

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

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

Tim Hale, District 1  
Stephanie Nowers, District 2  
Dee McKee, District 3  
Maxwell Sumner, District 4  
Bill Gamble, District 5  
Dmitri Fonov, District 6  
Ron Bernier, District 7



Doug Glenn, District 1  
Richard Allen, District 2  
Brendan Carpenter, District 3  
Michael Collins, District 4  
Linn McCabe, District 5  
Maksim Zagorodniy, District 6  
Curt Scoggin, District 7

## MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

JOINT ASSEMBLY/PLANNING COMMISSION

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Joint Assembly/Planning Commission meeting was held on Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 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. ASSEMBLY ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 6 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Maxwell Sumner, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov, Assemblymember Ron Bernier, and Assemblymember Edna DeVries

**Excused:** 2 - Assemblymember Tim Hale and Assemblymember Dee McKee

### **PLANNING COMMISSION ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Richard Allen, Brendan Carpenter, Linn McCabe, Maksim Zagorodniy, and Curt Scoggin.

**Excused:** Doug Glenn and Michael Collins

### **III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

### **IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Planning Commissioner Richard Allen.

## **V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person.)**

The following person spoke to the need for thoughtful discussion regarding the Community Growth Solutions Study and ensuring public input: Rod Hanson.

## **VI. JOINT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

### **A. Community Growth Solutions Study (Requested by Administration)**

#### **25-161 Study Handout**

Alex Strawn, Planning and Land Use Director, provided a presentation on the Community Growth Solutions Study.

## VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, PLANNING COMMISSION, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Commissioner Zagorodniy spoke to his appreciation of the opportunity to participate. Stated that he is looking forward to working on community growth.

Commissioner Carpenter spoke to the need to focus on pedestrian paths and trails for safety. Noted the potential for growth down Knik Goose Bay Road. Spoke to the many impacts when it comes to locating schools.

Assemblymember Nowers spoke to townsite plans that were brought forward by former Mayor DeVilbiss. Spoke to the need to ensure safe travel for residents. Opined that the study is a good start. Noted the need to incentivize developers.

Commissioner McCabe spoke to the need to grow the economy and have a solid direction for growth.

Mr. Brown noted that the presentation was only an overview to provide information. Encouraged the Assembly to determine what projects they want to see worked on. Noted that the study will come forward as an informational memorandum. Commended the Borough's first responders for their dedication to the active shooter exercise this past weekend. Noted the many agencies that collaborated to make it happen. Advised that it was the largest exercise of its kind in the history of Alaska.

Commissioner Allen thanked Mr. Strawn for the presentation.

Ms. McKechnie advised that she had last reported that 19 hand count officials are still needed for the election., which is almost seven precincts. Requested that if the body knows anyone to please send them to the Clerk's Office.

Assemblymember Sumner spoke to the volume of the handout that was provided to the body. Stated that he has a lot of questions and concerns that he will be addressing. Spoke to the need to figure out a way to manage growth. Noted that he learned that Houston, Texas is the largest metropolitan community without zoning. Stated that he is unsure if the Borough needs zoning as Houston, Texas is doing well. Spoke to recent testimony about a fire that had occurred and noted that he had requested that report to fully understand what had occurred.

Assemblymember Gamble spoke to the need to protect recreation options and should be included in the report. Spoke to an event that the Mat-Su Health Foundation conducted with the communities of Houston and Big

Lake where projects were discussed that could be funded by the foundation. Noted projects that were chosen by the communities. Thanked the Foundation for hosting the event.

Assemblymember Fonov spoke to information presented in the fire report being conflicted with testimony presented. Noted that it was likely an emotional event for the owners. Stated that he would go through the growth study and things that he wanted to address. Spoke to the need to not overregulate development and growth to add layers of difficulties to development. Opined that some things in the growth study were more restrictive than he would like to see.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.



Mayoral Signature and Clerk Attestment

For

October 14, 2025, Joint Assembly/Planning Commission Meeting Minutes

(4 pages)

EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 11/18/25