

# 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

10:00 AM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2025

### **Departmental Budget Presentations**

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

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, April 9, 2025, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Mayor Edna DeVries.

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

**Present:** 6 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee (entered at 10:25 a.m.), Assemblymember Maxwell Sumner (entered at 10:34 a.m.), Assemblymember Bill Gamble, Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

**Excused:** 1 - 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 Cheyenne Heindel, Finance Director.

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

There were no persons present who wished to testify.

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

## **A. Departmental Budget Presentations**

**25-057**

### **Order of Presentations:**

1. Administration Budget Overview  
Manager Mike Brown
2. Port MacKenzie  
Director David Griffin
3. Community Development  
Director Jillian Morrissey
4. Emergency Services  
Director Ken Barkley
5. Information Technology  
Director Leah Jones
6. Planning  
Deputy Director Jason Ortiz
7. Animal Care and Regulation  
Director Vanessa Forbes
8. Public Works  
Director Tom Adams
9. Finance  
Director Cheyenne Heindel

Mr. Brown, Borough Manager, provided a budget overview.

David Griffin, Port Director, presented the Port proposed budget.

Jillian Morrissey, Community Development Director, presented the Community Development proposed budget.

(The Assembly recessed at 11:45 a.m. and reconvened at 12:03 p.m.)

Ken Barkely, Emergency Services Director, presented the Emergency Services proposed budget.

Leah Jones, Information and Technology Director, presented the Information and Technology proposed budget.

Jason Ortiz, Planning and Land Use Deputy Director, presented the Planning and Land Use proposed budget.

Vanessa Forbes, Animal Care and Regulation Director, presented the Animal Care proposed budget.

Cole Branham, Project Management Division Manager, presented the Public Works proposed budget.

Cheyenne Heindel, Finance Director, presented the Finance proposed budget.

(Assemblymember Gamble exited the meeting at 1:44 p.m.)

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

Mr. Spiropoulos stated that he too provided a copy of his proposed budget to the Assembly.

Assemblymember McKee spoke to the budget process.

Assemblymember Bernier said a prayer.

Assemblymember Nowers thanked everyone for their presentations.

Mr. Brown thanked everyone for the birthday wishes. Spoke to a memo he shared at start of the meeting, to what makes a good budget, the projected fund balance, and information being provided in the weekly post.

Ms. McKechnie stated that she too provided a copy of her proposed budget to the Assembly and spoke to it briefly.

Assemblymember Sumner thanked staff for their hard work on the budget. Noted that he serves on the Matanuska Electric Association Board and will need to recuse himself from future voting regarding utility legislation. Requested that the Clerk reschedule the Joint Assembly/Waterbody Setback Advisory Board Special Meeting.

The Clerk suggested May 1, 2025, at 4 p.m. There was no objection noted.

Assemblymember Fonov thanked everyone for the discussion.

Mayor DeVries thanked everyone for the meeting.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.



Mayoral Signature and Clerk Attestment  
For  
April 9, 2025, Special Meeting Minutes  
(3 pages)

  
EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 05/20/25