

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

350 East Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska 99645 - 907-861-8683

BOROUGH MAYOR

Vern Halter

BOROUGH CLERK

Lonnie R. McKechnie, CMC

BOROUGH MANAGER

Michael Brown

BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Nicholas Spiropoulos



BOROUGH ASSEMBLY

Tim Hale, District 1
Stephanie Nowers, District 2
George McKee, District 3
Robert Yundt, District 4
Mokie Tew, District 5
Jesse Sumner, District 6
Tam Boeve, District 7

MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Vern Halter.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Mokie Tew, Assemblymember Jesse Sumner, and Assemblymember Tam Boeve

Telephonic: 1 - Assemblymember Robert Yundt

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Brown requested to pull Ordinance Serial No. 21-024 under introductions from the agenda to make changes and bring back at the next meeting.

Mayor Halter inquired if there were any objections. There was no objection noted.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ken Barkley, Emergency Services Director.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

There were no minutes provided.

VI. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

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

1. Reports From Cities

Mayor Glenda Ledford, city of Wasilla, reported on the activities of the City.

2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

There was no report provided.

3. State of Alaska

Mr. Todd Smoldon, Director of Governor Dunleavy's Mat-Su Office, reported on the distribution of the COVID vaccine and the federal stimulus package.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee On School Issues

There was no report provided.

2. Assembly Public Relations

Mayor Halter voiced his congratulations to Dallas Seavey for winning the Iditarod and expressed thanks to the Assembly for passing the CARES Act funding.

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Brown expressed thanks to staff for their hard work on the reapportioning and redistricting project.

1. State/Federal Legislation

2. Strategic Planning Issues

Mr. Neil Steininger, Alaska State, Director of the Office of Management and Budget, reported on the fiscal year 2022 budget overview.

3. OMB State Revenue Update - West Susitna Update

Mr. Brad Swartz, Mr. Jesse Peterson, and Mr. Allen Weitzner, Vice President, with Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority reported on phase II of the West Susitna Access Road Project Communications Plan.

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

[21-069](#)

Presentation Under Attorney's Comments

Mr. Spiropoulos reported on Section VII, VIII, VX, and X of the Alaska Constitution.

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. Johnson reported on the upcoming meeting schedule.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

[21-061](#)

1. Fairview RSA Board of Supervisors: 11/09/20
 2. MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission: 01/21/21
 3. North Lakes Community Council: 01/21/21, 01/28/21
 4. Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board: 11/23/20, Resolution No. 21-01
 5. Platting Board: 12/17/20, 01/07/21
 6. Sutton Community Council: 01/27/21
 7. Willow Area Community Organization: 01/06/21
- The citizen and other correspondence were presented and no comments were noted.

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

There were no informational memorandums presented.

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 meetings presented.

C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person.)

The following persons spoke opposed to the West Susitna Access Road Project: Mr. Steven Perrins, Rainy Pass Lodge; and Ms. Melissa Hoyer, Susitna River Coalition Executive Director.

The following person spoke opposed to the West Susitna Access Road Project, expressed concern for the lack of returning information requested and community concerns: Mr. Margaret Stern.

The following person spoke to concerns with Resolution Serial No. 21-019 and to the public process: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

The following person spoke in support of Resolution Serial No. 21-019: Mr. Jim Sykes.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

[RS 21-024](#) A Resolution Approving An Amended Scope Of Work For Project No. 15035, Fund 480, Point Mackenzie Community Council Grant.

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

[AM 21-020](#) Amending The Scope Of Work And Budgets For Contract 19-061P With NV5 Geospatial (Formerly Quantum Spatial) To Supplement Funding For The Acquisition Of Aerial Imagery For 401 Square Miles Surrounding The Core Palmer, Wasilla, And Houston Populated Areas.

[AM 21-021](#) Acceptance Of Late Filed And Retroactive Senior Citizen And Disabled Veteran Exemption Applications.

[AM 21-022](#) Award Of Bid No. 21-105B To Steppers Construction, Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$178,509.10 For Julie Marie And Morgan Circle Improvements.

[AM 21-024](#) Award Of Bid No. 21-137B To Valley General Construction, LLC. In The Contract Amount Of \$251,837 For Holland Avenue Improvements.

Ms. Johnson read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Boeve 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 Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

[RS 21-019](#) A Resolution Endorsing A Septage Treatment Facility Feasibility Study To Include Evaluation Of The City Of Palmer's Wastewater Treatment Plant For Septage Disposal; And Suspending Application For Construction Funding Of A Septage Treatment Facility Until The Feasibility Study Is Complete And The Assembly Decides To Proceed.

Ms. Johnson read the legislation into the record.

Mr. Terry Dolan, Public Works Director, provided a staff report.

Assemblymember Hale moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 21-019. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

IX. VETO

There were no vetoes presented.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 04/06/21, Assembly Chambers)

[OR 21-013](#) An Ordinance Amending MSB 17.73.095, Domestic Wastewater System Plan Review.

[OR 21-022](#) An Ordinance Reappropriating \$150,000 From The Fiscal Year 2021 Information Technology Department Operating Budget Fund 100, To The Human Resources Information System Project No. 20316-4204, Fund 480, For The Procurement Of A New Human Resources Information Management System.
RS 21-021: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Human Resources Information Management System Project No. 20316-4204.

[OR 21-023](#) An Ordinance Amending MSB 18.04.035 (A), Port Commission Membership.

[OR 21-024](#) An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$4,434.48 In Interest Income To Fund 475, Project No. 47532, Federal Cares Relief Act (COVID-19).

RS 21-023: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Interest Income Generated From The Federal Cares Relief Act (COVID-19), Fund 475, Project No. 47532

[OR 21-026](#) An Ordinance Approving A Sale To Adjacent Property Owners Of Substandard Tax Foreclosed Properties That Have Been Held By The Borough For Over 10 Years In Which Repurchase Rights Of Former Record Owners Have Been Extinguished (MSB007706).

Assemblymember Boeve moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearings for April 6, 2021. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

[21-059](#) Mayoral Requests for Confirmation
Platting Board
Amanda Salmon
Justin Hatley, Resignation
Port Commission
Randall Kowalke, Resignation
Caswell Lakes RSA # 15
Randall Kowalke
Greater Butte RSA #26
Karl Kopperud

Assemblymember Boeve 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 Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

C. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

There were 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

There were no reconsiderations.

XII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Sumner opined that the Borough should not pursue a sewage treatment plant.

Assemblymember Nowers noted appreciation for the presentation of the State budget update. Expressed concerns with the maintenance costs of the West Susitna Road Project. Requested a staff report at the next meeting for IM 21-020.

Assemblymember Tew expressed thanks to Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority for the presentation on the West Susitna Access Road Project.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.