

# 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



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 SPECIAL MEETING

6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2022

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### **Budget Deliberations and Possible Adoption**

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

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, May 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 McKee.

#### **V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was no one present who wished to testify.

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

**A. DELIBERATIONS AND POSSIBLE ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2023  
BUDGET**

**OR 22-022**

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, 2022, And Ending June 30, 2023; And Setting The Surcharge Rate For The Wireline And Wireless Enhanced 911 Systems For The Period Of July 1, 2022, Through June 30, 2023.

Lonnie McKechnie, Borough Clerk, read the legislation into the record.

**PENDING MOTION: Assemblymember Sumner moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 22-022.**

**Amendment No. 1**

**Areawide Fund - Non-Departmental (Tab B, Page 65) and Education Fund (Tab I, page 424 and 423)**

**Assemblymember Hale moved a primary amendment as follows make any other conforming changes to the budget:**

- the areawide fund, non-departmental, transfer to education operating (445.220), by striking \$72,008,566 and inserting \$70,696,614 in its place for a decrease of \$1,311,952;**
- the education operating fund by striking transfer from areawide (204.000.000.367), by striking \$72,008,566 and inserting \$70,696,614 in its place for a decrease of \$1,311,952;**
- and**
- the education operating fund by striking from education operating (204.000.000.406.100) \$259,860,695 and inserting \$258,549,013 in its place for a decrease for \$1,311,952.**

**The primary amendment passed by the following vote:**

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

## **Amendment No. 2**

### **Areawide Fund – Non-Departmental (Tab B, page 65) and School Debt Service Fund (Tab L, page 473)**

**Assemblymember Hale moved a primary amendment to the budget and make any other conforming changes to the budget:**

- the areawide fund, non-departmental, transfer to debt service (school) (445.140) by striking \$25,122,121 and inserting \$23,493,561 in its place for a decrease of \$1,628,560; and**
- the school debt service fund by striking transfer from areawide (300.000.000.36.1107) by striking \$25,122,121 and inserting \$23,493,561 in its place for a decrease of \$1,628,560.**

**Assemblymember Yundt moved a secondary amendment as follows:**

- The Areawide Fund, Non-Departmental, Transfer to Debt Service (School) (445.140) by reducing the appropriation by an additional \$2,680,279;**
- the School Debt Service Fund by reducing the appropriation for Transfer from Areawide by an additional \$2,680,279; and**
- the Capital Projects Fund 2021 Transportation Package by increasing it by \$2,680,279.**

**Assemblymember Yundt called for the question (to stop debate). The motion passed by the following vote:**

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

**The secondary amendment passed by the following vote:**

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

**The primary amendment passed as amended by the following vote:**

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

### **Amendment No. 3**

**Assemblymember Nowers moved a primary amendment to the budget as follows and any conforming changes to the budget:**

- **The areawide fund marijuana tax by striking \$1,500,000 and inserting \$1,840,000 in its place for an increase of \$340,000;**
- **the areawide fund tobacco excise tax by striking \$8,500,000 and inserting \$8,990,000 in its place for an increase of \$490,000; and**

**The primary amendment passed by the following vote:**

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

**Assemblymember Hale moved to continue Ordinance Serial No. 22-022, to May 10, 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

## **VII. VETO**

### **A. Motion to Override Any Possible Mayoral Veto on Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Items (Ordinance Serial No. 22-022)**

There were no vetoes presented.

## **VIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT**

Assemblymember Sumner commented that he is glad that the body all seems to be on the same page in efforts to reduce the mill rates.

Assemblymember Yundt spoke to having attended the Wasilla Chamber of Commerce's most recent meeting. Opined that the Manager put forward a great budget that would be well received without any amendments. Spoke to his appreciation of staff and how responsive they have been to his requests.

Lonnie McKechnie, Borough Clerk, reminded the Assembly to bring their green budget packets with them to the meetings next week. Advised that she will issue a new color budget amendment packet if more are received.

Mike Brown, Borough Manager, queried where the areawide mill rate is currently.

Cheyenne Heindel, Finance Director, advised that it is in the ballpark of 8.986 for areawide.

Assemblymember Bernier thanked the body for the amendments that have been brought forward.

Assemblymember Hale thanked staff for putting together such a great budget. Noted that there has been a 13 percent rise in property values this year. Opined that the mill rate needs to be reduced by 10 percent or more. Thanked the body for the meeting.

Assemblymember McKee opined that there is a tremendous amount of trust amongst the body. Stated that it helps her to feel secure when decisions are made to see that level of trust.

Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney, wished the body Happy Star Wars Day.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.