

# 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, JANUARY 17, 2023

## I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, 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 Robert Yundt, Assemblymember Mokie Tew, 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 Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney.

## V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

[22-213](#)

- A. Joint Assembly/Planning Commission Meeting: 10/11/22
  - B. Regular Assembly Meeting: 10/18/22
  - C. Election Certification Meeting: 11/22/22
  - D. Regular Assembly Meeting: 11/22/22
- 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 election legislation and reported on when the Governor's State of the State speech would take place.

### **B. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee On School Issues**

There was no report provided.

#### **2. Assembly Public Relations**

There were no reports provided.

### **C. MANAGER COMMENTS**

#### **1. State/Federal Legislation**

#### **2. Strategic Planning Issues**

#### **3. Borough Assessor's Report**

[23-013](#)

Assessor's Report

Clyde, "Buddy" Eveland, Borough Assessor, provided the 2023 Annual Property Appraisal Report.

### **D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

## **1. Formation Of Service Areas**

Mr. Spiropoulas, spoke to the process of formation of service areas.

## **2. Assembly District 6 Vacancy-Process**

Mr. Spiropoulas, spoke to the appointment process of the Assembly District 6 vacancy. The Assembly set the special meeting dates for candidate interviews and the Assembly appointment. Shared on days he would be out of the office.

## **E. CLERK COMMENTS**

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule. Requested the Assembly let her know if they have questions regarding the election process.

## **F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no citizen and other correspondence.

## **G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS**

### [IM 23-015](#)

Informing The Assembly Of The Manager's Signature On Amendment No. 2 For A Time Extension Only, To Operate Collection Sites And Dispose Of Dead Slash From Beetle Killed Trees For Mat-Su Residents.

The informational memorandum was 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.)**

[OR 23-001](#)

An Ordinance Directing That Tax Account 117N02E23D022 Be Included In The 2023 Real Property Tax Foreclosure Action.

**Sponsors:** Hale

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into record.

Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

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

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 23-001. The main motion passed by the following vote:**

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

[OR 23-004](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating An Additional \$5,394.14 From The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management Grant Program, For Equipment.

RS 23-003: A Resolution Approving The Revised Budget For The State Of Alaska, Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management Grant, For Equipment.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into record.

Cheyenne Heindel, Finance Director, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke to concerns with Ordinance Serial No. 23-004: Lloyd Sherman.

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

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to adopt. The motion passed without objection by the following vote:**

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

## C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person.)

The following persons requested funding for the development of sand and gravel storage areas for Caswell Road Service Area No. 15: DJ McBride, Shawn McBride, and Tam Boeve.

The following person read a Resolution asking the Assembly and the Manager to request the State of Alaska Department of Transportation to prioritize rerouting Lucille Creek wetlands with Big Lake Road and Hollywood resurfacing to follow: Pat Daniels, Big Lake Road Service Area No. 21 Board Member.

The following persons spoke to code enforcement issues: Cecilia Wisthoff and Tom Wisthoff.

The following person commended the Clerk on well run elections, thanked the Assembly for listening to public concerns, and spoke in favor of ballots having serial numbers: Lloyd Hermann

The following person spoke to elections, to concerns with the Palmer Museum having on their website that Palmer is located on unceded lands, and noted the lands are not unceded.: Jackie GoForth

## D. CONSENT AGENDA

### 1. RESOLUTIONS

[RS 23-005](#) A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Bradley Road Bridge Replacement Over Trapper Creek, Fund 410, Project No. 30050-1802; And The Willow Station Road Railroad Crossing Upgrade, Fund 410, Project No. 30042-1803.  
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into record.

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to approve the consent agenda as read into 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

### 2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

[AM 23-004](#) Award Of Bid No. 23-047B To Carlos Tree Service, Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$354,205 To Perform Clearing At The Central Landfill.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into record.

**Assemblymember McKee moved to adopt AM No. 23-004. the motion passed by the following vote:**

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

[AM 23-005](#) Authorization To Extend Final Completion Date For Contract No. 22-103B With Western Construction And Equipment LLC. To April 30, 2023, For Right-Of-Way Surveying And Clearing Services. Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into record.

**Assemblymember Tew moved to adopt AM No. 23-005. The motion passed by the following vote:**

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

## **VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **IX. VETO**

There were no vetoes presented.

### **X. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

#### **A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 02/07/23, Assembly Chambers)**

There were no Introductions.

#### **B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

##### **1. VACANCY REPORT**

Board of Equalization  
Russell Joyce

Historical Preservation Commission  
Vivian Smith

Local Emergency Planning Committee  
Tracey Loscar  
Candice Humphrey

MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission  
Robert Yundt

Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board  
Jill Martinson

Bogard RSA No. 25  
Gary Hessmer

Greater Butte RSA No. 26  
James Stocker

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to confirm the appointments 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)**

There were no referrals.

#### **XI. RECONSIDERATION**

[OR 23-005](#)

An Ordinance Prohibiting Onsite Consumption Of Marijuana Until Such Time As The State Of Alaska Adopts A Numerical Standard For Operating A Vehicle While Under The Influence Of Marijuana Or A Numerical Standard For The Presumption Of Being Under The Influence Of Marijuana.

**Sponsors:** Yundt

[Clerk's Note: Reconsideration of Ordinance Serial No. 23-005 was not moved.]

**XII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS**

Assemblymember Hale thanked the Assembly for their continued support in cleaning up the Bodenbug compound.

Assemblymember Bernier thanked everyone for coming. Said a prayer.

Assemblymember Nowers spoke to registering for the February AML Conference in Juneau. Updated the Assembly on a conservation easement public hearing notice by the university with Great Land Trust for property on the Green belt Trail System which connects to the Crevasse-Moraine Trailhead. Requested staff to link a District 6 map to the vacancy on the website. Spoke to concerns regarding natural gas energy supplies in the Borough.

**XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.