

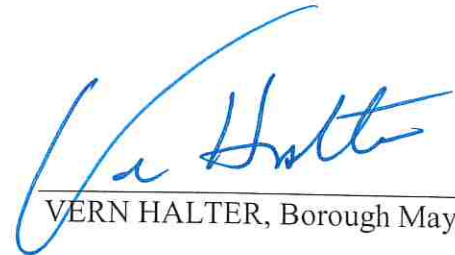


Mayoral Signature and Clerk Attestment

For

May 28, 2020, Assembly Budget Public Hearing Minutes

(13 pages)

  
VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 07/14/20

# 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

George Hays, Acting

BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Nicholas Spiropoulos



Tim Hale, District 1  
Stephanie Nowers, District 2  
George McKee, District 3  
Ted Leonard, District 4  
Dan Mayfield, District 5  
Jesse Sumner, District 6  
Tam Boeve, District 7

## MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

6:00 PM

THURSDAY, MAY 28, 2020

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### **Budget Deliberations and Possible Adoption**

#### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Thursday, May 28, 2020, at the 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 Tim Hale, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Ted Leonard, Assemblymember Dan Mayfield, Assemblymember Jesse Sumner, and Assemblymember Tam Boeve

#### **III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Halter queried if there were any changes to the agenda.

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

#### **IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Tim Rocky, Frontiersman reporter.

## **V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

The following person spoke to concerns to the proposed amendment on the agenda to increase payment of animal control funds for the Cities within the Borough: Mayor Bert Cottle.

The following person spoke to concerns of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough upholding there end of the bargain in regards to fund the Matanuska-Susitna Convention and Visitors Center: Ms. Bonnie Quill, Mat-Su Convention and Visitor's Bureau Executive Director.

The following person spoke to concerns with the public process and concerns with the 2021 budget: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

## **VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

### **A. BUDGET DELIBERATIONS AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION**

OR 20-020

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, 2020 And Ending June 30, 2021; And Setting The Surcharge Rate For The Wireline And Wireless Enhanced 911 Systems For The Period Of July 1, 2020 Through June 30, 2021.

**MOTION PENDING: Assemblymember Mayfield moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 20-020.**

**PENDING AMENDMENT:**

**Amendment No. 2**

**Areawide/General Fund (Tab B, page 65) Capital Project Fund (Tab M, page 517-518.**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to the Areawide / Capital Projects by striking the following projects in the total amount of \$1,164,000:**

- **Network Infrastructure Refresh in the amount of \$370,000;**
- **Sapphire Intravenous Pumps in the amount of \$50,000;**
- **Zoll X Series Cardiac Monitor in the amount of \$65,000;**
- **High Fidelity Trauma Manikins in the amount of \$105,000;**
- **High Fidelity Simulation Birthing Manikins in the amount of \$70,000; and**
- **Ambulance Replacement/Refurbish (2) in the amount of \$339,400**

**Assemblymember Mayfield moved a secondary amendment to ambulance replacement and refurbish (2), by striking "(2)" and inserting "(3)" in its place for a new amount of \$504,400.**

**The secondary amendment passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**No:** 1 - Assemblymember McKee

**The primary amendment passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**No: 1 - Assemblymember McKee**

**Second Technical Corrections to Ordinance 20-020**

**Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to Ordinance Serial No. 20 020, as follows:**

- **Reserve for Governmental Shift: Tab B, Page 51, by striking “\$14,300,000” and inserting “\$0” in its place;**
- **Debt Service Reimbursement: Tab B, Page 60, by striking \$16,004,386 and inserting “\$0” in its place;**
- **Transfer to Fund 415/425/430 –Bridge Upgrade/Replacement, Tab B, Page 65, by reducing the line item by “\$50,000” for a new total of “\$11,598,020;” and**
- **Transfer to – Fund 415/425/430 –Vine Creek Flood Prevention, Tab B, page 65, by reducing the line item by “\$125,000” for a new total of “\$11,473,020;”**
- **Transfer To – Fund 414/425/430 – Susitna/Talkeetna, Tab B, page 65, by reducing the line item by “\$2,500,000” for a new total of “8,973,020.”**

**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes: 7 -** Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**Assemblymember Mayfield moved to take up the first technical amendment that was moved and postponed on May 26, 2020.**

**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes: 7 -** Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**MOTION PENDING First Technical Corrections to Ordinance  
Serial No. 20 020**

**Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to  
Ordinance Serial No. 20 020, as follows:**

- **Reserve for Governmental Shift: Tab B, Page 51, \$14,300,000,  
by leaving the adjusted gross amount at “\$0;”**
- **Estimated Unassigned Fund Balance: Tab B, Page 51,  
\$559,526, by striking “(\$540,000)” for a new total of “\$19,526;”**
- **Debt Service Reimbursement: Tab B, Page 60, \$16,004,386,  
by striking “(\$16,004,386)” for a new total of “\$0;”**
- **Transfer to Fund 4415/425/430 – Mat Su Convention and  
Visitor’s Bureau: Tab B, Page 65, \$11,648,020, by striking  
“(\$747,500)” for a new total of “\$10,900,520;” and**
- **Transfer to – Fund 4415/425/430 – Manager’s Sheet:  
\$10,900,520, by striking “\$416,886” for a new total of  
“\$10,483,634.”**

**The motion failed by the following vote:**

- No:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers,  
Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard,  
Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and  
Assemblymember Boeve

**Amendment No. 3**

**Non-Areawide-Animal Care & Regulation (Tab C, pages  
184-186)**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to the  
Non-Areawide Fund, Animal Care and Regulation, by reducing  
the operating budget by \$67,900 and reduce permanent wages  
by \$132,070, and reduce benefits by \$102,765 (2 new  
employees).**

**The primary amendment failed by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 2 - Assemblymember Leonard, and Assemblymember Sumner

- No:** 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers,  
Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Mayfield, and  
Assemblymember Boeve

**Amendment No. 4**

**Non-Areawide - Animal Care Fees - Cities of Palmer and Wasilla (Tab C, page 179)**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to the Non-Areawide Fund, Animal Care Fees, as follows:**

**•345.100 – City of Wasilla, by striking \$15,000 and inserting \$99,000 in its place: This amount will be offset by the motor vehicle tax allocation. The city of Wasilla will receive \$79,830 in motor vehicle tax rather than \$178,830.**

**•345.200 – City of Palmer, by striking \$15,000 and inserting \$110,000 in its place: This amount will be offset by the motor vehicle tax allocation. The city of Palmer will receive \$13,110 instead of the \$123,110.**

**The primary amendment failed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 1 - Assemblymember Sumner

**No:** 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve

**Amendment No. 5**

**Areawide - Bed Tax Revenues (Tab B, pages 62 and 65) Tab M, page 517)**

**Assemblymember Hale moved a primary amendment to the Areawide Fund as follows:**

**•Bed Tax Revenues, by striking \$1,400,000 and inserting in its place \$652,500 for a total decrease of \$747,500; and**

**•Matanuska-Susitna Convention & Visitors Borough Grant by striking \$747,500 and inserting \$0 in its place**

**The primary amendment passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**Amendment No. 6**

**Areawide/General Fund (Tab B, page 65) - Capital Project  
Fund (Tab M, pages 517-518)**

**Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to  
the Areawide/Capital Projects by striking the following projects  
in the total amount of \$795,500:**

•DSJ Americans with Disabilities Upgrade	\$50,000
•Cyber Security Enhancements	\$300,000
•Workstation Life Cycle Replacements	\$150,000
•Sunshine Creek Campground	\$40,000
•Skeetawk Ski Area Development	\$100,000
•Matanuska River Park Master Plan	\$50,000
•Automatic Gate – Alcantra Sports Complex	\$50,000
•Parks Vehicle	\$55,000

**The primary amendment passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers,  
Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard,  
Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and  
Assemblymember Boeve

**Amendment No. 7**

**Areawide/General Fund (Tab B, page 53)**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to the  
Areawide/Capital Project, Marijuana Tax Revenue; by striking  
\$900,000 and inserting in its place \$1,300,000 for a total  
increase of \$400,000.**

**The primary amendment passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers,  
Assemblymember Leonard, and Assemblymember Sumner

**No:** 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Mayfield, and  
Assemblymember Boeve



**Amendment No. 8**

**Areawide - Assembly (Tab B, page 66)**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to the Areawide Fund, Assembly, Mileage Outside of Borough (414.100), by striking \$2000 and inserting \$0 in its place.**

**The primary amendment passed by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, and Assemblymember Sumner
- No:** 3 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve

**Amendment No. 9**

**Areawide - Assembly (Tab B, page 66)**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to the Areawide Fund, Assembly, Expense Reimbursements Outside of Borough (414.200), by striking \$12,000 and inserting \$7,000 in its place for a reduction of \$5,000.**

**The primary amendment passed by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**Amendment No. 10**

**Areawide - Assembly (Tab B, page 66)**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to the Areawide Fund, Assembly Travel Tickets (414.400), by striking \$12,000 and inserting \$7,000 in its place for the reduction of \$5,000.**

**Assemblymember Mayfield moved a secondary amendment to insert \$9,500 for a reduction of \$2,500.**

**The secondary amendment failed by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve
- No:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Leonard, and Assemblymember Sumner

**The primary amendment passed by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Sumner
- No:** 1 - Assemblymember Boeve

**Amendment No. 11**

**Areawide - Assembly (Tab B, page 66)**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to the Areawide Fund, Assembly, Dues & Fees (426.300), by striking \$41,000 and inserting \$0 in its place.**

**The primary amendment failed by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, and Assemblymember Sumner
- No:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve

**Amendment No. 12**

**Non-Areawide - Animal Care Fees - Cities of Palmer and Wasilla (Tab C, page 1759)**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to the Non-Areawide Fund, Animal Care Fees, as follows:**

**•345.100 – City of Wasilla, by striking \$15,000 and inserting \$36,000 in its place.**

**•345.200 – City of Palmer, by striking \$15,000 and inserting \$36,000 in its place.**

**The primary amendment failed by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve
- No:** 2 - Assemblymember Hale, and Assemblymember Sumner

**Amendment No. 13**

**Non-Areawide - Future Governmental Shift**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to the Future Governmental Shift by striking \$500,000 and inserting \$0.**

**The primary motion passed by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, and Assemblymember Sumner
- No:** 3 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve

**Assemblymember Mayfield moved to set the mill rates at 10.386 areawide and .511 non-areawide.**

**Assemblymember Leonard moved a secondary amendment to strike “10.386 areawide” and insert “10.047 areawide” in its place.**

**The secondary amendment motion failed by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, and Assemblymember Sumner
- No:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve

**Assemblymember Hale moved a secondary amendment to strike “10.386 areawide” and insert “10.322 areawide” in its place.**

**The secondary amendment passed by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**The primary amendment as amended passed by the following vote:**

- Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**The main motion passed with the following vote:**

- Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

## **B. RECRUITMENT OF A NEW BOROUGH MANAGER**

There was no report provided.

## **VII. VETO**

### **A. MOTION TO OVERRIDE ANY POSSIBLE MAYORAL VETO ON FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET ITEMS**

There were no vetoes presented.

## **VIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT**

Mr. Moosey voiced appreciation of the budge being approved. Noted he is impressed with the Finance Directors hard work. Spoke praise for the Deputy Manager for all his work and his big heart.

Mr. Hayes thanked the Assembly for approving the budget and Ms. Heindel and her staff for all their hard work.

Assemblymember Leonard thanked the Borough Manager and Finance Director.

Assemblymember Boeve thanked everyone for their help on the budget.

Assemblymember McKee thanked Assemblymember Nowers for her hard work helping small businesses during Covid-19.

Assemblymember Hale thanked everyone for their hard work on the budget. Spoke to the need to spend the CARES Act Funds responsibly.

Assemblymember Sumner expressed congratulations on passing the budget. Spoke to the need to spend the CARES Act Fund responsibly.

Assemblymember Nowers thanked the Assembly. Spoke to the need to spend the CARES Act Fund responsibly. Announced the AIDA applications will be opening on Monday, June 1, for small businesses.

Assemblymember Mayfield thanked staff for their work. Spoke to the mill rate decrease. Concludes the need to get the CARES Act Funds out to the citizens.

Mayor Halter voiced praise of the Finance Director. Remarked on the lowered mill rate and is proud of the budget.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:43 p.m.