

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

John Moosey

BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Nicholas Spiropoulos



BOROUGH ASSEMBLY

Jim Sykes, District 1

Matthew Beck, District 2

George McKee, District 3

Ted Leonard, District 4

Dan Mayfield, District 5

Barbara J. Doty, District 6

Randall Kowalke, District 7

MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, March 20, 2018, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Vern Halter.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Assemblymember Jim Sykes, Assemblymember Matthew Beck, Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Ted Leonard, Assemblymember Dan Mayfield, Assemblymember Barbara J. Doty, and Assemblymember Randall Kowalke

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by members of the Butte Fire Department.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

[18-029](#)

1. Special Meeting Minutes: 02/27/18
2. Regular Meeting Minutes: 03/06/18

Mayor Halter queried if there were any changes to the minutes as presented.

The minutes were approved as presented without objection by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck,
Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard,
Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and
Assemblymember Kowalke

VI. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

A. AGENCY REPORTS (MSB 2.12.082; Seven minutes per person)

1. Reports From Cities

Wasilla City Mayor Bert Cottle reported on the activities of the city.

Palmer City Manager Nate Wallace reported on the activities of the city.

2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

School District Superintendent Monica Goyette and Dr. Anne Holmen, University of Alaska, gave a presentation on Mat-Su Borough high school graduate trends and placements for literacy and mathematics.

3. Wastewater And Septage Advisory Board

This agency report was postponed to the regular meeting of April 3, 2018.

B. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

[18-027](#) Mayoral Proclamation Regarding Education And Sharing Day

Sponsors: Halter

Mayor Halter and Deputy Mayor Beck presented a proclamation regarding Education and Sharing Day.

[18-028](#) Mayoral Proclamation Regarding Safe Digging Month

Sponsors: Halter

Mayor Halter presented a proclamation regarding Safe Digging Month.

[18-033](#) Mayoral Proclamation Regarding Mr. Charles Von Gunten

Sponsors: Halter

Mayor Halter and Assemblymember Sykes presented a proclamation regarding Mr. Charles VonGunten.

C. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee On School Issues

There was no report provided.

2. Assembly Public Relations

There was no report provided.

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

1. State/Federal Legislation

2. Strategic Planning Issues

There were no comments provided.

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos spoke to upcoming travel to Washington D.C. to attend meetings regarding the Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) project. He noted that he would be arguing the Alaska Supreme Court case, Marcy v. Matanuska-Susitna Borough, regarding the 2016 marijuana initiative on Tuesday, March 27.

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie reported that she would be witnessing Mr. Spiropoulos' oral arguments on Tuesday, March 27 and that Deputy Clerk Kilborn would be in attendance at the work session regarding the budget presentations. She noted the Clerks Office budget booklet had been provided to the Assembly. She reported on the upcoming meeting schedule, spoke to the pending legislation regarding the timber lease for the March 27, special meeting, and noted that pertinent election dates were provided.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

[18-032](#)

1. Aviation Advisory Board: 11/09/17
2. Greater Talkeetna RSA Board Of Supervisors: 01/11/18
3. Planning Commission: 02/05/18
4. Platting Board: 01/18/18, Resolution No. 18-024
5. Susitna Community Council: 02/01/18

Sponsors: Borough Manager

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

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

[IM 18-029](#)

Reporting Of Conclusion Of Contract For Bid No. 17-057B To Wolverine Supply, Inc. For The School District Window Replacement Project At 4 Schools.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

[IM 18-033](#)

Informing The Assembly Of The Extension Of Four Alaska State Division Of Lands Lease Agreements For A 5-Year Period By The Borough Manager, To Allow Each Lessee The Option To Purchase The Land In Accordance With The Lease And With Policy And Procedures Adopted For “Alaska State Division Of Lands Lessee Purchase Of The Fee-Simple Estate For Lands 10-Acres In Size Or Smaller” (MSB001533, MSB999364, MSB001778 & MSB999358).

Sponsors: Borough Manager

The informational memorandums were presented and no comments were noted.

The meeting was recessed at 6:30 p.m., and reconvened at 6:35 p.m.

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 18-001](#)

An Ordinance Acknowledging Receipt Of The Matanuska-Susitna Regional Aviation System Plan Study, Phase II, Including The Aviation Activity Forecast/Demand And The Economic Contributions Of Matanuska-Susitna Borough Airports; And Adopting MSB 15.24.030(B) (24)(a), Mat-Su Regional Aviation System Plan Land Use Guide.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 18-001, and spoke to concerns with sections of the ordinance: Mr. David Palmer, Aviation Advisory Board Chairperson

The following person spoke to concerns regarding the public process: Mr. Eugene Haberman

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

Assemblymember Beck moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 18-001.

Assemblymember Kowalke moved a primary amendment to Ordinance Serial No. 18-001 by striking section 3 in its entirety.

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

The main motion as amended passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

[OR 18-006](#)

An Ordinance Accepting Title To Tract L-1D, Settlers Bay Subdivision Unit No. 10, According To Plat No. 2017-147, And Tract B, Secluded Point, According To Plat No. 2015-161; And Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into A Conservation Easement Agreement With Great Land Trust, Inc. For Purpose Of Conserving The Property In Perpetuity; And Appropriating \$35,000 From The Land Management Operating Budget, Fund 203, For The Borough's Portion Of Cost To Purchase The Property (MSB007279).

Sponsors: Mayfield

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 18-006: Ms. Hari Atma Khalsa, Mr. Stuart Leidner, Ms. Ellen Kazary, Ms. Kim Sollien, Ms. Wendy Broman, and Mr. Bob Ackles

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

Assemblymember Mayfield moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 18-006. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

No: 1 - Mayor Halter

[OR 18-011](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating Additional Funds For Revision No. 3 In The Amount Of \$300,000 From The United States Fish And Wildlife Service To Fund 410, Project No. 30114, For Up To 23 Culvert Replacements As Part Of The Fish Passage Improvements Project, Project No. 30114.

RS 18-009: A Resolution Amending The Budget For Revision No. 3 In The Amount Of \$300,000 For Replacement Of Up To 23 Culverts For Fish Passage Improvement, Project No. 30114.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

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

Assemblymember Beck moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 18-011. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

[OR 18-012](#)

An Ordinance Approving An Appropriation In The Amount Of \$53,276 From The Enhanced 911 Fund Balance, Fund 202, To Fund 480, Project No. 45283-2102, To Purchase Dispatch Equipment And Software For Palmer Police Department Dispatch Center.

RS 18-010: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Project No. 45283, To Allow The Palmer Police Department Dispatch Center To Purchase Dispatch Equipment And Software From The Enhanced 911 Surcharge Funding.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

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

Assemblymember Beck moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 18-012. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person.)

The following person spoke to concerns regarding Borough Assembly and staff: Mr. Mike Stoltze

The following person spoke to an interest in using the high school pool water in the event of emergencies and spoke to extended hours for the Palmer pool during the Wasilla pool renovations: Mr. Tom Roberson

The following persons spoke to funding the School District to the cap: Ms. Susan Dunham and Ms. Dianne Shibe

The following person spoke to the road bond package, specifically the extension of Seldon Road in the Meadow Lakes area: Ms. Patti Fisher

The following person spoke to the road bond projects in general: Mr. Huhnkie Lee

The following persons spoke to crime issues, junk and trash issues in Willawaw residential area: Mr. Michael Fernandez, Mr. Matthew Morris, Mr. Ryan Owens, Ms. Miranda Ervin; Ms. Maryanne Saechaw, Mrs. Morris, Ms. Kerry Perkins, Ms. Felicidad Gelting, Ms. Becky Sutton, Ms. Tara Sutton, and Ms. Leona Sutton

The following person spoke to Resolution Serial No. 18-012: Mr. Eugene Haberman

The meeting recessed at 8:03 p.m. and reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

[RS 18-012](#) A Resolution To Ratify The Proposed Labor Agreement With Matanuska-Susitna Borough Employees Association.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Kowalke moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 18-012. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Doty

**No: 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, and
Assemblymember Kowalke**

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

[AM 18-017](#) Award Of Bid No. 18-076B To Orion Construction, Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$1,168,999 For The Palmer High School Renovations Phase II Project.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

[AM 18-018](#) Approve Utility Relocation Costs To Matanuska Telephone Association, Inc. In The Amount Of \$157,678.17 For Larry Trail, Darlene Trail, Alice Lane, And Mabel Trail Improvements, Project No. 30047.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Ms. McKechnie read the consent agenda into the record.

Assemblymember Beck moved to approve the Consent Agenda as read into the record by the Clerk. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

IX. VETO

There were no vetos presented.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing April 3, 2018, Assembly Chambers)

[OR 18-014](#) An Ordinance Repealing MSB 3.04.045, And Enacting MSB 3.04.046, Pertaining To Local Education Funding.

Sponsors: Kowalke

[OR 18-015](#) An Ordinance Repealing MSB 3.04.075, And Enacting MSB 3.04.076, To Establish A New Tax Cap.

Sponsors: Kowalke

[OR 18-016](#) An Ordinance Approving An Appropriation Of \$1,200,000 And A Reappropriation Of \$200,000 From Fund 100, To Fund 425, Project No. 45286, For The Land Preparation And Construction, Furnishings And Equipment For A New Emergency Medical Services Station 11-9, In Talkeetna.
RS 18-011: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Project No. 45286, To Allow For The Land Preparation And Construction, Furnishings And Equipment For A New Emergency Medical Services Station 11-9, In Talkeetna.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Ms. McKechnie read the above legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Beck moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and set the public hearings for April 3, 2018. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

[18-034](#) 03/20/18 - Vacancy Report

Sponsors: Halter

There were no vacancies to confirm.

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 presented.

XI. RECONSIDERATION

There were no reconsiderations.

XII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos noted that he and Assemblymember Leonard were in discussions on the issues in the Williwaw subdivision area and that he had been reviewing Borough code to determine what the Borough could do to handle the issue.

Assemblymember Sykes spoke to the Williwaw subdivision area crime and enforcement issues and stated the issues were not just limited to Willawaw residents but that there were similar issues Borough-wide. He thanked the residents for speaking at the meeting and commended them for attempting to find resolutions on their own. He noted he was drafting legislation in hopes to add Borough police powers.

Assemblymember McKee spoke to a newspaper article regarding the transplanting of domestic sheep from the Lower 48.

Assemblymember Kowalke expressed appreciation for the attendance at the meeting and the public testimony from the residents of the Willawaw subdivision area and spoke to the need for a plan for the residents. He noted the need for rehabilitation of addicts to stop the problems residents were dealing with.

Assemblymember Mayfield spoke to the need to address the issues that Willawaw subdivision area residents were facing. He thanked Great Land Trust for brokering the land for the Settler's Bay area project.

Mr. Moosey spoke to an ordinance being introduced at the special meeting of March 27, regarding a timber project at the Port.

Assemblymember Doty expressed appreciation for the testimony from the public. She encouraged communication between the City of Wasilla and the residents of the Willawaw subdivision area. She noted an interest in holding work sessions to discuss revisiting the boundaries of the Borough service areas. She expressed appreciation for the hard work by staff on the union contract negotiations.

Assemblymember Leonard expressed appreciation for the negotiations on the union contract. He spoke to a recent tour of the Willawaw subdivision area and encouraged overall discussion regarding crime in the Borough and finding a solution. He noted he was drafting an amendment regarding excise taxes .

Assemblymember Beck expressed appreciation for the participation at the meeting. He commended the residents of the Willawaw subdivision area for

trying to find a solution to the problems in the area. He noted a brief conversation with Emergency Services Director Feather and Capital Projects Director Bilafer regarding the procedures in place to use pool water in the event of an emergency. He addressed the union negotiations with staff and noted the need to take care of those who were serving the public. He commended the Human Resource and Finance Directors on the negotiation process. He encouraged on-going discussion with educators to keep education of kids in the forefront.

Mayor Halter spoke to the Settler's Bay land project with Great Land Trust. He encouraged the Manager to draft a letter to Governor Walker to address the Willawaw subdivision area crime and enforcement issues. He spoke to the idea of a geographic police service area and asked the Manager to speak with Mayor Cottle to discuss police coverage within the Willawaw subdivision area. He expressed appreciation for all the work that went into the union contract negotiations. He expressed appreciation to Assemblymember Kowalke for pulling Resolution Serial No. 18-012 from the consent agenda in order for questions to be addressed on the union contract.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.