

# 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

Michael Bowles, 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 16, 2026

## I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, 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:** 7 - Assemblymember Michael Bowles, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Maxwell Sumner, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

**Assemblymember Sumner moved to amend the agenda to take up Ordinance Serial No. 26-072 as the second public hearing and Ordinance Serial No. 26-058 as the third public hearing, renumbering the remaining public hearings accordingly.**

**Assemblymember Bowles moved a primary amendment to take up Ordinance Serial No. 26-072 as the first public hearing, Ordinance Serial No. 26-058 as the second public hearing, and Ordinance Serial No. 26-032 as the third public hearing, renumbering the remaining public hearings accordingly.**

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

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

**The agenda was approved as amended by the following vote:**

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

### IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Lonnie McKechnie, Borough Clerk.

### V. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

[26-088](#)

Mayoral Proclamation in Recognition of the Alaska Down Syndrome Network

Mayor DeVries read the proclamation into the record and presented it to Roger Baird, President of Alaska Down Syndrome Network.

[26-101](#)

Mayoral Proclamation in Recognition of Juneteenth

Mayor DeVries read the proclamation into the record and presented it to Aundra Jackson.

Mayor DeVries read the legislation into the record.

## **VI. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS**

A. Assembly Special Meeting Minutes: 05/05/26

B. Assembly Regular Meeting Minutes: 05/05/26

C. Assembly Budget Deliberations Minutes: 05/07/26

The minutes were approved as presented without objection.

## **VII. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

### **A. AGENCY REPORTS (MSB 2.12.082; Seven minutes per person)**

#### **1. Reports From Cities**

Crystal Nygaard, City of Wasilla Deputy Administrator, reported on the activities of the city and advised that the City opposes Ordinance Serial No. 26-032.

#### **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 the Legislature.

### **B. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committees**

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**

There was report provided.

### **D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

There was no report provided.

## **E. CLERK COMMENTS**

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule. Noted that the Assembly had expressed interest in scheduling a meeting to discuss waterbody setback issues. Suggested a 4 p.m. meeting prior to the regular meeting on either September 1 or September 15.

The Assembly discussed when to schedule the meeting.

Assemblymember Nowers suggested October 20, 2026, at 4 p.m.

Mayor DeVries queried if there was any objection to scheduling the meeting for that date and time.

There was no objection noted.

## **F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

[26-092](#)

1. Big Lake Community Council: 02/24/26
2. Board of Equalization: 05/30/26
3. Greater Palmer FSA Board of Supervisors: 05/12/26
4. Local Road Service Area Advisory Board: 04/16/26
5. MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission: Resolution No. FWC 26-001
6. Planning Commission: 05/18/26
7. Platting Board: 05/07/26
8. Transportation Advisory Board: 04/10/26

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

## **G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS**

There were no informational memorandums presented.

## **VIII. 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 spoke in support of intellectual freedom and in support of Library Staff: Mary Robinson.

The following persons spoke in opposition to new taxes and concerns with the how contracts are awarded: Daniel Potter.

The following person opined that the entry to 49th State Street needs to be re-engineered and invited the body to attend the Juneteenth celebration in Palmer: Aundra Jackson.

The following person spoke to concerns with the Caswell dog abuse incident: Sarah Loreth.

The following person opined that all gravel operations should be taxed: Mary Ann Cochran.

The following persons spoke to concerns with pornographic books in libraries: Jackie Goforth and Linda Spohn.

The following person spoke in opposition to Ordinance Serial No. 26-071: Sam Schilling, Alaska Outdoor Alliance Access President.

The following person opined that because Alaska produces oil, that fuel prices should be less expensive: Sam Tanksley.

**B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)**

[OR 26-072](#)

An Ordinance Adopting MSB 3.15.036 \$75,000, Owner-Occupied Residential Real Property Exemption And MSB 1.10.170, 1 Percent Areawide Sales Tax; And Submitting The Proposition To The Voters At The November 3, 2026, Regular Borough Election.

**Sponsors:** Nowers

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke in opposition to any additional taxes within the Borough, commented that taxes are regressive, and to concerns that online sales taxes are not being captured: Christian Chevetta.

The following person spoke to his opposition to any new taxes in the Borough, commented that it is confusing to put two sales tax proposals before the voters: Brian Endle.

The following person spoke in opposition to sales tax within the Borough: Kai Levy.

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

**Assemblymember Nowers moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 26-072.**

The meeting recessed at 7:42 p.m. and reconvened at 8 p.m.

**Assemblymember Fonov moved a primary amendment as follows:**

- 1) by striking 1.5% and replace it with 1% throughout the ordinance;**
- 2) by striking the words “(WITH EXEMPTIONS FOR SALES WITHIN THE CITIES)” from the title;**
- 3) by striking MSB 3.35.050(D) in its entirety (page 23-25 of the ordinance); and**
- 4) by striking the ballot language and replace it with:**  
**PROPOSITION NO. \_\_**  
**\$75,000 OWNER-OCCUPIED RESIDENTIAL REAL**  
**PROPERTY EXEMPTION**  
**AND 1% AREAWIDE SALES TAX**  
**Shall the Matanuska-Susitna Borough enact a \$75,000 owner**  
**occupied residential real property**  
**exemption, and exercise the power to levy, collect, and enforce**  
**an areawide sales tax in the amount**  
**of 1% in the entire Matanuska-Susitna Borough?"**

**Assemblymember McKee moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 26-072 until after discussion of Ordinance Serial No. 26-032.**

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

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

[OR 26-058](#)

An Ordinance Establishing A Tax On Certain Natural Resources Whenever The Natural Resource Is Severed And Removed From Property Within The Matanuska-Susitna Borough And Providing For Penalties For Failure To Pay Taxes Due By Adopting MSB 3.55, Natural Resource Severance Tax.

**Sponsors:** Nowers

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person expressed concerns with how it would be enforced, and opined that requiring private financial records to be made available to a Borough employee for audit constitutes an invasion of privacy: Jay Laughlin, owner of Central Gravel Products.

The following person spoke in opposition to the gravel tax ordinance: Melody Wright.

The following person opined that the Borough's revenue and expense calculation contained in the fiscal note is over stated by more than three times the actual resource being produced: Steve Colligan, Alaska Rock Products Association.

**Assemblymember Nowers moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 26-058.**

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 26-058 to July 21, 2026.**

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

**Yes:** 3 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Bernier

**No:** 4 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Fonov

**Assemblymember Bowles moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 26-058 indefinitely.**

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

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Fonov

**No: 3 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Bernier**

[OR 26-032](#) An Ordinance Adopting MSB 1.10.170 And MSB 3.35, 6.5 Percent Areawide Sales Tax, Repealing Areawide Property Tax, And Submitting The Proposition To The Voters At The November 3, 2026, Regular Borough Election.

**Sponsors:** Bowles

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke in opposition to property tax: Brian Endle.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 26-032: Mark Johnson.

The following person spoke to sales taxes being regressive and punishing those who are less fortunate and spoke in opposition to medical visits or procedures being taxed: Joan Koman.

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

**Assemblymember Bowles moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 26-032.**

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to suspend the rules to extend the meeting past 10 p.m. and not to exceed 11 p.m.**

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

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

The meeting recessed at 9: 51 p.m. and reconvened at 10:10 p.m.

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 26-032 to July 21, 2026.**

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

**Yes: 1 - Assemblymember Sumner**

**No: 6 -** Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers,  
Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Gamble,  
Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Assemblymember Bowles moved a primary amendment to insert a new section MSB 3.35.085 Resident Senior or Disabled Veteran Exemption to read as follows:**

**MSB 3.35.085 Resident Senior or Disabled Veteran Exemption**

**(A) Any individual 65 years of age or older, hereinafter called a ‘senior’, or any individual who is a 100% disabled veteran, who is a resident of the State of Alaska and resident of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough for not less than 90 consecutive days immediately preceding the application therefor may apply for and be issued by the finance director or designee a senior citizen or disabled veteran sales tax exemption card, which card entitles the individual to be exempted from the operation of the sales taxes levied under this chapter, however, that the 90-consecutive-day period provided for in this section may be reduced to 30 days if:**

- (1) The applicant has previously held a senior or disabled veteran exemption card in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough;**
- (2) The applicant has not been absent from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough for more than 24 months; and**
- (3) The applicant establishes to the satisfaction of the borough finance director or designee that either:**
  - a. The absence was for medical treatment of the person or an immediate family member, or**
  - b. The absence was due to circumstances beyond their control.**

**No seller within the borough shall charge or collect the sales tax levied under this chapter on exempted purchases from any person who displays such valid sales tax exempt card. All sellers within the borough shall keep records of such exempt sales and submit quarterly totals of such sales to the borough’s finance department, together with any other information required by law. In the event the individual ceases to be a bona fide resident of the borough, entitlement to the sales tax exemption that requires such residency shall terminate, and the card shall be void as to that sales tax exemption.**

**(b) No individual who has duly applied for and received such a registration card may use it to obtain such tax exemption when the rents, retail purchases, and any or all of them, otherwise subject to the sales taxes, are used or consumed by any person**

or persons other than the individual duly holding such registration card, or his or her spouse.

**(c) No person who has not duly applied for or received such a registration card may use it to obtain such tax exemption; provided, however, in the case of an individual who is eligible for an exemption under this section, is otherwise authorized to receive a registration card under this section, and who is physically or mentally unable to use said card, a special card authorizing another person to use the special card for the benefit of the individual who is physically or mentally unable to use the card may be issued.**

**A card issued under this subsection may be issued to either:**

- (1) An individual specifically authorized to make purchases on behalf of the eligible individual and who certifies on a form designated by the finance director that any purchases under the special authorization shall be only for the use of the eligible individual or their spouse; or**
- (2) A governmental or nonprofit agency which, as part of their services to seniors or 100% disabled veterans, regularly provides such service to seniors or 100% disabled veterans who are physically or mentally unable to make purchases for themselves.**

**In the case of a governmental or nonprofit agency, such cards shall be issued in the agency name; shall bear distinguishing markings; and any employee authorized to use such card shall certify on a form designated by the finance director that any purchases under the special authorization shall be only for the use of an eligible individual or their spouse. Governmental or nonprofit agencies will accept full responsibility for the safekeeping of such cards and maintain an appropriate accountability of the use of each card. When making purchases using the authorization, the employee shall keep a log of the purchase, the amount, and the party for whom the purchase was made. The log shall be retained for at least three years by the agency, and shall be subject to audit by the borough.**

**(d) For the purposes of this section “resident of the State of Alaska” means an individual who is physically present in the state with the intent to remain in the state indefinitely and to make a home in the state. An individual demonstrates the**

**intent required under this subsection by maintaining a principal place of abode in the state for at least 90 consecutive days immediately preceding the date of application for the exemption card provided in this section.**

**Notwithstanding the above, an individual who registers or is registered to vote outside the State of Alaska cannot be a resident of the State of Alaska for purposes of the exemption card under this section.**

**For purposes of this section, a “resident of the borough” is an individual who has established a residence in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and has the intent to remain in the borough indefinitely and make their home in the borough. An individual demonstrates the intent required under this subsection by maintaining a principal place of abode in the borough for at least 90 consecutive days immediately preceding the date of application for the exemption card.**

**Notwithstanding the above, an individual who registers or is registered to vote outside the Matanuska-Susitna Borough cannot be a resident of the borough for purposes of the exemption card under this section.**

**(e) Any individual who ceases to meet the definition of either “resident of the State of Alaska” or “resident of the borough” immediately forfeits the exemption granted in this subsection and must return the exemption card to the borough.**

**(f) The finance director shall periodically review the qualifications of holders of senior citizen exemption cards, may require proof, verification, or other information from card holders, and shall revoke the card of any person found not to meet the qualification. A written notice of the revocation, together with the basis therefore, shall be sent to the residence address provided by the exemption cardholder. A revocation decision is a final administrative decision and may be appealed to the superior court in accordance with the Alaska Rules of Court.**

**(g) Any person who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a violation and upon conviction thereof shall be fined an amount not to exceed \$500, and such sales tax exemption card shall be surrendered to the court, which, in turn, shall**

**return the card to the borough for cancellation and destruction. Lawful use of the card is a condition precedent to its validity, and any unlawful use thereof shall render the card void from the date of its inception. By applying for any such card, the applicant thereby agrees to be bound by such conditions.**

**(h) Use of an exemption card in violation of any provision of this section is prohibited. Each and every item or service purchased with an exemption card in violation of any provision of this section is a separate violation. The Borough may seek injunctive relief and a civil penalty up to \$1000 per violation as provided by AS 29.25.070(b) and pursue any other legal and equitable remedies provided by law.**

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

**Yes:** 3 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Gamble

**No:** 4 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

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

**Yes:** 3 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

**No:** 4 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Fonov

[OR 26-072](#)

An Ordinance Adopting MSB 3.15.036 \$75,000, Owner-Occupied Residential Real Property Exemption And MSB 1.10.170, 1 Percent Areawide Sales Tax; And Submitting The Proposition To The Voters At The November 3, 2026, Regular Borough Election.

**Sponsors:** Nowers

**MOTION PENDING: Assemblymember Fonov moved a primary amendment as follows:**

- 1) by striking 1.5% and replace it with 1% throughout the ordinance;**
- 2) by striking the words “(WITH EXEMPTIONS FOR SALES WITHIN THE CITIES)” from the title;**
- 3) by striking MSB 3.35.050(D) in its entirety (page 23-25 of the ordinance); and**
- 4) by striking the ballot language and replace it with:**

**PROPOSITION NO. \_\_**

**\$75,000 OWNER-OCCUPIED RESIDENTIAL REAL  
PROPERTY EXEMPTION  
AND 1% AREAWIDE SALES TAX**

**Shall the Matanuska-Susitna Borough enact a \$75,000 owner occupied residential real property exemption, and exercise the power to levy, collect, and enforce an areawide sales tax in the amount of 1% in the entire Matanuska-Susitna Borough?"**

**Assemblymember Gamble moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 26-072 to August 4, 2026.**

**Assemblymember Bowles moved a primary amendment by striking "August 4" and inserting "September 1" in its place.**

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

**Yes:** 3 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Sumner

**No:** 4 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier  
**Assemblymember Nowers called for the question (to stop debate).**

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

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

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

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**No:** 3 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, and Assemblymember McKee

**Assemblymember Bowles moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 26-072 indefinitely.**

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

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Sumner

**No:** 3 - Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to suspend the rules to extend the meeting to 11:59 p.m.**

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

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

[OR 26-039](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$100,000 From The Mat-Su Trails And Parks Foundation For The Upgrades To The West Butte Trailhead.

RS 26-025: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Upgrades To The West Butte Trailhead.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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 Bowles moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 26-039 and Resolution Serial No. 26-025.**

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

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

[OR 26-066](#)

An Ordinance Authorizing The Borough Manager To Convey Certain Borough-Owned Excess Land From The Point Mackenzie Rail Extension Project To The State Of Alaska For Economic Development (Tracts 10A And 13A, Point Mackenzie Terminal Reserve, Plat No. 2025-179, Palmer Recording District).

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke to concerns with the lack of information that clearly outlines the intent for the use of the parcels: Michelle Huen.

The following person spoke to concerns that the agriculture rights would be removed from the property and to the need to preserve agricultural land: Simon Gilland.

**Assemblymember Gamble moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 26-066.**

**Assemblymember Nowers moved to refer Ordinance Serial No. 26-066 to the Agriculture Advisory Board and to be back to the Assembly by July 21, 2026.**

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

**Yes:** 2 - Assemblymember Nowers, and Assemblymember McKee

**No:** 5 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

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

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**No:** 2 - Assemblymember Nowers, and Assemblymember McKee

[OR 26-069](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$3,468 From The Alaska State Department Of Natural Resources, Office Of History And Archaeology, For The 2026 National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) Forum Travel Grant Project.

RS 26-054: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget And Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into The State Grant Agreement For The 2026 NAPC Travel Grant Project.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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. 26-069 and Resolution Serial No. 26-054.**

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

**Yes:** 3 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

**No:** 4 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Fonov

[OR 26-070](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$21,595 Of Revenues From Fiscal Year 2026 Public Donations To The Animal Care And Regulation Capital Projects Budget For Animal Care Division Facility Programs.

RS 26-055: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Animal Care Division Facility Programs That Support Animal Care And Regulation Priorities And Objectives.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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. 26-070 and Resolution Serial No. 26-055.**

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

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

[OR 26-071](#) An Ordinance Approving An Additional Land Classification For 16 Borough-Owned Properties Along Deshka River As Watershed Lands For The Purpose Of Fish Habitat.

**Sponsors:** Gamble

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in opposition to Ordinance Serial No. 26-071: Esther Huddleston; and Michelle Stevens, Alaska Outdoor Council Vice President.

The following persons spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 26-071: Jessica Mead, Mat-Su Salmon Partnership; Sue Mauder; Margaret Stearn, Susitna River Coalition.

The following person spoke to concerns with river bank erosion and erratic driving on the Deshka River: Dave George.

**Assemblymember Gamble moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 26-071.**

**Assemblymember Gamble moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 26-071 to August 4, 2026.**

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

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

**No:** 2 - Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Fonov

**C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (You can speak under one of the audience participations on the agenda, but not both; Three Minutes Per Person.)**

The following persons spoke to concerns with the Big Lake Road Service Area contract being in limbo: Kaysha Street and Dawson White.

## **D. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **1. RESOLUTIONS**

[RS 26-052](#) A Resolution Waiving Mat-Su Borough Landfill Fees For The Alaska State Adopt-A-Highway Program For Fiscal Year 2027.

### **2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS**

[AM 26-066](#) Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into A Grant Agreement For Fiscal Year 2027 With Valley Community For Recycling Solutions In The Amount Of \$200,000.

[AM 26-070](#) Approval Of Utility Relocation Costs Of \$ 118,533.52 To MTA Communications, LLC. For The Jolly Creek Drainage Improvements Project Phases I And II Big Lake Road Service Area; And To Extend The Completion Date To December 31, 2026.

[AM 26-076](#) Approval Of Change Order No. Five For Contract No. 23-049B With Western Construction And Equipment For The Central Landfill Annual Operation And Compaction Contract To Add \$190,482.48 For Fiscal Year 2027; And To Establish A \$35,000 Contingency Fund.

[AM 26-077](#) Approval Of Change Order No. 3 To Term Contract No. 23-100P(A) With HDL Engineering Consultants, LLC. To Renew Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Contract Authority; And Extend The Completion Date To June 30, 2027, For Engineering And Surveying Services.

[AM 26-078](#) Approval Of Change Order No. 3 To Term Contract No. 23-100P(B) With Lounsbury And Associates, Inc. To Renew Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Contract Authority; And Extend The Completion Date To June 30, 2027, For Engineering And Surveying Services.

[AM 26-079](#) Approval Of Change Order No. 4 To Term Contract No. 23-100P(C) With The Boutet Company, Inc. To Renew Fiscal Year 2027 Annual Contract Authority; And Extend The Completion Date To June 30, 2027, For Engineering And Surveying Services.

[AM 26-080](#) Authorization To Purchase Hardware And Professional Services In The Amount Of \$155,829.55 With Convergent Technologies For The Dorthy Swanda Jones (DSJ) Building Security Upgrades And Updates To The DSJ Building Lenel Access Controls (Door And Badge Readers).

- [AM 26-081](#) Award Of Proposal No. 26-153P To All Points North For The Contract Amount Of \$225,000 To Provide Survey Services For A New Government Peak Recreation Area To Skeetawk Trail.
- [AM 26-082](#) Authorization To Amend Contract No. 24-134P With Coffman Engineers, Inc. For The Dorthy Swanda Jones Building Seismic Evaluation Services To Extend The Contract Completion To June 30, 2027.
- [AM 26-084](#) Award Of Bid No. 26-173B To Northern Asphalt Construction, Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$330,800 To Construct West Herkimer Drive And South Spring Drive Improvements.
- [AM 26-085](#) Award Of Bid No. 26-165B To HDL Engineering Consultants, LLC. In The Annual Contract Amount Not To Exceed \$300,000 To Provide On-Call Construction Materials Testing And Inspection Services.
- [AM 26-086](#) Award Of Quote No. 26-152Q To R&M Consultants, Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$177,786 To Provide Engineering Consulting Services For The Yoder Road Bridge Evaluation, Repair Plans, And Erosion Protection Design Under Term Contract 26-096P.
- [AM 26-088](#) Award Of Bid No. 26-171B To JGH Plumbing And Heating, Inc. In The Amount Of \$444,021 For The School District Administration Boiler Room Improvement And Boiler Replacement.
- [AM 26-090](#) Authorization To Renew VMware vSphere Software With GSCIT Under A Three-Year Agreement Covering July 1, 2026, Through June 30, 2029; Total Cost Of The Agreement Is \$195,360 With Annual Payments Subject To Appropriation.
- 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 Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

[AM 26-083](#) Approval Of Contract Amendment Authority For Contract No. 25-176B With Roger Hickel Contracting, Inc. To Establish Additional Change Order Authority In An Amount Up To 6.5 Percent Of The Contract Amount As Modified; And To Authorize An Extension Of The Contract Completion Date By Up To 90 Calendar Days For The American Charter Academy Project.  
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.  
**Assemblymember McKee moved to adopt AM No. 26-083.**

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

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

[AM 26-089](#) Award Of Bid No. 26-172B To Ficklin Construction, LLC. In The Contract Amount Of \$585,000 To Construct Burma Road Safety Improvements.  
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.  
**CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Assemblymember Sumner declared a conflict of interest as he works with Ficklin Construction.**

**RULING: Mayor DeVries ruled Assemblymember Sumner had a conflict of interest and would be recused from voting.**

**Assemblymember Sumner exited the meeting.**

**Assemblymember McKee moved to adopt AM No. 26-089.**

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

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

**Recused:** 1 - Assemblymember Sumner  
**Assemblymember Sumner re-entered the meeting.**

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

## X. VETO

There were no vetoes presented.

## XI. NEW BUSINESS

### A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 07/21/26, Assembly Chambers)

[OR 26-028](#) An Ordinance Amending MSB 17.80, Nonconforming Structures, To Repeal The Notification Process And Fee Section.

**Sponsors:** Sumner

[OR 26-030](#) An Ordinance Repealing MSB 8.25, Water Pollution Control; And MSB 17.55.020(E), Under Setbacks For Shorelands, In Their Entirety.

**Sponsors:** Sumner

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 July 21, 2026.**

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

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

### B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

#### 1. VACANCY REPORT

[26-094](#) Mayoral Request for Confirmation

Agriculture Advisory Board  
Alexandria Hoffman, resignation  
Meadow Lakes RSA No. 27  
Nicholas Scott

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to confirm the appointment and resignation requested by the Mayor.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, 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.

## XII. RECONSIDERATION

[AM 26-075](#) Award Of Bid No. 26-157B To Tew's Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$1,116,525.33 For Big Lake Road Service Area Annual Road Maintenance - Rebid.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Nowers moved for reconsideration of AM 26-075.**

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

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

**No:** 1 - Assemblymember Bowles

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

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**No:** 2 - Assemblymember Bowles, and Assemblymember Gamble

**Assemblymember Bowles moved to direct the Manager to work with the Butte Community Council to develop a community park on the property formerly known as the compound.**

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

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

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

Assemblymember Bowles advised that he will not move for reconsideration of Ordinance Serial No. 26-032, as he recognizes that both the public and the Assembly oppose the proposal. Stated that he hopes sponsors of other tax legislation will do the same. Stated that he appreciates the discussion that occurred during the meeting. Opined that property taxes are generally not well received by the public.

Ms. McKechnie thanked the body for the evaluation.

Assemblymember Nowers noted that she misspoke when she stated that Assemblymember Sumner's business has a gravel permit. Commented that the company had applied but did not pursue the permit and do not have a gravel operation.

Assemblymember Bernier thanked the body for the meeting and said a prayer.

Assemblymember Sumner declared no new taxes.

Assemblymember McKee stated that she is grateful for the opportunity to work together with other members of the Assembly.

## **XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

## **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:57 p.m.