

# 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  
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 SPECIAL MEETING

3:00 PM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023

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

The special 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 3:01 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 Assemblymember Yundt.

## V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following persons spoke to concerns with voting machines and in support of hand counting ballots: Julie Pollard, Father Randy Hillman, Cheryl Kajdan, Rachel Allen, Mark Spohn, Richard Stoffel, Karen Lewis, Loy Thurman, Jim Koechev, Mike Alexander, and Cindy Hudgins.

The following persons spoke to concerns regarding the State voter rolls: Daryll Olson, Terri Lyons, and Tom Oels.

The following person spoke in favor of cameras at voting locations and complimented the Clerk, and the State elections supervisor for a great job at the November, 2022 regular election: John Miller

The following person spoke to concerns with rank choice voting for the State and in favor of serial numbers on the ballots: Terry Olson.

The following person spoke to the outcome of the hand counting at the November 2022, regular election, and to concerns regarding voting machines nationwide: Jackie GoForth.

The following person spoke to concerns with the State voter rolls and in favor of hand counting ballots: Desiree Terry.

The following person spoke in favor of cameras at voting locations and to his ideas for ballot serial number procedures: Brian Endle.

The following person spoke to concerns with the State Division of Elections disclosing personal identifiers to the Electronic Registration Information Center: Don McQyown.

The following person spoke to the Tshibaka Report on elections, to concerns with the Electronic Registration Information Center, to concerns with the State's elections procedures, and in favor of a vote going to the people regarding voting tabulators: John Nelson.

The following person spoke in opposition of voting tabulators, spoke to human error with hand counting ballots, and spoke to three independent ways to count ballots: Sherry Wilson.

The following person spoke to Canvass Board duties and ballot accountability procedures, to the need of a tabulator, and to concerns of only hand counting ballots: Cassandra Graham.

The following persons spoke in opposition of rank choice voting for the

State, and to concerns with State voter rolls and absentee voting: Cris Tyree, Mary Ravetta, Dave Johnson and Karen Crandall.

The following person spoke to concerns with voting machines, to concerns with the states selection process for poll watchers, and to election officials being able to waive the identifier requirement: Donna Kiger.

## **VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

### **A. Elections Discussion**

Ms. McKechnie, Borough Clerk, provided an election memo and reported to the Assembly.

(The meeting recess at 4:45 p.m. and reconvened at 4:56 p.m.)

Mrs. Julie Husmann, Region V Election Supervisor, Division of Elections, answered questions from the Assembly regarding procedures for State elections.

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

Assemblymember Nowers thanked Ms. Husmann for coming and providing clarification to the State's election process. Thanked the Clerk for providing a memo. Agreed with the need to update legislative priorities to include State voter role updates. Spoke to the possibility of creating an election working group. Queried if there is a viable option for a tabulator that does not hook up to the internet and would be a reasonable economic choice for the Borough.

Assemblymember Yundt spoke to concerns with obtaining enough election officials and spoke to increasing the pay of election officials if needed.

Assemblymember Hale requested a cost for a tabulator that would verify the number of ballots that were reported and the number of ballots that are counted are the same. Stated he would not be opposed to a tabulator that could tabulate the votes as well.

Assemblymember McKee noted her agreement with Assemblymember Hale regarding the number of ballots being tabulated. Noted that the Assembly received testimony regarding hand counting. Stated that the Borough will only do hand count ballots for the 2023 election.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

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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. Spiropoulos, spoke to the process of formation of service areas.

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

Mr. Spiropoulos, 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 uncended.: 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**

23-004

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.

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## MEETING MINUTES

### ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

4:00 PM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023

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

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by Mayor Edna DeVries.

#### **II. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 5 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Robert Yundt, Assemblymember Mokie Tew, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

**Telephonic:** 1 - Assemblymember Tim Hale

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

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assemblymember McKee.

#### **V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

The following person opined that the Assembly should tell the Supreme Court that they need to allow the Grand Jury to investigate judicial corruption: Patty Bryce.

#### **VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**



**A. Filling the Assembly District 6 Vacancy**

Mr. Spiropoulos advised that he contacted each of the candidates and advised them how the interviews would be conducted if they were selected. Noted that he advised them of their rights as they relate to the executive session.

**VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (For Subjects That Tend To Prejudice The Reputation Or Character Of Any Person, Provided That Person May Request A Public Discussion; Matters Which By Law Are Required To Be Confidential; And Matters Involving Consideration Of Government Records That By Law Are Not Subject To Public Disclosure.)**

**A. Filing the Assembly District 6 Vacancy and Discussion of Qualifications**

Assemblymember Yundt moved to enter into executive session for subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation or character of any person, provided that person may request a public discussion; matters, which by law are required to be kept confidential; and matters involving consideration of government records that by law are not subject to public disclosure. In particular, to discuss filling the vacancy of District 6, qualifications of candidates, and potential interview questions. Those present in executive session were the Mayor, the Assembly, the Manager, the Attorney, and the Clerk.

There was no objection noted and the Assembly entered into executive session at 4:06 p.m.

[Clerk's Note: Assemblymembers Tew and Bernier entered at 4:07 p.m.]

Assemblymember Yundt moved to exit executive session.

There was no objection noted and the Assembly exited executive session at 5:25 p.m.

Assemblymember Yundt moved to interview all three of the candidates who submitted applications, on February 9, 2023. The motion passed by the following vote:

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



**VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT**

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

[Clerk's Note: Assemblymember Hale exited the meeting at 5:10 p.m.]

The meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.

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## MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, 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:** 5 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Robert Yundt, Assemblymember Mokie Tew, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

**Telephonic:** 1 - Assemblymember Tim Hale

### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

### IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assemblymember Tew.

### V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

**23-012**

A. Assembly Regular Meeting Minutes: 12/08/22

B. Assembly Regular Meeting Minutes: 12/20/22

C. Assembly Regular Meeting Minutes: 01/03/23

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 the activities of Governor Dunleavy's office.

### **B. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Assemblymembers Nowers and Tew reported on the most recent meeting.

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

There were no reports provided.

### **C. MANAGER COMMENTS**

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

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

Mr. Brown spoke to the following:

- \* Houston High School ribbon cutting on March 23, 2023;
- \* Certificate of achievement being awarded to the Borough's Finance Department by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States;
- \* Talon Boeve being selected as an Alaskan Safety Hero as part of the 2023 Class of Real Heroes by the Red Cross; and
- \* Whether the Assembly would like to take a position on House Bill 22 or any bills related to the PERS defined benefit.

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to have a public discussion and to take a position on House Bill 22. The motion passed by the following vote:**

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

#### D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos advised that Hannah Steketee with his office will be leaving to join the Court as a magistrate. Noted that he will be out of the office for the next couple of weeks for a family trip to Disney World.

#### E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule. Noted the proposed budget meetings had been included and queried if the Assembly would like to schedule the budget meetings.

Mayor DeVries queried if there was any objection.

There was no objection noted.

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to reschedule the September 19, 2023, regular Assembly meeting to September 26, 2023. The motion passed by the following vote:**

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

#### F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

**23-008**

1. Abbreviated Plat: 01/04/23, 01/18/23,
2. Aviation Advisory Board: 12/08/22
3. Caswell Lakes RSA Board of Supervisors: Resolution 23-01, 23-02
4. Chase Community Council: 07/20/22, 10/12/22, 12/08/22
5. Greater Palmer Consolidated FSA Board of Supervisors: 08/04/22, 10/17/22
6. Greater Talkeetna RSA Board of Supervisors: 11/10/22
7. Knik-Fairview Community Council: 09/21/22, 10/19/22, 11/02/22
8. Local Emergency Planning Committee: 10/19/22
9. Local Road Service Area Advisory Board: 10/20/22, 11/17/22
10. Louise/Susitna/Tyone Community Association: 10/08/22
11. MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission: 11/17/22
12. North Lakes Community Council: 11/17/22, 12/15/22
13. Planning Commission: 12/05/22
14. Platting Board: 12/01/22, 01/05/23
15. Port Commission: Resolution Nos. 23-001, 23-002
16. South Colony RSA Board of Supervisors: 09/29/22
17. Susitna Community Council: 12/01/22

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



## **G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS**

- IM 23-021** Reporting Conclusion Of Contract No. 21-109B With Granite Construction Company For The Final Contract Amount Of \$415,630.26 For The Sunset Drive Improvements Project.
- IM 23-022** Reporting Conclusion Of Contract No. 21-113B With Pruhs Construction Company LLC. For The Final Contract Amount Of \$457,325.25 For The Central Midway Streets Improvements Project.
- IM 23-023** Reporting Conclusion Of Contract No. 21-123B With Western Construction And Equipment LLC. For The Final Contract Amount Of \$582,620.45 For The Michigan Street And Lakeshore Circle Improvements Project.
- IM 23-024** Reporting Conclusion Of Contract No. 21-176B With Valley General Construction LLC. For The Final Contract Amount Of \$464,891 For The Golden Drive, Rainbow Park Drive, Indigo Drive, And Gray Court Improvements Project.
- IM 23-028** Informing The Assembly Of The Addition Of Two New Modules To Our Existing Agreement With Tyler Technologies: New World Enterprise Resource Planning.
- IM 23-029** Informing The Assembly Of The Managers Signature On And The Electronic Submittal Of A Solid Waste Infrastructure For Recycling Grant Application, For The Development Of A Composting Program At The Central Landfill.
- IM 23-032** Informing The Assembly Of The Managers Signature On And Submittal Of Alaska State Library Continuing Education Grant Application.  
The informational memorandums were 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.)**

There were no public hearings.



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

The following persons spoke to the need to protect voter integrity and opined that ballots should have serial numbers on them: John Miller, Karen Lewis, Lloyd Thurman, and Richard Stoffel.

The following person recounted stories from the bible: Brian Endel.

The following person spoke to concerns with unceded lands in Palmer, concerns with the Palmer Museum, and to concerns with the Palmer Chamber of Commerce trying to rebrand Colony Days: Jackie Goforth.

The following person opined that climate change is a scam: Cindy Hudgens.

The following persons spoke to concerns with judicial corruption and that the Grand Jury should have the capability to do investigations: David Haag, David Nordland, and Holly Sheldon Lee.

### D. CONSENT AGENDA

#### 1. RESOLUTIONS

**RS 23-007** A Resolution Approving The Amended Budgets For The Clapp-Mack Road Extension Project And The Old Glenn Pathway Phase II Project.

**RS 23-008** A Resolution Authorizing The Borough Manager To Enter Into An Agreement With Webster Wood Service, LLC. For The Mule Creek Timber Salvage Sale.

**RS 23-010** A Resolution Requesting That The Alaska State Department Of Transportation And Public Facilities Prioritize Resolving The Drainage Of The Lucille Creek Wetlands Prior To Resurfacing Big Lake Road And Hollywood Road.

**Sponsors:** Tew

**RS 23-011** A Resolution Authorizing The Manager To Convert Two On-Call Right-Of-Way Inspectors Into One Full-Time Right-Of-Way Inspector; And Allow For The Hiring Of This Position Prior To The Beginning Of Fiscal Year 2024.

#### 2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

**AM 23-007** Award Of Bid No. 23-043B To Zones, LLC. In The Contract Amount Of \$401,071.58 To Provide Microsoft Enterprise Agreement Licensing.

**AM 23-008** Award Of Bid No. 23-040B To Recon, LLC. In The Contract Amount Of \$110,300 To Evaluate The Sand And Gravel Potential At Several Material Sites.

**AM 23-009** Approval To Extend Final Completion Date For Contract No. 21-142P With Kinney Engineering LLC. To July 31, 2023, For Design Services Of The Felton Street Extension Project.

**AM 23-010** Approval Of Additional Utility Relocation Costs of \$8,994.81 To Enstar for Wolverine Avenue, Porcupine Avenue, and Beaver Avenue Improvements, Project No. 30045.

**AM 23-012** Award Of Proposal No. 23-053P To NV5 Geospatial, Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$400,865 To Collect Aerial Imagery In The Borough.

Ms. McKechnie read the consent agenda into the record.

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

**AM 23-011** Approval Of Contract Amendment To The Contract With Harris Consulting To Extend The Contract To June 30, 2024, In An Annual Amount Not To Exceed \$80,400 For State Lobbyist Services.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember McKee moved to adopt AM 23-011. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Bernier

**No:** 1 - Assemblymember McKee

## **VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

## IX. VETO

There were no vetoes.

## X. NEW BUSINESS

### A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 02/21/23, Assembly Chambers)

**OR 23-006** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$50,000 From The Alaska State Office Of History And Archaeology To Complete Phase II Of The Historic Preservation Plan Update.

RS 23-006: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget, Extending The Time Of Completion To June 30, 2024, And Authorizing The Manager To Sign The Agreement For Phase II Of The Historic Preservation Plan Update.

**OR 23-009** An Ordinance Amending MSB 18.04.035(A), Port Commission Membership.

**OR 23-010** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating Additional National Opioid Settlement Funding Totaling \$196,575 From The Manufacturers And Traders Trust Company, And Reappropriating \$95,089.10 For Opioid Settlement Relief.

RS 23-009: A Resolution Amending The Scope Of Work And Budget For Opioid Settlement Relief.

**OR 23-011** An Ordinance Extending The Date Of Completion On Match Funding For The Grant From The United States Department Of Commerce, Economic Development Administration For The Gateway Visitor Center.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearings for February 21, 2023. The motion passed by the following vote:**

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

### B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

#### 1. VACANCY REPORT



**23-009** Mayoral Requests For Confirmation  
Agriculture Advisory Board  
Kimberly Bergey  
Thomas Bergey  
Library Board  
Katherine Cross  
Kathleen Shoop, resignation  
Joann Walch, resignation  
Platting Board  
Robert Hallford  
Caswell FSA No. 136  
Phillip Johnson  
Talkeetna FSA No. 24  
Christopher Byrd  
Knik RSA No. 17  
Tyan Jimenez

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

**OR 23-008** An Ordinance Amending MSB 15.24.031, Initiating And Amending Lake Management Plans.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to refer Ordinance Serial No. 23-008 to the Planning Commission for 90 days. The motion passed by the following vote:**

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

### **XI. RECONSIDERATION**

There were no reconsiderations.

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

Assemblymember Nowers noted that the Assembly does not have any oversight of the Palmer Museum. Stated that her daughter worked there for a while and her job was to document colonist history. Provided an overview of what that process looked like.

Mr. Spiropoulos noted that there are 18 meetings between this evening and May. Teased that maybe there needs to be more meetings scheduled.

Assemblymember Bernier thanked the public for their attendance. Said a prayer.

Assemblymember Yundt stated that he is looking forward to a resolution of the bussing issue that the School District is dealing with. Commented what a great job the road contractors did during the extreme windstorm in December. Noted that the difference between Borough roads and roads in Anchorage was stark. Spoke to his desire to get some Borough roads upgraded this summer. Related his enthusiasm to see projects moving forward.

Assemblymember Tew echoed the comments regarding the road service area contractors doing a great job.

Mayor DeVries spoke to a recent meeting she attended with Governor Dunleavy and the Commissioner of the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. Related that there was discussion regarding reviving the Knik Arm Bridge project. Advised that she was asked to secure letters of support from the cities within the Borough.

## **XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (For Subjects That Tend To Prejudice The Reputation Or Character Of Any Person, Provided That Person May Request A Public Discussion; Matters Which By Law Are Required To Be Confidential; And Matters Involving Consideration Of Government Records That By Law Are Not Subject To Public Disclosure.)**

### **A. Filling the Assembly District 6 Vacancy and Discussion of Qualifications**

[Clerk's Note: The Executive Session was not conducted.]

## **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.



# 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  
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 SPECIAL MEETING

6:00 PM

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2023

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

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Thursday, February 9, 2023, 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:** 4 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Robert Yundt, and Assemblymember Mokie Tew

**Telephonic:** 2 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, 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 Assemblymember Yundt.

#### **V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

The following persons spoke in support of selecting Kerby Coman to fill the Assembly District 6 vacancy: Marrisa Coman and Dick Clifford.

#### **VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

##### **A. Filling the Assembly District 6 Vacancy - Candidate Interviews**

The Assembly conducted interviews of Naomi Sweetman, Kerby Coman, and Dmitri Fonov.

**VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (For Subjects That Tend To Prejudice The Reputation Or Character Of Any Person, Provided That Person May Request A Public Discussion; Matters Which By Law Are Required To Be Confidential; And Matters Involving Consideration Of Government Records That By Law Are Not Subject To Public Disclosure.)**

**A. Filling the Assembly District 6 Vacancy - Discussion of Qualifications**

Assemblymember Yundt moved to enter into executive session for subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation or character of any person, provided that person may request a public discussion; matters which by law are required to be confidential; and matters involving consideration of government records that by law are not subject to public disclosure. Those present during the executive session were the Mayor, the Assembly, the Manager, the Attorney, and the Clerk.

The motion passed without objection and the Assembly entered into executive session at 7:30 p.m.

Assemblymember Yundt moved to exit executive session. The motion passed without objection and the Assembly exited executive session at 7:55 p.m.

Assemblymember Yundt moved to appoint Dimitri Fonov to the Assembly District 6 seat until the November 2023 election. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

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

Mr. Spiropoulos congratulated Mr. Fonov. Stated that he will be in touch soon. Encouraged the other candidates to stay involved in local government.

Assemblymember McKee welcomed Mr. Fonov.

Assemblymember Tew thanked all the candidates for their interest. Congratulated Mr. Fonov.

Mr. Brown congratulated Mr. Fonov. Thanked the candidates for their interviews.

Ms. McKechnie thanked the candidates. Noted how hard it can be to interview at a public meeting.

Assemblymember Yundt noted that campaigning is easy compared to a public interview. Commented that all the candidates gave great answers. Stated that he hopes all candidates will stay involved.

Assemblymember Nowers opined that campaigning is harder than you think it is. Welcomed Mr. Fonov to the Assembly.

Assemblymember Hale congratulated Mr. Fonov.

Assemblymember Bernier congratulated Mr. Fonov. Encouraged all applicants to stay involved with government. Wished all candidates the best. Said a prayer.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.