF COMMENT**

Planning Commissioner Chesbro noted many ways that having zoning would assist the Planning Commission in making decisions.

Planning Commission Chair Glashan thanked staff for the informative presentations. Spoke to the work that is ahead of the body.

Assemblymember Nowers spoke to her appreciation of the discussion. Stated that it would be extremely helpful to zoning information when making decisions. Spoke to the need to ensure quality roads.

Assemblymember Bernier extended his prayers for Ukraine.

Assemblymember Tew stated that he appreciated the discussion. Spoke to having attended an awards ceremony for middle and high school kids. Noted it is important to hear about the good things that kids accomplish.

Assemblymember Yundt thanked staff for the presentations. Noted that he learned a lot. Stated that he has long been a proponent of protecting the quality of life in the Borough but does not support governmental overreach. Spoke to the impacts of growth in the Borough. Noted that he has spent his life supporting affordable housing. Opined that the Borough is a great place to live.

Assemblymember Sumner thanked the body for the meeting. Spoke to his appreciation of the discussion. Opined that the Assembly should lean more on the Planning Commission as an advisory board for regulatory review. Noted that there are many experienced members on the Planning Commission.

Mayor DeVries thanked staff for the presentations and noted how much she enjoyed them. Thanked the Planning Commission for the joint meeting and welcomed the new members. Stated that the Assembly and the Planning Commission may not always agree on things, but that they are always able to find a way forward.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.



Mayoral Signature and Clerk Attestment

For

March 8, 2022, Joint Assembly.Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

(12 pages)

EDNA DEVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 04/05/22