

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

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

Michael Bowles, 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



Thomas Bergey, District 1
Kendal Kruse, District 2
Kathryn McCollum, District 3
Andrew Shane, District 4
Brooks Pitcher, District 5
Ole Larson, District 6
Lorie Colee, District 7

MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

JOINT ASSEMBLY/SCHOOL BOARD MEETING 6:00 PM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Joint Assembly/School Board meeting was held on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Mayor Edna DeVries.

II. ASSEMBLY ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Assemblymember Michael Bowles, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Maxwell Sumner, and Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov

Excused: 1 - Assemblymember Bill Gamble

Telephonic: 1 - Assemblymember Ron Bernier

SCHOOL BOARD ROLL CALL

Present: School Board Member Thomas Bergey, School Board Member Kendal Kruse, School Board President Kathy McCollum, School Board Member Ole Larson, and School Board Member Lorie Colee.

Excused: School Board Member Brooks Pitcher

Telephonic: School Board Member Andrew Shane (entered at 6:06 p.m.)

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by School Board President Kathy McCollum.

Mike Brown, Borough Manager, read the recent wind disaster declaration into the record. Spoke to the process of how disaster declarations work.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person.)

The following person spoke to the need for more diversity on State and Borough Board: Scott Lindlboom.

The following person spoke in support of civil discourse and spoke to negative comments made about her online: Jackie Goforth.

The following persons opined that the School Board should not have removed the land acknowledgement from School Board meetings: Niasasluq King and Kassacuar Agnes Beans.

The following person spoke to concerns regarding a school specific policy at Palmer High School that is preventing his son from walking with his graduating class and requested that the policy be rescinded: Jason Ortiz, speaking as a private citizen.

The following person spoke in support of reinstating the land acknowledgement at School Board meetings, in support of rescinding a policy that prevents a child from participating in their graduation, and in opposition to the Mayor cutting off public testimony of a speaker: Jessica Clayton.

VI. JOINT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Annual Budget, Preliminary Discussion; State Legislative Action Needed (MSB 2.12.075(A))

25-189

School District Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Budget

Mayor DeVries noted that School Board Member Ole Larson had to depart the meeting early and invited him to put his comments regarding the School District's preliminary budget into the record.

School Board Member Ole Larson read his comments regarding the preliminary budget into the record.

Katie Gardner, Deputy Superintendent for Business and Operations and Dr. Randy Traini, School District Superintendent, reported on the School District's preliminary Fiscal Year 2027 Budget.

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, SCHOOL BOARD, AND STAFF COMMENTS

School Board Member Shane spoke to the importance of having accurate and timely information moving forward so that both bodies can make informed decisions.

School Board Member Bergey emphasized the need to continue the dialogue between the bodies. Spoke to the potential consolidation of services, noting that if consolidation is feasible it must be done correctly and methodically. Commented on the pace at which government moves and encouraged the body to explore opportunities to share expenses. Stated that he is not comfortable shifting costs from one body to another. Wished everyone a safe drive home.

School Board Member Colee spoke to the platform she ran on during her election to the School Board. Thanked the public for providing testimony. Spoke to her appreciation for the Assembly and School Board working collaboratively in the best interests of children.

School Board Member Kruse spoke in appreciation of the hard work staff put into organizing the meeting. Stated that she values the Joint Assembly/School Board Committees and looks forward to continued collaboration for the benefit of residents, with a focus on funding education while keeping property taxes low.

Dr. Traini noted that funding is complex. Spoke in appreciation of the Assembly and School Board working together to address funding challenges.

School Board President McCollum expressed appreciation for the significant effort involved in preparing the budget and noted that the School Board has substantial work ahead. Thanked the Assembly and School Board for collaborating to remain fiscally responsible. Thanked Dr. Traini and Ms. Gardner for their work in reducing health insurance costs for the School District, resulting in more affordable options for employees. Stated that she is excited to explore the potential consolidation of health insurance between the Borough and the School District, noting that the School District's larger participant pool could benefit the Borough. Spoke to the importance of promoting local online learning through the Mat-Su Borough School District and expressed appreciation for Public Information Officer John Notestine's efforts in that area. Stated that she enjoys joint meetings.

Assemblymember Bernier thanked everyone for attending the meeting and asked whether it might be possible to offer some form of property tax credit.

Mr. Spiropoulos responded that the question was broad and asked Assemblymember Bernier to provide additional specificity.

Assemblymember Bernier clarified that he was referring to a potential property tax incentive connected to local online learning and student enrollment that might attract volunteers to school campuses and reduce budget impacts. Spoke to reasons he believes parents choose home school options. Said a prayer.

Assemblymember McKee referenced an old saying that you cannot solve problems by throwing money at them unless it is someone else's money. Spoke to the need to find viable funding solutions. Noted that the Assembly and School Board are aligned and that both bodies care deeply about children. Opined that the school-specific policy preventing a student from walking with his graduating class should be rescinded, noting that graduation is a significant milestone.

Assemblymember Nowers expressed appreciation for the dialogue and stated that the Assembly and School Board have historically worked well together and that she hopes this collaboration continues. Thanked the School District Administration for the work they do to address challenges. Spoke to the possibility of identifying creative uses for partially empty schools to benefit the community. Stated that she agrees with Assemblymember McKee that the policy preventing a student from walking with his graduating class is overly harsh and should be reconsidered. Spoke in support of reinstating the land acknowledgement at School Board meetings.

Assemblymember Bowles commended the School Board for its decision to discontinue land acknowledgements at School Board meetings. Spoke to his appreciation of the School District's standing as number one in education and emphasized the importance of well-educated students for the future. Noted that funding solutions exist and encouraged both bodies to continue working together to find them.

Assemblymember Fonov stated that audience participation was interesting and opined that there is often extensive discussion about finding solutions, but proposed ideas are frequently deferred. Asserted that graduation is a once-in-a-lifetime event and that the policy preventing a student from walking with his graduating class should be reconsidered. Shared his personal experience of being denied the opportunity to walk with his own class and the lasting impact it had. Requested that at the next meeting, the Manager provide the Assembly with detailed information on where Borough residents affected by windstorm damage can seek assistance. Thanked the

body for the meeting.

Mr. Brown stated that the Borough does not have municipal authority to provide individual assistance. Noted that the Borough's declaration is submitted to the State as part of that process. Explained that the declaration is effective for seven days but may be extended if necessary. Stated that no action is required by the Assembly should it need to be extended.

Mr. Spiropoulos reported that he presented at the Alaska Municipal League conference on the use of artificial intelligence and professional rules applicable to attorneys.

Mayor DeVries opined that the Borough is at the forefront in many areas. Encouraged the Assembly, School Board, and School District Administration to be thoughtful when considering the construction of additional schools. Spoke to having attended numerous grand openings and observed that many were for credit unions and banks. Noted that one credit union offered incentives to attract new members. Spoke to the need to attract students to the Borough's School District and to pursue creative funding solutions.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

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
Michael Bowles, 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, DECEMBER 16, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, December 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 Michael Bowles, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee (entered at 6:09 p.m.), Assemblymember Maxwell Sumner, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, and Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov

Telephonic: 1 - Assemblymember Ron Bernier

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Brown requested to add emergency legislation approving an extension of the disaster declaration, Resolution Serial No. 25-121, immediately following committee reports.

There was no objection.

Assemblymember Bowles moved Resolution Serial No. 25-120 to first item of business after first audience participation.

There was no objection.

The agenda was approved as amended.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assemblymember Nowers.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

There were no minutes presented.

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

Todd Smoldon, Executive Director of Governor Dunleavy's Mat-Su Office, reported on Governor Dunleavy's budget.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committees

There was no report provided.

2. Assembly Public Relations

There was no report provided.

RS 25-121 A Resolution Approving A Seven Day Extension To The 2025 December Mat-Su Wind Storm Disaster Issued On December 9, 2025.

Ms. Wiese read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Nowers moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 25-121.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

- 1. State/Federal Legislation**
- 2. Strategic Planning Issues**
- 3. Gravel Pits Update**

25-192 Gravel Pits Presentation

Emerson Krueger and Alex Strawn provided a report regarding current and possibly viable in the future, gravel pits within the Borough.

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

No report was provided.

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. Wiese spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

25-184

1. Bogard RSA Board of Supervisors: Resolution No. 25-01
2. Butte Community Council: 06/11/25, 08/13/25, 09/10/25
3. Fairview RSA Board of Supervisors: 09/16/25, Resolution No. 25-01
4. Knik RSA Board of Supervisors: Resolution No. 25-01
5. Lazy Mountain RSA Board of Supervisors: 11/14/25
6. Meadow Lakes RSA Board of Supervisors: Resolution No. 25-03
7. Planning Commission: 11/17/25
8. South Knik River Community Council: 08/21/25, 09/18/25, 10/16/25
9. Talkeetna Community Council: 11/03/25
10. Tanaina Community Council: 11/24/25

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

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

IM 25-260 Reporting Conclusion Of Contract No. 23-083B with Northern Asphalt Construction, Inc., For a Total Contract Amount Of \$2,185,282.14 For The Cheri Lake Drive, Karen Avenue, And King Arthur Drive Improvements Project.

IM 25-262 Informing The Assembly Of The Manager's Signature On And Submission Of A Grant Application To The Mat-Su Trails And Parks Foundation.

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 concerns with inaccurate previous testimony of the public regarding the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District lawsuit about banned books and concerns with pornographic books in MSB libraries: Jackie Goforth.

The following person wished the body happy holidays, spoke in support of the MSB Libraries and the hard work of the librarian: Mary Robinson.

The following person referred to recent local cardiologist that was arrested and the need to protect children from pornography: Linda Spohn.

The following person spoke to the 12/02/25 Joint Assembly/School Board meeting. Spoke in opposition to book banning: Jeanne Troyshinski.

The following person spoke in opposition to the regulation of privately owned land and creating more permits: Janice Norman.

The following person spoke in opposition Ordinance Serial No. 25-103: Jay Van Diest.

The following person spoke to an overall lack of trust in the government and eliminating property tax: Dave Maxwell.

The following person spoke in opposition of Ordinance Serial No. 25-103, Resolution Serial No. 25-120, and alcohol consumption at MSB facilities. Spoke to gravel as a resource: Mark Spohn.

The following persons spoke in opposition Resolution Serial No. 25-120: Sherry Stresczak, Andy Hird, Bill Stoltze, Sean Murphy, Matt Hickey, Ric Smith, Susan Crane, Linda Leigh, Lee Hammermeister, Patty Bailey-Ruiz, Jennifer Stanvik, Colleen Vague, Catherine Margolin, Rod Timmins, and Michael (Last name was indiscernible), and Mike Leigh.

The following person spoke in opposition Resolution Serial No. 25-120 and Ordinance Serial No. 25-102: Mark Johnson.

The following person spoke to gravel and Resolution Serial No. 25-120: Travis Friesen.

The following persons spoke in support of Resolution Serial No. 25-120: Ken McCarty and Dan Kendall.

The following person spoke to eliminating property tax and to supporting education: Sam Tanksley.

The following persons spoke in opposition of Ordinance Serial No. 25-103: Justin Hatley and Jesse Sumner.

The following person spoke in opposition of Ordinance Serial No. 25-103 and in support of the Eagle Exit Group: Sally Pollen.

RS 25-120 A Resolution To Initiate Discussions And Considerations Regarding The Proposal To Annex The Chugiak-Eagle River Area Into The Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

Ms. Wiese read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Fonov moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 25-120.

Assemblymember Sumner moved to postpone Resolution Serial No. 25-120 indefinitely.

Assemblymember Sumner moved to withdraw his motion.

The motion to withdraw passed by the following vote:

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

No: 3 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, and Assemblymember Sumner

Assemblymember Fonov moved to postpone Resolution Serial No. 25-120 to June 16, 2026.

The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 1 - Assemblymember Fonov

No: 6 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

Assemblymember Nowers moved to postpone Resolution Serial No. 25-120 indefinitely.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

No: 1 - Assemblymember Fonov

The meeting recessed at 8:33 p.m. and reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)

RS 25-114 A Resolution Approving Changes To Update The Fiscal Year 2027 Schedule Of Rates And Fees Effective July 1, 2026.
Ms. Wiese read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke in support of all fee increases for the Animal Care shelter, Community Development, support trail fee increases for day pass. Opined that bereaved families should not incur costs or should incur a reduced rate for funeral or memorial services at Government Peak Recreation Area: Michelle Heun.

There being no one else present who wished to testify, the public hearing closed and discussion moved to the Assembly.

Assemblymember Nowers moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 25-114.

Assemblymember Bowles moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 25-114 by inserting the following fees under the Community Development Department section to read as follows:

"(1) Government Peak Chalet (starting 01/01/2027)
a. Rental Fee Daily - Full Day Monday - Thursday - \$350
b. Rental Fee Daily - Full Day Friday - Sunday - \$450
c. Rental fee addition hour(s) - 30/hr
d. Security Deposit for all rentals - \$150
e. Cleaning fees - \$100/hr
f. Waive fees for memorial services or funeral rentals."

Assemblymember Gamble moved a secondary amendment by inserting the following fees "Rental Fee Daily - Half Day Monday - Thursday - \$175 and Rental Fee Daily - Half Day Friday - Sunday - \$225."

The secondary amendment passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

No: 1 - Assemblymember Fonov

Assemblymember Fonov moved a secondary amendment by striking, "Waive fees for memorial services or funeral rentals."

The secondary amendment passed by the following vote:

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

Assemblymember Fonov moved a secondary amendment by striking "\$150" for the security deposit and inserting "\$350" in its place, to read as follows: "Security Deposit for all rentals \$350".

The secondary amendment passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

No: 1 - Assemblymember Nowers

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

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

The main motion passed by the following vote:

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

OR 25-102 An Ordinance Amending MSB 43.20, Subdivision Development Standards To Allow Lots To Be Reduced To 30,000 Square Feet Within Single-Family Residential Land Use Districts.

Sponsors: Sumner

Ms. Wiese read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in opposition of Ordinance Serial No. 25-102: Simon Gilliland, Linda Spohn, Mark Spohn, and Steve Edwards.

There being no other who wished to testify, the public hearing closed and the discussion moved to the Assembly.

Assemblymember Sumner moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-102

Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to Ordinance Serial No. 25-102 as follows:

***To strike the following, "MSB 43.20.281(F)(2) Each lot that is reduced has the approximate water well location delineated on the plat, unless the lot is served by a municipal or community wastewater system; and**

(a) The water well shall be installed within the delineated water well area.;"

*** MSB 43.20.281(F) by striking the words "3 minutes per inch," and inserting in its place "15 minutes per inch," to read as follows: "(3) a certification from a professional engineer, licensed by the state of Alaska, is submitted to the Planning and Land Use Department. The certification must confirm that the reduction in lot size and reserve area of each septic system will meet all DEC requirements for conventional onsite wastewater systems, and site conditions in reserve areas are "Good" as defined by most recent version of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Onsite Wastewater System Installations Manual, section 2.6 Evaluating Site Condition table, except that percolation rates may be up to 15 minutes per inch.;"**

***in section 3, strike the following words, "Failure to install water well or wastewater system within delineated area," and inserting in its place "Installation of septic system outside of delineated area.;"**

***change "Section 4. Effective date" to "Section 5. Effective date"; and**

***insert a new Section 4 read as follows, "Section 4. (A) Buildings, structures, and other development shall be subject to the setback requirements specified in MSB 17.55. (B) Water wells shall not be installed within 100 feet of areas delineated on the plat for septic systems."**

Assemblymember Nowers moved a secondary amendment to insert the following in Section 3. "Require wells to be in place before the property is platted."

Assemblymember Fonov moved to suspend the rules and to extend the meeting past 10 p.m. and not to exceed 11: 30 p.m.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

The secondary amendment failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, and Assemblymember McKee

No: 4 - Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

The primary amendment failed by the following vote:

Yes: 1 - Assemblymember Sumner

No: 6 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

Assemblymember Gamble moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 25-102 to March 17, 2026, and to refer it to the Platting Board in the mean time.

The motion to postpone to March 17, 2026 passed by the following vote:

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

No: 2 - Assemblymember Sumner and Assemblymember Fonov

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. Wiese read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in opposition to Ordinance Serial No. 25-103: Brian Endle and Simon Gilliland.

The following person spoke in support of a building permit with reasonable fee: Cindy Bettine.

There being no one else present who wished to testify, the public hearing closed and discussion moved to the Assembly.

Assemblymember Sumner moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-103.

Assemblymember Sumner moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 25-103 to March 17, 2026.

The motion to postpone passed by the following vote:

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

No: 2 - Assemblymember Bowles and Assemblymember Fonov

OR 25-111 An Ordinance Amending MSB 17.55, Setbacks And Screening Easements, To Reduce The Minimum Building Setback Requirement From Pedestrian Easements.

Sponsors: Nowers

Ms. Wiese read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

There being no one present who wished to testify, the public closed and discussion moved to the Assembly.

Assemblymember Nowers moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-111.

Assemblymember Fonov moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 25-111 indefinitely.

The motion to postpone indefinitely failed by the following vote:

Yes: 1 - Assemblymember Fonov

No: 6 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

Assemblymember Nowers moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 25-111 to January 20, 2026.

The motion to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 25-111 to January 20, 2026, passed by the following vote:

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

OR 25-133 An Ordinance Allowing Renters Of The Big Lake Lions Recreation Center To Consume And Serve Alcoholic Beverages Per The Terms Of The Rental Agreement At The Big Lake Lions Recreation Center. Ms. Wiese read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in opposition to Ordinance Serial No. 25-133: Linda Spohn and Michelle Traxler.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 25-133: Cindy Bettine.

There being no others present who wished to testify, the public hearing closed and discussion moved to the Assembly.

Assemblymember Gamble moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-133.

The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Gamble

No: 4 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember McKee, 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 noted that the Big Lakes Lion's Club historically has had alcohol allowed at events such as weddings, funerals, and fundraisers: Cindy Bettine.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

RS 25-119 A Resolution Amending The Scope Of Work For The Oilwell Road Amber Lake Parking Area Design Project To The Homebuilt Circle Neklason Lake Parking Area.

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

- AM 25-144** Authorization For Destruction Of Ballots From The November 4, 2025, Regular Borough Election.
- AM 25-145** Award Of Bid No. 26-079B To AK Clearwater Mechanical In The Contract Amount Of \$138,840 For Boiler Replacement At Snowshoe Elementary School.
- AM 25-146** Award Of Bid No. 26-073B To Tutka, LLC In The Contract Amount Of \$919,100 To Construct Circle View Dike Repairs.
- AM 25-147** Approval Of Change Order No. 6 For Contract No. 23-002P(C) With DOWL, LLC. For The Edgerton Parks Road And Mountain Trails Drive Upgrade And Pathway Project; And To Extend The Completion Date To July 31, 2026.
- AM 25-149** Approval Of Amendment No. 6 For HDL Engineering Consultants, LLC. For The Jolly Creek Drainage Improvement Task Order Under Contract 20-117P(A); And Extending The Completion Date To December 31, 2027, To Develop Final Bid Packages And Provide Support During Construction.
- AM 25-150** Award Of Bid No. 26-078B To Mechanical Specialists, Inc. For The Contract Amount Of \$199,863 For The Finger Lake Elementary School Boiler Replacement.

Ms. Wiese read the legislation into the record.

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

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

AM 25-148 Award Of Bid No. 26-086B To Recon, LLC. In The Contract Amount Of \$191,200 To Provide Geotechnical Evaluation Of Land Identified As Likely Having High Quality Deposits Of Civil Construction Materials.

Ms. Wiese read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Nowers moved to adopt AM 25-148.

Assemblymember Nowers moved to postpone AM 25-148 to January 20, 2026.

The motion to postpone AM 25-148 to January 20, 2026, passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, 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 presented.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (No Public Hearings For 01/06/25)

There were no introductions.

B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

Board of Adjustment and Appeals
Ronald Johnson
Borough Area Schools Site Selection Committee
Thomas Bergey, resignation
Kendal Kruse
Ted Swanson, resignation
Lorie Colee
Jt Assembly/School Board Committee on School District
Funding Issues
Maxwell Sumner
Jt Assembly/School Board Committee on School Issues
Stephanie Nowers
Thomas Bergey, resignation
Kathy McCollum
Brooks Pitcher
Willow-Caswell FSA Board of Supervisors
William Brewer
Gold Trail RSA Board of Supervisors
Vladimir Zagorodniy
Trapper Creek RSA Board of Supervisors
Ryan Romans
Donna Massay, resignation
David Finch

With a term beginning January 1, 2026
Agriculture Advisory Board
Mark Stahl
Craig Hanson
Board of Adjustment and Appeals
Michael Dale
Board of Equalization
Traci Barickman
Enhanced 911
Whitney Daw
Library Board
Laura Anderson
Big Lake RSA Board of Supervisors
Garland Morrison

Trapper Creek RSA Board of Supervisors

Andrew Stinnett

Assemblymember Nowers moved to confirm the appointments and resignations requested by the Mayor.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, 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)

There were no referrals.

XI. RECONSIDERATION

There were no reconsiderations.

XII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Brown proposed a Special Meeting Re: Waterbody Setbacks on January 20, 2026, at 4 p.m.

There was no objection.

Mr. Brown proposed a Strategic Planning Session at Station 6-5 on February 14, 2026, at 10 a.m.

There was no objection.

Assemblymember Bernier said a prayer.

Assemblymember Fonov moved to suspend the rules and extend the meeting past 11:30 p.m. and not to exceed 11:45 p.m.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Assemblymember Bowles spoke to concerns with the Government Peak Chalet serving alcohol.

Assemblymember Gamble thanked Emergency Services and MEA for their windstorm response.

Assemblymember Fonov spoke to assistance available to the public regarding damage from the windstorm and to the February 14, 2026, meeting.

Mayor DeVries spoke to the Big Lake Lion's Club and the Government Peak Chalet.

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

B. Other Pending Claims And Potential Liabilities Asserted Against The Borough

Assemblymember Nowers moved to enter into executive session.

The motion passed without objection and the Assembly entered into executive session at 11:04 p.m.

Assemblymember Nowers moved to exit executive session.

The motion passed without objection and the Assembly exited executive session at 11:42 p.m.

[Clerk's Note: Assemblymember Bernier exited the meeting at 11:41 p.m.]

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:42 p.m.