

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
Jesse Sumner, District 6
Ron Bernier, District 7

MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, January 4, 2022, 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 Tim Hale, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Robert Yundt, Assemblymember Mokie Tew, Assemblymember Jesse Sumner, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assemblymember Sumner.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

[22-001](#)

A. Joint Assembly/School Board Meeting: 12/14/21

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

There were no reports provided.

2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

There was no report provided.

3. State of Alaska

There was no report provided.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee On School Issues

There was no report provided.

2. Assembly Public Relations

There was no report provided.

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

Mr. Mike Brown, Borough Manager, spoke to the disaster declaration by Governor Dunleavy.

Ms. Jennifer Castro, Public Relations Manager for Matanuska Electric Association, provided update to power outages..

Mr. Ken Barkley, Emergency Services Director, provided an update on Emergency Services operations during the wind storm.

Mr. Mike Brown, Borough Manager, advised that the fee for construction and demolition will be waved at the landfills for residents from January 5 through January 16.

1. State/Federal Legislation

2. Strategic Planning Issues

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos gave an update on redistricting litigation.

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie reported on the upcoming meeting schedule and noted the joint meeting with the State Delegation on January 7.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

[22-004](#)

1. Aviation Advisory Board: 09/16/21
 2. Big Lake RSA Board of Supervisors: 04/21/21, 05/17/21, 10/13/21, Resolution No. 21-0601
 3. Joint Central Mat-Su and West Lakes FSA Board of Supervisors: 11/08/21
 4. Greater Willow RSA Board of Supervisors: 09/22/21, Resolution No. 21-01
 5. MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission: 11/18/21, Resolution No. FWC 21-04
 6. Platting Board: 10/07/21
 7. South Knik River Community Council: 05/20/21, 08/19/21, 09/16/21, 10/21/21
 8. Transportation Advisory Board: Resolution No. 21-02
- The citizen and other correspondence were presented and no comments were noted.

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

[IM 22-013](#)

Reporting The Conclusion Of Contract For Bid 21-110B With Northern Asphalt Construction, Inc. For A Final Contract Amount Of \$361,398.84 For The Marble Way Improvements Project.
The informational memorandum was presented and no comments were noted.

VII. SPECIAL ORDERS

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

There were no person's to be heard.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)

[OR 22-004](#)

An Ordinance Approving The Timeline Extension For Long-Range Transportation Planning Project Account.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Ms. Kim Sollien, Planning Services Manager, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

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

Assemblymember Sumner moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 22-004.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

[OR 22-005](#)

An Ordinance Approving Land Classifications Of Six Borough-Owned Parcels For Purpose Of Identifying And Guiding Future Use And Development Of Said Parcels.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Ms. Nancy Cameron, Land Management Agent, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

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. 22-005.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

[OR 22-006](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$68.72 In Interest Income To The Federal Cares Relief Act (COVID 19) Project Fund.

RS 22-001: A Resolution Amending The Scope Of Work And Budget To Account For Interest Income Generated From The Federal Cares Relief Act (COVID 19) Project Fund.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

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

Assemblymember Sumner moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 22-006 and Resolution Serial No. 22-001.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

[OR 22-007](#)

An Ordinance Appropriating \$8,000,000 From Areawide Fund Balance To The Roads And Bridges Capital Projects Fund To Begin Work On Projects Approved By Borough Voters On November 2, 2021.

RS 22-002: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Transportation Projects As Directed By The Assembly And Ratified By The Voters On November 2, 2021.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Ms. Liesel Weiland, Accounting Comptroller, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

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

Assemblymember Sumner moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 22-007 and Resolution Serial No. 22-002.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person.)

The following person spoke in opposition to the Burma Road tunnel:
Kelly Dickson.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

[RS 22-004](#) A Resolution Declaring The Apportionment Of The
Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly Districts Out Of Compliance
With The Standards Of A.S. 29.20.060(A).

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

[AM 22-002](#) Award Of Bid No. 22-060B To Anchorage Striping, LLC. In The
Contract Amount Of \$1,498,810 For Crack Sealing Services From
2022 Through 2024.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Sumner 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 Bernier

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

[OR 21-040](#) An Ordinance Amending MSB 2.08.060(A), Compensation For The Mayor.

Sponsors: McKee

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**MAIN MOTION PENDING: Assemblymember George McKee
moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 21-040.**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to strike
\$50,000 and insert \$65,000.**

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt,
Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and
Assemblymember Bernier

No: 2 - Assemblymember Hale, and Assemblymember Nowers

The main motion passed as amended by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Bernier

No: 3 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, and Assemblymember Sumner

IX. VETO

There were no vetoes presented.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 01/18/22, Assembly Chambers)

[OR 22-009](#) An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating A Portion Of The 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake Disaster Relief Monies In The Amount Of \$18,371,035.57 (\$13,778,276.68 From The Federal Emergency Management Agency And \$4,592,758.89 From The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management) For The Houston Middle School Rebuild; And Reappropriating \$11,900,000 Back To The School District (\$1,725,446 To School Bond Debt Service And \$890,521) To The School Site Selection Reserves; And \$1,500,000 To The Houston Jr/Sr High School Repairs Project From The Houston Middle School Rebuild Project.

RS 22-005: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Amended Budget For The Houston Middle School Rebuild; And The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Houston Jr/Sr High School Repairs.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Sumner moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearing for January 18, 2022.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

[22-006](#)

Mayoral Requests For Confirmation

Agriculture Advisory Board

Adam Jenki

Animal Care and Regulations Board

Georgia Knazovich

Borough Area Schools Site Selection Committee

Tom Bergey

Jubilee Underwood

James Hart

Labor Relations Board

Shirley Akelkok

Local Emergency Planning Committee

Simon Brown

Tracey Loscar

Planning Commission

Doug Glenn

Platting Board

Linn McCabe

Assemblymember Sumner 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 Sumner, 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.

XI. RECONSIDERATION

There were no referrals.

XII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Hale spoke in opposition to the mayor's salary increase.

Assemblymember Bernier extended prayers and to be safe.

Mr. Brown expressed the importance to communicate to the public in times of emergencies. Noted his appreciation for Matanuska Electric Association and the Weather Service for keeping the public informed. Noted the Borough had 13 thousand views on the FaceBook stream and 6 thousand YouTube views.

Assemblymember Yundt spoke in appreciation for Emergency Services hotlines.

Assemblymember Nowers spoke in appreciation for the press release and getting information out to the public.

Assemblymember Sumner spoke in appreciation of the press release and getting the information out to the public.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (For Matters, Which The Immediate Public Knowledge Of Would Clearly Have An Adverse Effect Upon The Finances Of The Borough; And Matters Which By Law, Municipal Charter, Or Ordinance Are Required To Be Kept Confidential; And To Discuss Matters Involving Consideration Of Borough Records That By Law Are Not Subject To Public Disclosure; And Discussion Of Matters Subject To Attorney/Client Privilege.)

There was no executive session.

A. Potential Litigation Regarding the 2021 State Redistricting Plan

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.