

# 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  
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

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024

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### Departmental Budget Presentations - Front Half of Chambers

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Thursday, April 11, 2024, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Mayor Edna DeVries.

#### II. ROLL CALL

**Present:** 6 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers (entered at 10:08 a.m.), Assemblymember Dee McKee (entered at 10:03 a.m.), Assemblymember Bill Gamble, Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

**Excused:** 1 - Assemblymember Robert Yundt

#### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

#### IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Jillian Morrissey, Community Development Director.

#### V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There were no persons present who wished to testify.

## VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

23-019

### Order of Presentations:

1. Introduction; Port MacKenzie; Planning and Land Use  
Manager Mike Brown
2. Emergency Services  
Director Ken Barkley
3. Community Development  
Director Jillian Morrissey
4. Information Technology  
Director Leah Jones
5. Animal Care and Regulation  
Director Chris Loscar
6. Public Works  
Director Tom Adams
7. Finance  
Director Cheyenne Heindel

Mr. Brown, Borough Manager, provided a budget overview; presented the Port MacKenzie proposed budget and the Planning and Land Use proposed budget.

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

(The Assembly recessed at 12:13 p.m. and reconvened at 12:38 p.m.)

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

Tom Adams, Public Works Director, presented the Public Works proposed budget

(The meeting recessed at 2:06 p.m. and reconvened at 2:11 p.m.)

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

Chris Loscar, Animal Care and Regulation Director, presented the Animal Care proposed budget.

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

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

(Assemblymember Gamble exited the meeting at 2:48 p.m.)

Ms. McKechnie advised that she provided a copy of her proposed budget to the Assembly. Advised that the memo included explains the changes. Noted that there is an overall decrease in her budget. Stated that there will be no dinner at the Willow budget public hearing as there has been in the past. Noted that there will be refreshments provided at the Cabin because they would like to give the body a tour. Stated that if anyone was interested in that tour that they should arrive a bit early.

Mr. Spiropoulos stated that he too provided a copy of his proposed budget to the Assembly. Noted that the only change in his budget is added advertising for some code compliance cases. Stated that if there are any questions to please let him know.

Assemblymember Bernier thanked everyone who participated in the meeting. Said a prayer.

Assemblymember Hale thanked the Director's for their presentations. Noted that he usually has to watch online after work and that it was nice to be attending in person.

Assemblymember Nowers thanked the Directors for their presentations. Spoke to her desire for more discussion on the regionally driven economic development plan that was mentioned during the Manager's budget overview.

Mayor DeVries noted that applications are coming in for the Library Citizen's Advisory Committee. Noted that appointments will be made through the vacancy process. Spoke to how she has requested that applications be shared with her and the Assembly. Advised that she would like to have the vacancies filled by the first of May.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.



Mayoral Signature and Clerk Attestment

For

April 11, 2024, Assembly Budget Presentation Minutes

(3 pages)

EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 05/07/24