

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
Robert Yundt, District 4
Mokie Tew, 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, FEBRUARY 7, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 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: 5 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Robert Yundt, Assemblymember Mokie Tew, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

Telephonic: 1 - Assemblymember Tim Hale

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assemblymember Tew.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

[23-012](#)

A. Assembly Regular Meeting Minutes: 12/08/22

B. Assembly Regular Meeting Minutes: 12/20/22

C. Assembly Regular Meeting Minutes: 01/03/23

The minutes were approved as presented without objection.

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

There was no report provided.

3. State of Alaska

Mr. Todd Smoldon, Executive Director of Governor Dunleavy's Mat-Su Office, reported on the activities of Governor Dunleavy's office.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee On School Issues

Assemblymembers Nowers and Tew reported on the most recent meeting.

2. Assembly Public Relations

There were no reports provided.

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

1. State/Federal Legislation

2. Strategic Planning Issues

Mr. Brown spoke to the following:

- * Houston High School ribbon cutting on March 23, 2023;
- * Certificate of achievement being awarded to the Borough's Finance Department by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States;
- * Talon Boeve being selected as an Alaskan Safety Hero as part of the 2023 Class of Real Heroes by the Red Cross; and
- * Whether the Assembly would like to take a position on House Bill 22 or any bills related to the PERS defined benefit.

Assemblymember Yundt moved to have a public discussion and to take a position on House Bill 22. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Bernier

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos advised that Hannah Steketee with his office will be leaving to join the Court as a magistrate. Noted that he will be out of the office for the next couple of weeks for a family trip to Disney World.

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule. Noted the proposed budget meetings had been included and queried if the Assembly would like to schedule the budget meetings.

Mayor DeVries queried if there was any objection.

There was no objection noted.

Assemblymember Yundt moved to reschedule the September 19, 2023, regular Assembly meeting to September 26, 2023. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Bernier

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

23-008

1. Abbreviated Plat: 01/04/23, 01/18/23,
2. Aviation Advisory Board: 12/08/22
3. Caswell Lakes RSA Board of Supervisors: Resolution 23-01, 23-02
4. Chase Community Council: 07/20/22, 10/12/22, 12/08/22
5. Greater Palmer Consolidated FSA Board of Supervisors: 08/04/22, 10/17/22
6. Greater Talkeetna RSA Board of Supervisors: 11/10/22
7. Knik-Fairview Community Council: 09/21/22, 10/19/22, 11/02/22
8. Local Emergency Planning Committee: 10/19/22
9. Local Road Service Area Advisory Board: 10/20/22, 11/17/22
10. Louise/Susitna/Tyone Community Association: 10/08/22
11. MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission: 11/17/22
12. North Lakes Community Council: 11/17/22, 12/15/22
13. Planning Commission: 12/05/22
14. Platting Board: 12/01/22, 01/05/23
15. Port Commission: Resolution Nos. 23-001, 23-002
16. South Colony RSA Board of Supervisors: 09/29/22
17. Susitna Community Council: 12/01/22

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

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

- [IM 23-021](#) Reporting Conclusion Of Contract No. 21-109B With Granite Construction Company For The Final Contract Amount Of \$415,630.26 For The Sunset Drive Improvements Project.
- [IM 23-022](#) Reporting Conclusion Of Contract No. 21-113B With Pruhs Construction Company LLC. For The Final Contract Amount Of \$457,325.25 For The Central Midway Streets Improvements Project.
- [IM 23-023](#) Reporting Conclusion Of Contract No. 21-123B With Western Construction And Equipment LLC. For The Final Contract Amount Of \$582,620.45 For The Michigan Street And Lakeshore Circle Improvements Project.
- [IM 23-024](#) Reporting Conclusion Of Contract No. 21-176B With Valley General Construction LLC. For The Final Contract Amount Of \$464,891 For The Golden Drive, Rainbow Park Drive, Indigo Drive, And Gray Court Improvements Project.
- [IM 23-028](#) Informing The Assembly Of The Addition Of Two New Modules To Our Existing Agreement With Tyler Technologies: New World Enterprise Resource Planning.
- [IM 23-029](#) Informing The Assembly Of The Managers Signature On And The Electronic Submittal Of A Solid Waste Infrastructure For Recycling Grant Application, For The Development Of A Composting Program At The Central Landfill.
- [IM 23-032](#) Informing The Assembly Of The Managers Signature On And Submittal Of Alaska State Library Continuing Education Grant Application.
The informational memorandums were presented and no comments were noted.

VII. SPECIAL ORDERS

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

There were no persons to be heard.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)

There were no public hearings.

C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person.)

The following persons spoke to the need to protect voter integrity and opined that ballots should have serial numbers on them: John Miller, Karen Lewis, Lloyd Thurman, and Richard Stoffel.

The following person recounted stories from the bible: Brian Endel.

The following person spoke to concerns with unceded lands in Palmer, concerns with the Palmer Museum, and to concerns with the Palmer Chamber of Commerce trying to rebrand Colony Days: Jackie Goforth.

The following person opined that climate change is a scam: Cindy Hudgens.

The following persons spoke to concerns with judicial corruption and that the Grand Jury should have the capability to do investigations: David Haag, David Nordland, and Holly Sheldon Lee.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

[RS 23-007](#) A Resolution Approving The Amended Budgets For The Clapp-Mack Road Extension Project And The Old Glenn Pathway Phase II Project.

[RS 23-008](#) A Resolution Authorizing The Borough Manager To Enter Into An Agreement With Webster Wood Service, LLC. For The Mule Creek Timber Salvage Sale.

[RS 23-010](#) A Resolution Requesting That The Alaska State Department Of Transportation And Public Facilities Prioritize Resolving The Drainage Of The Lucille Creek Wetlands Prior To Resurfacing Big Lake Road And Hollywood Road.

Sponsors: Tew

[RS 23-011](#) A Resolution Authorizing The Manager To Convert Two On-Call Right-Of-Way Inspectors Into One Full-Time Right-Of-Way Inspector; And Allow For The Hiring Of This Position Prior To The Beginning Of Fiscal Year 2024.

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

[AM 23-007](#) Award Of Bid No. 23-043B To Zones, LLC. In The Contract Amount Of \$401,071.58 To Provide Microsoft Enterprise Agreement Licensing.

[AM 23-008](#) Award Of Bid No. 23-040B To Recon, LLC. In The Contract Amount Of \$110,300 To Evaluate The Sand And Gravel Potential At Several Material Sites.

[AM 23-009](#) Approval To Extend Final Completion Date For Contract No. 21-142P With Kinney Engineering LLC. To July 31, 2023, For Design Services Of The Felton Street Extension Project.

[AM 23-010](#) Approval Of Additional Utility Relocation Costs of \$8,994.81 To Enstar for Wolverine Avenue, Porcupine Avenue, and Beaver Avenue Improvements, Project No. 30045.

[AM 23-012](#) Award Of Proposal No. 23-053P To NV5 Geospatial, Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$400,865 To Collect Aerial Imagery In The Borough.

Ms. McKechnie read the consent agenda into the record.

Assemblymember Yundt moved to approve the consent agenda as read into the record by the Clerk. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Bernier

[AM 23-011](#) Approval Of Contract Amendment To The Contract With Harris Consulting To Extend The Contract To June 30, 2024, In An Annual Amount Not To Exceed \$80,400 For State Lobbyist Services.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember McKee moved to adopt AM 23-011. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

No: 1 - Assemblymember McKee

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

IX. VETO

There were no vetoes.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 02/21/23, Assembly Chambers)

[OR 23-006](#) An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$50,000 From The Alaska State Office Of History And Archaeology To Complete Phase II Of The Historic Preservation Plan Update.

RS 23-006: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget, Extending The Time Of Completion To June 30, 2024, And Authorizing The Manager To Sign The Agreement For Phase II Of The Historic Preservation Plan Update.

[OR 23-009](#) An Ordinance Amending MSB 18.04.035(A), Port Commission Membership.

[OR 23-010](#) An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating Additional National Opioid Settlement Funding Totaling \$196,575 From The Manufacturers And Traders Trust Company, And Reappropriating \$95,089.10 For Opioid Settlement Relief.

RS 23-009: A Resolution Amending The Scope Of Work And Budget For Opioid Settlement Relief.

[OR 23-011](#) An Ordinance Extending The Date Of Completion On Match Funding For The Grant From The United States Department Of Commerce, Economic Development Administration For The Gateway Visitor Center.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Yundt moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearings for February 21, 2023. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Bernier

B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

[23-009](#)

Mayoral Requests For Confirmation

Agriculture Advisory Board

Kimberly Bergey

Thomas Bergey

Library Board

Katherine Cross

Kathleen Shoop, resignation

Joann Walch, resignation

Platting Board

Robert Hallford

Caswell FSA No. 136

Phillip Johnson

Talkeetna FSA No. 24

Christopher Byrd

Knik RSA No. 17

Tyan Jimenez

Assemblymember Yundt moved to confirm the appointments and resignations requested by the Mayor. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, 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 23-008](#)

An Ordinance Amending MSB 15.24.031, Initiating And Amending Lake Management Plans.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Yundt moved to refer Ordinance Serial No. 23-008 to the Planning Commission for 90 days. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Bernier

XI. RECONSIDERATION

There were no reconsiderations.

XII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Nowers noted that the Assembly does not have any oversight of the Palmer Museum. Stated that her daughter worked there for a while and her job was to document colonist history. Provided an overview of what that process looked like.

Mr. Spiropoulos noted that there are 18 meetings between this evening and May. Teased that maybe there needs to be more meetings scheduled.

Assemblymember Bernier thanked the public for their attendance. Said a prayer.

Assemblymember Yundt stated that he is looking forward to a resolution of the bussing issue that the School District is dealing with. Commented what a great job the road contractors did during the extreme windstorm in December. Noted that the difference between Borough roads and roads in Anchorage was stark. Spoke to his desire to get some Borough roads upgraded this summer. Related his enthusiasm to see projects moving forward.

Assemblymember Tew echoed the comments regarding the road service area contractors doing a great job.

Mayor DeVries spoke to a recent meeting she attended with Governor Dunleavy and the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. Related that there was discussion regarding reviving the Knik Arm Bridge project. Advised that she was asked to secure letters of support from the cities within the Borough.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (For Subjects That Tend To Prejudice The Reputation Or Character Of Any Person, Provided That Person May Request A Public Discussion; Matters Which By Law Are Required To Be Confidential; And Matters Involving Consideration Of Government Records That By Law Are Not Subject To Public Disclosure.)

A. Filling the Assembly District 6 Vacancy and Discussion of Qualifications

[Clerk's Note: The Executive Session was not conducted.]

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.