

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



Michael Bowles, 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

MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

10:00 AM

THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026

Departmental Budget Presentations

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, April 9, 2026, 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 Michael Bowles, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee (entered at 12:23 p.m.), Assemblymember Maxwell Sumner, Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

Telephonic: 1 - Assemblymember Bill Gamble

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Brown, Borough Manager.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person.)

There were no persons present who wished to testify.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

26-028

Order of Presentations:

1. Administration Budget Overview
Manager Mike Brown
2. Emergency Services
Director Ken Barkley
3. Community Development
Director Jillian Morrissey
4. Public Works
Director Tom Adams
5. Planning
Director Alex Strawn
6. Animal Care and Regulation
Director Vanessa Forbes
7. Port
Director David Griffin
8. Finance
Director Cheyenne Heindel

Mr. Brown, Borough Manager, provided a budget overview.

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

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

(The Assembly recessed at 12:00 p.m. and reconvened at 12:23 p.m.)

[Clerk's Note: Assemblymember Gamble exited the meeting at 12:00 p.m.]

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

[Clerk's Note: Assemblymember McKee entered the meeting at 12:23 p.m.]

Alex Strawn, Planning and Land Use Director, presented the Planning and Land Use proposed budget.

(The Assembly recessed at 1:43 p.m. and reconvened at 2:00 p.m.)

Vanessa Forbes, Animal Care and Regulation Director, presented the Animal Care proposed budget.

(The Assembly recessed at 2:54 p.m. and reconvened at 2:57 p.m.)

David Griffin, Port Director, presented the Port proposed budget.

[Clerk's Note: Assemblymember Sumner exited the meeting at 3:00 p.m.)

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

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Assemblymember Bernier spoke to schools and the School Board; thanked everyone; and said a prayer.

Assemblymember Nowers spoke to home school and correspondence programs. Thanked everyone for being creative with our budget and for presenting long-term fiscally responsible decisions.

Assemblymember Bowles thanked Borough staff for their work. Spoke to benefit and salaries increases for the School District and Borough employees.

Assemblymember Fonov thanked Borough staff. Spoke to home schooling programs from other school districts. Spoke to open houses in our school district and the potential marketing of our schools.

Mayor DeVries said good job everybody.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:17 p.m.



Mayoral Signature and Clerk Attestment

For

April 9, 2026, Assembly Special Meeting Minutes

(3 pages)


EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 05/19/26