

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



Tim Hale, 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 SPECIAL MEETING

6:00 PM

THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

Budget Deliberations and Possible Adoption

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Thursday, May 1, 2025, 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 Maxwell Sumner, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

Excused: 1 - Assemblymember Dee McKee

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assemblymember Fonov.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person opined that libraries should not be funded until all diversity, equity, and inclusion information is removed from them in accordance with President Trump's executive order, spoke in opposition of the Borough acquiring the Big Lake Lion's Club: Linda Spohn.

The following person opined that libraries should not be funded until all diversity, equity, and inclusion information is removed from them in accordance with President Trump's executive order, spoke in opposition to the Borough acquiring the Big Lake Lion's Club, and spoke to her concerns that libraries are not currently a safe place for children so why would a recreational building be considered safe: Jackie Goforth.

The following person spoke in opposition to the Borough acquiring the Big Lake Lion's Club and opined that its purchase should be put to the voters: Mark Spohn.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. BUDGET DELIBERATIONS AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION

[OR 25-025](#) An Ordinance Appropriating Monies From The Central Treasury For The Borough Operating Funds, Enterprise Funds, Education Operating Fund And Capital Funds, Establishing The Rate Of Levy For All Borough Functions For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2025, And Ending June 30, 2026; And Setting The Surcharge Rate For The Wireline And Wireless Enhanced 911 Systems For The Period Of July 1, 2025, Through June 30, 2026.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-025.

Amendment No. 1

Areawide Fund - Mill Rate (page 39) /Fund Balance (page 51)

Assemblymember Hale moved a primary amendment as follows and any other conforming changes to the budget, by reducing the areawide mill rate by .067 mills from 8.612 to 8.545, for a reduction of the estimated fund balance from \$1,660,601 to \$660,601.

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

Amendment No. 2

Areawide Fund - Nondepartmental (page 60) and Capital Project (page 474)

Assemblymember Nowers moved a primary amendment as follows and to make any other conforming changes to the budget:

*** Areawide Fund, Nondepartmental, transfer to 415/425/430/435/440/470 (446.700) by increasing the appropriation by the amount of \$50,000; and**

*** Adding the Capital Project - For a planning grant to the City of Palmer for \$50,000 to allow for snow removal at the City of Palmer Airport.**

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Gamble

No: 2 - Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

Amendment No. 3

Areawide Fund - Nondepartmental (page 60) and Capital Project (page 474)

Assemblymember Gamble moved a primary amendment as follows and any other conforming changes to the budget:

*** Areawide Fund, Nondepartmental, transfer to 415/425/430/435/440/470(446.7100) by increasing the appropriation by the amount of \$26,000; and**

*** adding the Capital Project - Jordan Lake Park Grant to the Big Lake Community Council for the amount of \$26,000 with the following project description: Completion of the park.**

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

Amendment No. 4

Areawide Fund - Community Clean-Up (page 129)

Assemblymember Fonov moved a primary amendment as follows and to make any other conforming changes to the budget: the Areawide Fund, Nondepartmental, Community Clean-Up Vehicle Junk Removal (100.130.158.429.429.600) by increasing the appropriation by the amount of \$50,000 for towing reimbursement.

Assemblymember Gamble moved a secondary amendment by striking "\$50,000" and inserting "\$75,000" in its place.

The secondary amendment passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

The primary amendment passed as amended by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

Assemblymember Bernier moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 25-025 to May 8, 2025.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

VII. VETO

A. Motion to Override Any Possible Mayoral Veto on Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Items (Ordinance Serial No. 25-025)

There were no vetoes presented.

VIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Assemblymember Gamble invited the body to attend the Big Lake Lion's Club Gun Show this coming weekend. Noted that this is one of the largest gun shows in the state.

Ms. McKechnie requested that the Assembly bring their amendment packets to the next meeting as there is one amendment in that packet that was not moved.

Mr. Brown stated that if any of the Assembly would like a tour of the Big Lake Lion's Club to please let him know. Reminded the body that if they have amendments to let staff know in advance so that they can be prepared for the May 8 meeting.

Assemblymember Hale noted that the Jonesville Recreational Area Clean-Up is on May 17 and invited everyone to come out and participate.

Assemblymember Bernier stated that he would like a tour of the Big Lake Lions Club. Said a prayer.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.