

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

John Moosey

BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Nicholas Spiropoulos



BOROUGH ASSEMBLY

Jim Sykes, District 1

Matthew Beck, District 2

George McKee, District 3

Ted Leonard, District 4

Dan Mayfield, District 5

Barbara Doty, District 6

Randall Kowalke, District 7

MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, September 18, 2018, 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 Jim Sykes, Assemblymember Matthew Beck, Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Ted Leonard, Assemblymember Dan Mayfield, and Assemblymember Barbara J. Doty

Excused: 1 - Assemblymember Randall Kowalke

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Ms. Patricia Fisher, a member of the audience.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

[18-097](#)

1. 06/12/18 - Special Meeting Minutes

Mayor Halter queried if there were any changes to the minutes.

The minutes were approved as presented without objection.

VI. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

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

1. Reports From Cities

Mayor Bert Cottle, Wasilla City Mayor, reported on the activities of the city.

Mr. Nathan Wallace, Palmer City Manager, reported on the activities of the city.

2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

There was no report provided.

B. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

[18-091](#)

Mayoral Proclamation In Recognition Of The Mat-Su Miners

Sponsors: Halter

Mayor Halter read the proclamation into the record and presented it to Pete and Denise Christopher.

[18-092](#)

Mayoral Proclamation In Recognition Of Recovery Month

Sponsors: Halter

Mayor Halter read the proclamation into the record and presented it to Mr. Michael Carson.

[18-093](#)

Mayoral Proclamation In Recognition Of The Achievements Of Aubrey Virgin

Sponsors: Halter

Assemblymember Beck read the proclamation into the record and presented it to Ms. Aubrey Virgin.

C. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee On School Issues

There was no report provided.

2. Assembly Public Relations

There were no reports provided.

D. MANAGER COMMENTS

1. State/Federal Legislation

2. Strategic Planning Issues

Mr. Moosey reported on the status of the study regarding converting waste at the landfill into energy.

Mr. Michael Carson, Vice President and Recovery Specialist for My House, reported on the status of the opioid crisis in the Borough.

E. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos provided an update regarding the AK LNG and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

F. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie reported on the upcoming meeting schedule. Spoke to the number of absentee ballots mailed out the first round. Noted that the city of Houston resolution that was provided to the Assembly is missing a page and that she would email it out to the body.

G. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

[18-101](#)

1. Butte FSA Board Of Supervisors: 03/15/18
2. Caswell Lakes RSA Board Of Supervisors: 01/03/18
3. Central Mat-Su FSA Board Of Supervisors: 06/11/18
4. Greater Willow RSA Board Of Supervisors: 06/12/18
5. Local Road Service Area Advisory Board: 06/21/18, Resolution No. 18-02
6. Parks, Recreation, And Trails Advisory Board: 05/21/18, Resolution No. 18-03
7. Planning Commission: Resolution No. 18-24
8. Platting Board: 04/19/18, 06/07/18, 06/21/18
9. South Colony RSA Board Of Supervisors: 02/07/18, 07/17/18
10. West Lakes FSA Board Of Supervisors: 04/09/18, 05/14/18, 06/11/18, 07/09/18, 07/25/18
11. Willow FSA Board Of Supervisors: 02/08/18, 04/12/18
12. Knik-Fairview Community Council: 06/20/18, 08/01/18
13. Susitna Community Council: 06/07/18
14. Sutton Community Council: 06/27/18
15. Talkeetna Community Council: 05/07/18, 06/04/18, 07/02/18, Resolution No. 18-01
16. Trapper Creek Community Council: 05/17/18, 06/21/18
17. Willow Area Community Organization: 06/06/18, 06/29/18, 07/25/18, 08/01/18

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

H. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

There were no informational memorandums presented.

VII. 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.)

There were no persons to be heard.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)

[OR 18-090](#)

An Ordinance Requesting A Reallocation Of \$1,050,000 From The Community Development Recreational Bond, Nine Trail Projects, Fund 440, Project Nos. 15043 And 15046; To Project No. 15041, Fund 440, To Allow For Additional Improvements To The Palmer And Wasilla Pools Project.

RS 18-063: A Resolution Amending The Budgets For Project Nos. 15043 And 15046; And Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Project No. 15041 To Allow For Additional Improvements At The Palmer And Wasilla Pool Improvements Project.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

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

Assemblymember Beck moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 18-090 and Resolution Serial No. 18-063. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck,
Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Doty

No: 2 - Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Leonard

[OR 18-091](#)

An Ordinance Of The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly Approving A Supplemental Appropriation Of \$50,000 From The West Lakes Fire Service Area Fund Balance, Fund 249, To The West Lakes Fire Service Area Fiscal Year 2019 Operating Budget, Fund 249 To Reimburse For Self Contained Breathing Apparatus Expenses.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

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

Assemblymember Mayfield moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 18-091. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck,
Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard,
Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Doty

[OR 18-092](#)

An Ordinance Approving A Loan Offer From The Alaska Department Of Environmental Conservation, Clean Water Fund Project No. 561131, Authorizing The Manager To Incur Debt In The Amount Of \$924,000, And Accept And Appropriate The Loan Proceeds To The Upgrade Talkeetna Wastewater Treatment Facility Project.

RS 18-064: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Talkeetna Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrade Project.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke in opposition to the legislation: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

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

Assemblymember Beck moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 18-092 and Resolution Serial No. 18-064. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Doty

No: 1 - Assemblymember McKee

C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person.)

The following person spoke to concerns over trade with China: Ms. Amy Henry.

The following person spoke to the coming 10th Annual Emergency Preparedness Expo: Ms. Debra McGhan.

The following person spoke to concerns with the public process: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

The following person noted that he is the Government Affairs Liaison for Matanuska Telephone Association and that the Assembly is free to contact him if needed: Mr. Stu Graham.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

[RS 18-065](#) A Resolution Supporting The Alaska Avalanche Information Center (AAIC) Hatcher Pass Center's Efforts To Provide Critical Information On Backcountry Safety To Raise Awareness And Prepare Skiers And Riders For Safe Mountain Travel.

Sponsors: Mayfield

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

[AM 18-089](#) Acceptance Of Late Filed And Retroactive Senior Citizen And Disabled Veteran Exemption Applications.

[AM 18-090](#) Award Of Proposal No. 19-008P To HDL Engineering Consultants, LLC. In The Contract Amount Of \$384,202 To Design The Talkeetna Sewer Systems Upgrades.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Beck moved to approve the consent agenda as read into the record by the Clerk. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Doty

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

IX. VETO

There were no vetoes presented.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing October 16, 2018, Assembly Chambers)

[OR 18-093](#) An Ordinance Amending MSB 28.60 To Change The Applicability For Traffic Safety Plan And Timber Transport Permit; And Amending MSB 28.100, Definitions.

Sponsors: Kowalke

Assemblymember Beck moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearings for October 16, 2018. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Doty

B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

[18-102](#) Vacancy Report

Sponsors: Halter

Assemblymember Beck moved to confirm the Mayor's appointments. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Doty

C. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

1. MOTION TO AMEND SOMETHING PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED

[OR 18-085](#) An Ordinance Establishing The Colleen Street Signals Zone 16-A, As A Differential Tax Zone Within Road Service Area No. 16, South Colony Road Service Area.

Sponsors: Beck

Assemblymember Beck moved to amend the motion adopted at the August 21, 2018, meeting to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 18-085, by striking the words "Colleen Street" and inserting in its place the words "Jimmy's Drive" throughout the ordinance. The amendment passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Doty

OR 18-080

An Ordinance Eliminating The Sunset Provisions For Distribution Of Motor Vehicle Tax, And Eliminating The Sunset Provisions Of The Permanent Motor Vehicle Registration And Permanent Registration Of Noncommercial Trailers To Allow Such Registrations To Continue.

Sponsors: Sykes

Assemblymember Sykes moved to amend Ordinance Serial No. 18-080, that was previously adopted, as follows:

- **by deleting Sections 2 and 3 in their entirety;**
- **by inserting the following Section 2: “Section 2. Amendment of Sunset Clause. The sunset clause found in Section 4 of Ordinance Serial No. 14-108, as it pertains to the amendment of MSB 3.24.030(B) is amended as follows: Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance Shall take effect immediately and sunset on December 31, 2022”;**
- **by inserting the following Section 3: “Section 3. Amendment of Sunset Clause. The sunset clause found in Section 4 of Ordinance Serial No. 14-108, as it pertains to the amendment of MSB 3.24.030(B) is amended as follows: Section 4. Effective Date. This ordinance Shall take effect immediately and sunset on December 31, 2022”; and**
- **by attaching a summary and copy of the amendment to the Informational Memorandum.**

Assemblymember Sykes moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 18-080 to October 30, 2018. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Doty

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

XI. RECONSIDERATION

XII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember McKee spoke to recent candidate forums around the Borough.

Assemblymember Sykes encouraged the public to get out and vote. Noted that he has been answering a lot of questions regarding the advisory vote on police powers. Noted that there is a lot of confusing information being circulate regarding changing the date of the election. Spoke to the importance of folks doing their research before they vote. Thanked the body for the meeting.

Assemblymember Mayfield wished the candidates in the coming election good luck.

Assemblymember Doty spoke to a recent Wasilla Chamber meeting that had a presentation regarding salmon runs, which was lacking information. Spoke in support of the state's Fish Commission stepping up to the plate and educating the public. Noted that absentee in-person voting is a great way to vote in advance of election day.

Assemblymember Leonard requested a status on the street lights for the Williwaw Subdivision. Spoke to the importance of voting. Noted that he supports the Palmer and Wasilla Pool renovation projects, but had concerns.

Mr. Terry Dolan, Public Works Director, reported on the status of the street light installation in the Williwaw Subdivision.

Assemblymember Beck stated that he enjoys mayoral proclamations. Stated that it promotes a sense of community. Stated that he is proud of the Williwaw community for the way they have organized and addressed crime in their subdivision. Thanked the body for the meeting.

Mayor Halter opined that it was a good meeting. Related that when the mayoral seat is on the ballot, that voter turn-out increases. Spoke to trade with China and opined it is a vibrant country with a lot of growth. Noted that when he was in China, that there was discussion about direct flights from China to Alaska. Spoke in support of the pool renovation projects and the input received from the public. Noted that staff moved forward with changes to the projects based on public input and direction from the Assembly. Spoke to the ice rink grand opening. Thanked the body for supporting the pool projects.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session held.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.