

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
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, JUNE 3, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, June 3, 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 Tim Hale, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Maxwell Sumner, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

Telephonic: 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 Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

25-091

A. Assembly Regular Meeting Minutes: 05/06/25

B. Budget Deliberations Minutes: 05/08/25

C. Budget Deliberations Minutes: 05/13/25

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

Crystal Nygard, Wasilla City Deputy Administrator, invited the body to groundbreaking ceremony for the coming of the newest hotel in the valley, Home2 Suites by Hilton, which will occur on June 4; and reported on the activities of the City.

2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

There was no report provided.

3. State of Alaska

There was no report provided.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee On School Issues

There was no report provided.

2. Assembly Public Relations

Mayor DeVries related that the Palmer Boys Soccer team won the state title for first time in 30 years. Noted that interestingly enough, that the current coach, Blake Livingston, was on that winning team 30 years ago as a player.

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

1. State/Federal Legislation

2. Strategic Planning Issues

25-099

Fuel Excise Tax Proposal

Mike Brown, Borough Manager, reported on the fuel excise tax proposal.

3. Deshka Land Classification Presentation

Mike Brown, Borough Manager reported that the Deshka Land Presentation has been postponed to August 5, when the presenter is available to attend in person.

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos thanked the body for his evaluation.

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule. Noted that she will be out of the office June 18 through June 25.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

25-094

1. Abbreviated Plat: 05/14/25, 05/21/25
2. Board of Equalization: 05/20/25
3. Butte Community Council: 04/09/25
4. Central Mat-Su FSA Board of Supervisors: 04/14/25
5. Fairview RSA Board of Supervisors: 01/21/25
6. Willow RSA Board of Supervisors: 10/09/24, 02/12/25
7. Library Board: 03/14/23, 04/11/23, 05/09/23, 08/08/23, 09/12/23, 10/10/23, 04/08/25
8. Library Citizens' Advisory Committee: 03/10/25, 04/14/25
9. Local Road Service Area Advisory Board: 03/20/25
10. Midway RSA Board of Supervisors: 01/08/25
11. Planning Commission: 05/05/25, Resolution No. 25-04
12. South Knik River Community Council: 10/20/22, 11/17/22, 02/15/24, 04/18/24, 06/20/24, 10/17/24, 01/27/25, 02/20/25, 03/20/25, 04/17/25
13. Talkeetna Sewer And Water Board: 04/02/25
14. West Lakes FSA Board of Supervisors: 04/14/25
15. Willow Area Community Organization: 04/02/25

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

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

IM 25-132 Informing The Assembly Of A Grant Amendment For Time Extension Only To Be Presented To The Borough Manager For Signature, For Neklason Lake and Birch Creek Fish Passage Improvements.

IM 25-134 Informing The Assembly Of The Intent Of Administration To Sign An Amendment To The Alaska State Forestry Grant To Extend The Time For The Borough Crew Of Sawyers To Construct Shaded Fuel Breaks On Borough-Owned Land.

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 reported on the activities of the Willow Library and spoke to the importance of libraries to their communities: Miriam Charles, Melinda Drake, Jeannie Troshynski.

The following person spoke to property that is located near the Wolf Lake Airport that would be perfect for a community park and requested that the Assembly direct the Manager to look at the feasibility of developing it as such: Rod Hanson, North Lakes Community Council.

The following person spoke to concerns with restrictions on development on private property and opined that the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge should be turned into agriculture land: Travis Friesen.

The following person spoke to concerns with vacancies on the Library Board and the Library Citizen's Advisory Board: Mary Robinson.

The following person opined that voting precincts should not be located at schools: Tom Roberson.

The following person spoke to concerns with pornographic books in Borough libraries: Jackie Goforth

The following person spoke in opposition to Ordinance Serial No. 25-076 regarding the proposed excise fuel tax and in support of Ordinance Serial No. 25-046 regarding homeless shelters: Michael Bowles.

The following person spoke in opposition of banning books: Helen Vincent.

The following person related that he developed an addiction to pornography that started with a cover on Sports Illustrated and spoke to the need to keep racy magazine covers out of the reach of children: Arty Fonov.

The following persons spoke in support of Borough Libraries: Ruth Wood, John Strassenburg, and Andrew Drake.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)

OR 25-044 An Ordinance Approving An Appropriation Of \$1,718,174.66 From The Enhanced 911 Fund Balance To A Project To Allow The City Of Wasilla To Obtain Reimbursement From The Enhanced 911 Surcharge Funding For A Vesta 911 Telephone System.
RS 25-036: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For A Project To Allow The City Of Wasilla To Obtain Reimbursement From The Enhanced 911 Surcharge Funding For A Vesta 911 Telephone System.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mike Brown, Borough Manager, 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 Sumner moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-044 and Resolution Serial No. 25-036.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

OR 25-046 An Ordinance Amending MSB 17.60, Conditional Uses, To Include Permit Requirements And Standards For Homeless Shelters.

Sponsors: Sumner and Gamble

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Alex Strawn, Planning and Land Use Director, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 25-046: Rod Hanson.

The following person noted that homeless shelters do not work and that what does work is having exit strategies that include work and other opportunities. Related that having fences around drug and alcohol rehabilitation facilities contribute to the stigma surrounding getting sober: Michelle Overstreet, Chief Executive Officer of My House.

(Assemblymember McKee lost phone connection and was not telephonic.)

The following person opined that wherever homeless shelters are, there is always trouble: Jackie Goforth.

Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to Ordinance Serial No. 25-046, as follows:

*** MSB 17.60.125(B)(2)(a)(iv), by inserting the word "retail" at the beginning of the sentence, to read: "retail uses regulated under MSB 17.70.020; and**

*** MSB 1.60.125(B), by inserting the following: "(11) Runoff mitigation measures shall comply with the drainage plan and standards outlined in MSB 17.73, Multifamily Development Design Standards."**

(Assemblymember McKee rejoined the meeting telephonically.)

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

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

Assemblymember Gamble moved a primary amendment to Ordinance Serial No. 25-046, as follows:

*** Section 2. by inserting the following definition: "Outpatient opioid treatment facility" means a healthcare facility whose primary service is providing outpatient medication-assisted treatment for individuals with opioid use disorder;"**

*** Section 3. Subsection (A) by inserting the following language: "(7) outpatient opioid treatment facility;"**

*** Section 4. Amend section (d) by inserting the words "or outpatient opioid treatment facility" after the words "homeless shelter" to read: "Upon acceptance of a complete application for a homeless shelter or outpatient opioid treatment facility conditional use permit, the department shall notify surrounding property owners in accordance with MSB 17.03 Public Notification, except that the notification area shall be one-half mile from the exterior of the boundary of the property that is the subject of the application;"**

*** Section 5. MSB 17.60.125, Standards for Homeless Shelters, by inserting the words "and outpatient opioid treatment facilities" to read: Standards for Homeless Shelters and Outpatient Opioid Treatment Facilities;"**

***Section 5. Subsection (B), by amending paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 as follows:**

*** (B)(1) and (2) by striking "Homeless Shelter" and inserting "conditional use" in its place.**

*** (B)(2)(A) by inserting the words "and outpatient opioid treatment facilities" after the words "Homeless shelters" to read: "2) At the time the permit is issued, the conditional use shall meet the following requirements:**

(a) Homeless shelters and outpatient opioid treatment facilities shall not be located within one thousand feet of:

- (i) school grounds;**
- (ii) recreation or youth centers;**
- (iii) childcare facilities; and**
- (iv) uses regulated under MSB 17.70.020;"**

*** (B)(2)(b), by striking the words "Homeless Shelters" and inserting "conditional use it its place;**

*** (B)(3) by striking the words "Homeless Shelters" and inserting "The conditional use" in its place;**

*** (B)(4) by inserting the words "and outpatient opioid treatment facilities" after the words "homeless shelters" to read: (4) The minimum number of parking spaces for homeless shelters and outpatient opioid treatment facilities shall be one**

space per 350 square feet of net floor area. Each parking space shall be at least: 20 feet in length, ten feet wide, and have a vertical clearance of at least seven feet. Parking spaces shall be provided to comply with current Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines;" and

*(B)(6), by striking the words "Homeless Shelter" and inserting "conditional use" in its place to read: "The homeless shelter shall be screened by a continuous solid fence to reduce negative effects on adjacent properties."

Assemblymember Gamble moved a secondary amendment by striking from the amendment "(B)(6), by striking the words "Homeless Shelter" and inserting "conditional use" in its place to read: "The homeless shelter shall be screened by a continuous solid fence to reduce negative effects on adjacent properties" from the primary amendment and be left in the ordinance.

The secondary amendment passed by the following vote:

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

The primary amendment passed as amended by the following vote:

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

No: 1 - Assemblymember Hale

Assemblymember Nowers moved a primary amendment to Ordinance Serial No. 25-046, by striking MSB 17.60.125(B)(5) in its entirety and inserting the following in its place: "(5) The applicant shall provide a written operational plan detailing security, maintenance and neighborhood coordination strategies. The plan shall include, at a minimum, the following elements:

(a) A security plan that includes education for employees on security and the provision of on-site or on-call security personnel during all hours of operation.

(b) Clear internal and external rules for client and visitor conduct, including behavioral expectations and consequences for violations.

(c) Strategies for managing client or visitor loitering to avoid disruption to nearby properties, including signage, staff presence, or other proactive measures.

(d) Posting of visible, outdoor signage on the facility property that summarizes conduct expectations for clients and visitors, including a prohibition on loud gatherings, littering, and trespassing.

(e) Designation of a staff member as the facility's community contact, responsible for addressing neighborhood concerns. The liaison's name and contact information shall be provided to the Borough and made publicly visible on signage located near the main facility entrance.

(f) A maintenance and trash management plan ensuring that the facility grounds and adjacent areas are regularly cleaned and maintained to protect the quality and appearance of the surrounding neighborhood."

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

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

Assemblymember Nowers moved a primary amendment to Ordinance Serial No. 25-046, MSB 17.60.125, by inserting the following: "(D) Expiration of Conditional Use Permit. (1) A conditional use permit issued under this section shall expire 10 years from the date of issuance. (2) Continuation of the use beyond the expiration date shall require submission and approval of a new conditional use permit application in accordance with this chapter.(3) The Planning Department shall notify the permit holder in writing no later than 12 months prior to the permit expiration date to inform them of the upcoming expiration and application requirements."

Assemblymember Fonov moved a secondary amendment by striking "10 years" and inserting " 7 years" in its place.

The secondary amendment failed by the following vote:

Yes: 1 - Assemblymember Fonov

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

The primary amendment passed as amended by the following vote:

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

No: 2 - Assemblymember Hale, and Assemblymember McKee

Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to Ordinance Serial No. 25-046, MSB 17.60.125, by striking all references to earthen berms in:

***MSB 17.60.125(A)(6);**

***MSB 17.60.125(A)(6)(d) in its entirety; and**

***MSB 17.60.125(C)(2)(b) in its entirety.**

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

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

The main motion passed as amended by the following vote:

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

The meeting recessed at 7:53 p.m. and reconvened at 8:07 p.m.

OR 25-054 An Ordinance Adopting MSB 15.24.030(B)(48) Bogard-Seldon Corridor Access Management Plan.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Alex Strawn, Planning and Land Use Director, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke to concerns with the proposed access at East Porcupine Trail: Renee Blake.

The following person spoke in support of a majority of the plan and to concerns that some portions are under designed: Rod Hanson.

The following person spoke to concerns with the plan proposing to move access to his storage facility and requested that it be allowed to stay where it is: Arty Fonov.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 25-054: Adam Bradway, Transportation Planner with the state of Alaska.

The following person spoke in opposition to proposed Segment D on page 41 of the proposed plan: Anthony Rotelli.

The following person opined that the proposed plan is more than just a plan, opined that it is a mistake to move private driveways: Jake Laughlin.

The following person spoke to concerns that the proposed plan is under designed in the East Serendipity Loop area: Kristina Rathbun.

Assemblymember Fonov moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-054.

Assemblymember Fonov moved a primary amendment to Ordinance Serial No. 25-054, as follows:

• Segment C.

1. By striking the following language from Section 4.4.4.10, page 30: Cul-de-sac East Ashmore Avenue connection to East Bogard Road. Access to be maintained via Ashmore Avenue and North Green Forest Drive;

2. By striking map symbols (figure 4, page 33) for Cul-de-sac at East Ashmore Avenue (Section 4.4.4.10, page 30). Insert

closure symbol on the map for the closure of the current entrance to the Finger Lakes State Park road (figure 4, page 33);

3. Insert map symbols (figure 5, page 35) to indicate new roadway connection from East Birch Acres to North Bear Street and North Grayling Street, from East Birch to East Chinook.

4. Strike the following language from Section 4.4.4.7:

* Improve East Pike Avenue and East King Salmon Drive to meet Borough road standards from North Bear Street to North Lois Way. (a) Challenges improving East Pike Avenue to East King Salmon Drive may arise due to nonconforming parcels in this subdivision; and

* map symbols for road connection/improvement from East King Salmon Drive to East Pike Avenue (figure 5, page 35).

• Segment D.

1. Striking the recommendation and map symbols for Tax ID. 75920001001, driveway access realignment with Tait Drive (section 4.5.4.5, page 38)

• Segment E.

1. Striking the following:

* language from section 4.6.4.2, page 44, North Jacksnipe Drive: Access to/from Seldon is maintained off East Schrock Road;

* map symbols (figure 7 page 47) for cul-de-sac of Jacksnipe Drive.

2. Striking the following language from section 4.6.4.2, page 45:

* North Old Squaw Loop: (a) access to/from Old Squaw Loop will be maintained via new roadway connection between North Old Squaw Loop and Pintail Drive.

* Roadway connections connect East Pintail Drive to North Old Squaw Loop. Proposed alignment will be determined during the environmental and design phase of the project;

* Striking map symbols (figure 7, page 47) for cul-de-sac at Old Squaw Loop.

3. Striking the following language from Section (4.6.4.6, page 45)

* Preferred alignment – realign North Snow Goose Drive to align with North Hematite Drive. This will require grading to reduce the hill to provide adequate intersection sight distance

on East Seldon Road. This will impact four parcels in the northwest quadrant of North Snow Goose Drive;

* striking the first “alternative option” and inserting in its place, preferred alignment – realign North Hematite Drive to align with the existing Snow Goose Drive intersection;

* Striking the sentence, This will impact two parcels in the southeast quadrant of Hematite Drive.

* Striking map symbols (figure 7, page 47) and inserting in its place the new preferred realignment of North Hematite Drive with North Snow Goose Drive.

• Segment F.

1. Striking the following from section 4.7.4.3, page 51:

* Roadway Realignment. To further improve unsignalized intersection spacing, North Eureka Circle should be realigned to the west to align with Mountain Crest Drive. This will impact two parcels.

* Striking map symbols (figure 8, page 53) for realignment of North Eureka Circle with Mountain Crest Drive.

Assemblymember Nowers moved to divide the question to take up Segment D. separately.

Assemblymember Sumner moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 25-054 to June 17, 2025.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

OR 25-065 An Ordinance Approving Land Classification Of A Borough-Owned Property As Reserved Use Land For The Purpose Of An Emergency Services Facility In The Core Area.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Ken Barkley, Emergency Service Director, 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 Fonov moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-065.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

OR 25-067 An Ordinance Approving An Appropriation Of \$250,000 From The Enhanced 911 Fund Balance To A Project To Allow The Aerial Imagery Acquisition Program To Collect Data To Support 911 Call Taking And Addressing.

RS 25-052: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For A Project To Allow The Aerial Imagery Acquisition Program To Collect Data To Support 911 Call Taking And Addressing.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Leah Jones, Information and Technology Director, 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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-067 and Resolution Serial No. 25-052.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

OR 25-069 An Ordinance Approving A Reappropriation Of \$75,000 From The Land And Resource Division 2025 Operating Budget To Project No. 47031.
RS 25-053: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Material Site Development/Reclamation.
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Emerson Krueger, Resource Manager, 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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-069 and Resolution Serial No. 25-053.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

OR 25-070 An Ordinance Extending The Time Of Completion On Expiring Community Transportation Grant Match Funds Through June 30, 2035.
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Cheyenne Heindel, Finance Director, 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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-070.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

OR 25-071 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$25,000 From Revenue Replacement Funding For 2022 Windstorm Disaster Funding Shortfalls.
RS 25-054: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For 2022 Windstorm Disaster Funding Shortfalls.
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Cheyenne Heindel, Finance Director, 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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-071 and Resolution Serial No. 25-054.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

OR 25-072 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$36,294.33 From Guardian Asset Management For Community Cleanup And Abatement Of Junk And Trash Issues.

RS 25-055: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Amending The Budget For The Cleanup And Abatement Project.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Alex Strawn, Planning and Land Use Director, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person thanked the Borough for their community cleanup efforts and spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 25-072.

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

Assemblymember Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-072 and Resolution Serial No. 25-055.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, 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 invited the body to the annual Mat-Su Health Foundation board meeting.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

AM 25-058 Award Of Bid No. 25-160B To Valley General Construction, LLC. In The Contract Amount Of \$678,971 For North Helen Lane Reconstruction.

AM 25-059 Award Of Proposal No. 25-140P To PND Engineers, Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$264,572 To Design A Bridge Replacement On Bradley Road.

AM 25-060 Approval Of Change Order No. 1 For Contract No. 24-114B With Ahtna Construction And Primary Products Company, LLC. For The Lakes Boulevard Upgrade Project; And To Extend The Final Completion Date To September 30, 2025.

AM 25-062 Authorizing The Manager To Sign A Grant Application With The Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund For Fish Passage Culvert Replacements At 49th State Street And Tern Drive At The Wasilla Creek Tributary; And Authorizing Submittal For The Application. Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

RS 25-061 Authorization to Reduce The Use Fees Of The Alcantra Fields By 50 Percent For The Alaska Polar Fastpitch Softball Group.

Sponsors: Fonov

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember McKee moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 25-061.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

OR 25-059 An Ordinance Amending MSB 4.80, Agriculture Advisory Board, To Remove Term Limits For The Board.

Sponsors: Sumner

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

MOTION PENDING: Assemblymember Sumner moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-059.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

IX. VETO

There were no vetoes.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 06/17/25, Assembly Chambers)

OR 25-042 An Ordinance Approving An Appropriation Of \$739,703 From The Enhanced 911 Fund Balance To A Project To Allow The City Of Palmer To Obtain Reimbursement From The Enhanced 911 Surcharge Funding For A VESTA 911 Telephone System.
RS 25-035: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For A Project To Allow The City Of Palmer To Obtain Reimbursement From The Enhanced 911 Surcharge Funding For A VESTA 911 Telephone System.

OR 25-050 An Ordinance Modifying The Intent, Notification, And Appeal Process For MSB 17.05, Essential Service Utilities.

Sponsors: Hale and Gamble

OR 25-074 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$19,618.11 Of Revenues From Fiscal Year 2025 Public Donations To The Animal Care And Regulation Capital Projects Budget For Animal Care Outdoor Facility Upgrades.
RS 25-060: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Animal Care Outdoor Facility Upgrades Project.

OR 25-075 An Ordinance Appropriating Road Service Area Operating Funds To Each Road Service Area's Capital Project Fund.

B. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 07/15/25, Assembly Chambers)

OR 25-076 An Ordinance Enacting MSB 3.80, Areawide Fuel Excise Tax, In The Amount Of Seven Cents Per Gallon.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Bernier moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearings for June 17, 2025, and July 15, 2025, respectively.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

C. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

25-096 Mayoral Requests for Confirmation
Historical Preservation Commission
Sue Deyoe
Karla McBride
Joint Assembly/School Board Committee on School District Funding Issues
Maxwell Sumner
Joint Assembly/School Board Committee on School Issues
Maxwell Sumner, resignation
Library Citizens' Advisory Committee
Bruce Owens
Midway RSA No. 9
Tammy Schmidt

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

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

D. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

There was no other new business.

**E. 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. Spiropoulos wished everyone a good night.

Assemblymember Bernier spoke to there being a new local restaurant named Burnt Toast. Said a prayer.

Assemblymember Nowers congratulated Mr. Spiropoulos for a successful evaluation. Spoke to her gratitude for the discussion during the meeting. Stated that she is grateful the body supported eliminating terms for the Agriculture Advisory Board. Stated that she is glad that the body supported the homeless shelter legislation. Noted that her amendments to the Bogard Corridor Access Management Plan being areas on map that were not marked so that they would be. Spoke to her pleasure that the community stepped up to assist them. Noted how encouraged she was to see the community rally around them, which reminded her of what a great place the valley is. Spoke to her concerns that the Federal Government is closing down the Job Corp Center. Noted the many resources it provides for students and that she is sad to see it closing. Related that the center will be shuttered by end of June.

Mr. Brown congratulated the Mat-Su Sentinel on its one-year anniversary. Requested that the Assembly send folks his way so he can address excise fuel tax questions. Added that if the Assembly has any questions that he would be happy to address those as well.

Ms. McKechnie noted that she wanted to address public comments schools should not be precincts due to felons possibly being in schools. Advised that schools are closed on Election Day. Further advised that there are not enough fire departments to be precincts and that the State of Alaska designates precinct locations. Stated that felons have to be unconditionally discharged to be eligible to vote.

Assemblymember Sumner thanked the body for supporting the homeless shelter legislation. Thanked Alex Straw and Mark Whisenhunt for their assistance. Advised that he intends to work with them to see how it would be possible to address the issues that lead to homelessness. Opined that affordable housing should not be such a difficult topic and noted that there still needs to be a way to ensure it is properly developed.

Assemblymember Gamble thanked Alex Strawn and Mark Whisenhunt for their assistance in drafting the homeless legislation.

Assemblymember Fonov stated that he wants the Manager to look into the feasibility of acquiring the parcel and developing it into a community park

as requested by the North Lakes Community Council.

Mayor DeVries queried if there was any objection to Assemblymember Fonov's request.

Assemblymember Sumner noted that he was at the meeting with the state of Alaska at which the North Lakes Community Council outlined the park request. Stated that he fully supports Assemblymember Fonov's request of the Manager.

There was no objection noted.

Assemblymember Mckee apologized for interruptions during the meeting. Spoke to her pleasure at seeing residents testifying in support of libraries. Spoke to a community survey that was put out by Jillian Morrissey, Community Development Director, asking the community if they support banning pornographic books.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.



Mayoral Signature and Clerk Attestment

For

June 3, 2025, Assembly Regular Meeting Minutes

(25 pages)


EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 06/17/25