

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

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 REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, April 18, 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 Dee McKee, Assemblymember Robert Yundt, Assemblymember Mokie Tew, Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

Telephonic: 2 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, and Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Christine Greco.

V. SPECIAL ORDERS

Mayor DeVries read a proclamation recognizing the Valley Thunder U16 Hockey team into record and presented the team with certificates of achievement.

A. Mayoral Proclamation in Honor of Ryan Redington Wining the 51st Iditarod Trail Dog Race

[23-058](#)

Mayoral Proclamation

Mayor DeVries read the proclamation honoring Ryan Redington winning the 51st Iditarod and presented a copy to Ryan Redington.

VI. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

There were no minutes presented.

VII. 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

Laura E. Anderson, Wasilla High School Librarian gave a presentation.

3. State of Alaska

Mr. Todd Smoldon, Executive Director of Governor Dunleavy's Mat-Su Office thanked the Assemblymembers who sponsored Resolution Serial No. 23-046 supporting the Governors parental rights legislation and spoke to the upcoming meeting with the Governor, Mayor DeVries and the Borough Manager.

4. Matanuska-Susitna Borough Library Board

[23-053](#)

Matanuska-Susitna Borough Library Board - Presentation

Georgia Knazovich, Library Board Member gave a presentation.

5. Mat-Su Convention And Visitors Bureau - Report

Bonnie Quill, Executive Director gave a presentation.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee On School Issues

2. Assembly Public Relations

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Brown congratulated Valley Community for Recycling Solutions (VCRS) on their 25 anniversary and thanked them for their service to the community noted that Matanuska-Susitna Orchestra will be providing a benefit performance on April 23, at the Glenn Massay Theater and that all proceeds will be donated to VCRS.

Introduced Jason Collins with Wolfe Architecture. Mr. Collins provided a presentation on the 35% Schematic Design for the American Charter Academy School.

1. State/Federal Legislation

2. Strategic Planning Issues

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule and reminded the Assembly of the Budget Meeting to be held Tuesday, April 25, at the Willow Community Center.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

[23-056](#)

1. Abbreviated Plat: 04/05/23
2. Big Lake RSA Board of Supervisors: 02/08/23
3. Caswell Lakes RSA Board of Supervisors: Resolution No. 03-23
4. Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board: 01/23/23, Resolution No. 23-02
5. Planning Commission: 02/06/23, 03/06/23, 03/20/23
6. Transportation Advisory Board: Resolution No. 23-03
7. Talkeetna Community Council: 02/06/23

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

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

[IM 23-077](#)

Reporting The Conclusion Of Contract For Bid No. 22-075B With Anchorage Roofing And Contracting For A Final Contract Amount Of \$874,030.49 For The Wasilla Pool Roof Replacement.

The informational memorandum was presented and no comments were noted.

VIII. SPECIAL ORDERS

A. PERSONS TO BE HEARD (MSB 2.12.081; Three Minutes Per Person.)

(Requires 11 Days Advance Notice And Must Otherwise Be In Compliance With The Necessary Code Requirements. If No Advance Notice Is Given, Persons Wishing To Speak May Do So Under The Audience Participation Section Of The Agenda.)

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)

[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

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Alex Strawn, Planning Director, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke in opposition to Ordinance Serial No. 23-005: Bailey Stewart.

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

Assemblymember Yundt moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 23-005. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

No: 1 - Assemblymember Hale

[OR 23-024](#)

An Ordinance Extending The Time Limit For Completion Of Expiring Projects To June 30, 2024.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Cheyenne Heindel, Finance Director, 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.

[Clerk's Note: Assemblymember Fonov was absent for the vote.]

Assemblymember Yundt moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 23-02. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Excused: 1 - Assemblymember Fonov

[OR 23-026](#)

An Ordinance Approving A Reappropriation Of \$75,000 From The Fiscal Year 2023 Planning Division Operating Budget To Fund The Historic Preservation Plan Phase II And Board Of Fisheries.
RS 23-033: A Resolution Amending The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Historic Preservation Plan Phase II And Board Of Fisheries Proposal.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Kim Sollien, Planning Manager, 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. 23-026 and Resolution Serial No. 23-033. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

[OR 23-028](#)

An Ordinance Providing For The Financing Not To Exceed \$204,518 Principal Amount Of Special Assessment Internal Service Funds For The Forest Lake Subdivision Natural Gas Local Improvement District No. 619, And Fixing Details Of Said Financing.

OR 23-029: An Ordinance Confirming The Assessment Roll For The Forest Lake Subdivision Natural Gas Local Improvement District No. 619 And Establishing The Method Of Terminating Assessments And Making Refunds To Property Owners.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Cheyenne Heindel, Finance Director, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke in opposition to Ordinance Serial No. 23-028 and Ordinance Serial No. 23-029 and requested
Assemblymember Tew recuse himself from the vote: Douglas Hover.

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

Assemblymember Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 23-028 and Ordinance Serial No. 23-029. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, and
Assemblymember Yundt

No: 4 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Tew,
Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

Assemblymember Tew moved to reconsider Ordinance Serial No. 23-028 and Ordinance Serial No. 23-029.

(The meeting recessed at 7:41 p.m. and reconvened at 7:56 p.m.)

The primary motion to reconsider Ordinance Serial No. 23-028 and Ordinance Serial No. 23-029 passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers,
Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt,
Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Fonov, and
Assemblymember Bernier

The primary motion to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 23-028 and Ordinance Serial No. 23-029 passed by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Fonov

No: 2 - Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Bernier

[OR 23-031](#)

An Ordinance Extending The Date Of Completion For The Boroughwide Comprehensive Plan Update, Community Comprehensive Plan Update, Historic Preservation, Stormwater Management Plan, Transportation Planning, And Public Outreach, Education And Incentives To June 30, 2026.

RS 23-039: A Resolution Amending The Scope Of Work And Budget For The U-Med District Project And The Transportation Planning Project And Amending The Scope Of Work And Title For The Air Quality Public Outreach, Education And Incentives Sub-Project.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Kim Sollien, Planning Manager, 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. 23-031 and Resolution Serial No. 23-039. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

[OR 23-032](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating An Additional \$5,548.84 From The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management Grant Program For Training.

RS 23-042: A Resolution Approving The Revised Scope Of Work And Budget For The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management Grant For Training.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Cheyenne Heindel, Finance Director, 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. 23-032 and Resolution 23-042. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person.)

The following persons spoke in opposition of Resolution Serial No. 23-041: Georgia Holton, Tim Potter, Barbara Laucius, Robert Hancock, Greg Jones, Mike Fraham, Caleb Piaskowski and Clayton Arterburn.

The following person spoke to concerns with pornography in libraries: Jackie Goforth.

The following person spoke in support of Resolution Serial No. 23-041: Andrew Traxler.

The following person reported on the project and project funding of a fully inclusive accessible park being built in Palmer: Joseph Parreira.

The following person spoke in opposition of Resolution Serial No. 23-041 and spoke to concerns with local grocery stores selling banned imported Russian king crab: Eric Anderson.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

[RS 23-043](#) A Resolution Approving The Revised Scope Of Work For The Property Acquisitions For Fire Stations Project

[RS 23-044](#) A Resolution Establishing The Minimum Level Of Funding For The Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District From Local Sources For The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2024.

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

[AM 23-024](#) Approval of Utility Relocate Cost of \$197,279.70 to Enstar for the Midway Streets Improvement, South Vicki Way, East Dimond Way, East Dewan Court, South Begich Drive, South Hay Street, Greenstreet Circle Project.

[AM 23-028](#) Approval To Extend The Completion Date Of Contract No. 22-103B With Western Construction & Equipment, LLC., For Right Of Way Surveying And Clearing Services.

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: 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

[RS 23-041](#) A Resolution Authorizing The Borough Manager To Solicit Bids For The Long Lake Road Salvage Timber Harvest.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Hale moved to adopt Resolution Serial No 23-041. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Fonov

No: 2 - Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Bernier

[RS 23-046](#)

A Resolution In Support Of House Bill 105 Relating To Parental Rights In Education.

Sponsors: Yundt, Tew and McKee

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Hale moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 23-046. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

No: 1 - Assemblymember Hale

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

X. VETO

There were no vetoes presented.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 05/02/23, Assembly Chambers)

[OR 23-034](#) An Ordinance Providing Consent And Approval For An Access Easement And Waiver Of Liability For Agricultural Rights Properties Sold Under Former Title 13, Located Within Lots 1 And 2, Roy/Crawford Subdivision.

[OR 23-035](#) An Ordinance Conveying And Merging The Borough's Development Rights Interest With The Agricultural Rights Title For Fee Simple Title With Agricultural Covenants To James And Amber McDonough.

[OR 23-037](#) An Ordinance Naming Station 6-1 The Benny Cottle Public Safety Building.

Sponsors: Yundt

[OR 23-038](#)

An Ordinance Amending MSB 1.51, Naming Of Borough Buildings, Other Fixed Facilities And Public Places; To Clarify That The Borough Assembly Retains Final Authority To Name Public Facilities.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Yundt moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the clerk and set the public hearings for May 2, 2023. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

B. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 04/25/23, at the Willow Community Center; 04/27/23, at the Menard Sports Complex; and 05/04/23, in Assembly Chambers)

[OR 23-023](#)

An Ordinance Appropriating Monies From The Central Treasury For The Borough Operating Funds, Enterprise Funds, Education Operating Fund And Capital Funds, Establishing The Rate Of Levy For All Borough Functions For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2023, And Ending June 30, 2024; And Setting The Surcharge Rate For The Wireline And Wireless Enhanced 911 Systems For The Period Of July 1, 2023, Through June 30, 2024.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Yundt moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the clerk and set the public hearings for April 25, 2023 at the Willow Community Center, April 27, 2023 at the Menard Sports Complex and May 5, 2023 in Assembly Chambers. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

C. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

West Lakes FSA No.136

Kenneth Widmer

Chase Trail service Area No.134

Johnny Murdock

Assemblymember Yundt moved to confirm the appointments requested by the Mayor. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

D. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

There was no other new business.

E. REFERRALS (For Referral To The Planning Commission For 90 Days Or Other Date Specified By The Assembly)

There were no referrals.

XII. RECONSIDERATION

There were no reconsiderations.

XIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Hale stated he would like to timber harvest sales move look into the Scandinavian method of forest method and spoke to the method.

Assemblymember Nowers apologized for not being in person. Spoke to her reasons of her vote on the Local Improvement District Ordinances, spoke to changes she would like to see some changes to Local Improvement District policies.

Assemblymember Fonov spoke to the proclamation honoring Ryan Redington. Appreciated everyone who attended and their comments wished blessings on everyone.

Assemblymember Yundt stated he agrees with the idea of a long rang timber sales plan and spoke to the reasons.

Ms. Ms.McKechne reminded the Assembly of the Willow Budget Public Hearing on May 25.

Mr. Brown stated the proposed budget is on the website and spoke to the upcoming budget hearings.

Assemblymember Mckee spoke to the will of the people. Thanked Jackie Goforth for her work in the community.

Assemblymember Tew spoke to the reasons why he is in favor of timber harvest sales.

Assemblymember Bernier thanked everyone for coming. Said a prayer.

Mayor DeVries spoke to the invitation of an industrial business grand opening in Wasilla.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session conducted.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.