

# 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  
Bill Gamble, District 5  
Dmitri Fonov, District 6  
Ron Bernier, District 7

## MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, October 3, 2023, 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:** 2 - Assemblymember Robert Yundt, and Assemblymember Mokie Tew

**Excused:** 2 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, and Assemblymember Dee McKee

**Telephonic:** 2 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, 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 Tew.

### V. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

[23-122](#)

Mayoral Proclamation in Recognition of Kabuki Syndrome Awareness Day  
Mayor DeVries read the proclamation into the record and presented it to Rikki King.

## **VI. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS**

There were no minutes of preceding meetings.

## **VII. 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 were no reports provided.

#### **2. Assembly Public Relations**

There were no reports provided.

### **C. MANAGER COMMENTS**

#### **1. State/Federal Legislation**

#### **2. Strategic Planning Issues**

Mr. Brown reported on the following:

- \* the Borough's Emergency Preparedness Expo; and
- \* a possible cost estimate for completion of the rail extension project to be completed with a road and a railway.

### **D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

Mr. Spiropoulos spoke to having hired a new attorney, Ms. Erin Dooling.

### **E. CLERK COMMENTS**

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule and pertinent election dates.

### **F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

[23-120](#)

1. Big Lake Community Council: 08/01/23, 08/01/23
2. Greater Butte RSA Board of Supervisors: 05/10/23
3. Planning Commission: 08/21/23, Resolution Nos. 23-24, 23-31

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

**G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS**

[IM 23-216](#)

Reporting Procurements Made Under MSB 3.08.320 And MSB 3.08.290 Related To Severe Flooding In The Talkeetna Area.

The informational memorandum was presented and no comments were noted.

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

There were no persons to be heard.

**B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)**

[OR 23-090](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$479,600 From The United States Department Of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, For Safe Streets For All Action Plan Project.  
RS 23-094: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Safe Streets For All Action Plan Project; Amending The Budget For The Community Transportation Grant Match Project; And Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into An Agreement With The United States Department Of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Cheyenne Heindel, Finance Director, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

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

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 23-090 and Resolution Serial No. 23-094.**

**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

[OR 23-091](#)

An Ordinance Amending MSB 11.10, Unauthorized Encroachments In Order To Reduce Mailing Costs.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Alex Strawn, Planning and Land Use Director, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

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

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 23-091.**

**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

[OR 23-092](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating Additional National Opioid Settlement Funding Totaling \$52,118.87 From The Manufacturers And Traders Trust Company For Opioid Settlement Relief.

RS 23-097: A Resolution Amending The Scope Of Work And Budget For Opioid Settlement Relief.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Cheyenne Heindel, Finance Director, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

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

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 23-092 and Resolution Serial No. 23-097.**

**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

[OR 23-093](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$1,000,000 In Additional Grant Funding, Reappropriating \$250,000 From Areawide Funds To Satisfy The Required Grant Match, And Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into Amendment No. 1 Of The Agreement From The United States Department Of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, For The Port Mackenzie Pile Sleeves And The Roll-On/Roll-Off Cargo Ramp Project.

RS 23-098: A Resolution Approving The Amended Scope Of Work And Budget For The Port Mackenzie Pile Sleeves And The Roll-On/Roll-Off Cargo Ramp Project.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Cheyenne Heindel, Finance Director, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

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

**Assemblymember Tew moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 23-093 and Resolution Serial No. 23-098.**

**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Yundt,  
Assemblymember Tew, Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

[OR 23-095](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$4,775,813.21 For 2023 Funding Under The American Rescue Plan, Local Assistance And Tribal Consistency Fund, From The United States Treasury Department.  
RS 23-100: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Port Mackenzie Barge Ramp.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mike Brown, Borough Manager, and David Griffin, Port Operations Manager, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke in support of completing the rail extension at Port MacKenzie: Travis Friesen.

The following person spoke to the need to increase business interest in Port MacKenzie: Sandra Kreiger.

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

**Assemblymember Tew moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 23-095 and Resolution Serial No. 23-100.**

**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person.)**

The following person spoke to the need to increase composting in the Borough: Travis Friesen.

The following person spoke to concerns with pornographic books in Borough libraries and to concerns with the way books are selected having no oversight: Jackie Goforth.

**D. CONSENT AGENDA**

**1. RESOLUTIONS**

[RS 23-101](#)

A Resolution Directing The Manager To Waive Land Use Permit Fees For The Willow Area Trail Committee.

[RS 23-102](#) A Resolution Reappropriating \$100,000 From The Develop Timber Inventory Database Project And Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget To The Wildfire Mitigation Project.

## 2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

[AM 23-109](#) Approval Of Extension For Contract 21-150B With Roger Hickel Contracting, Inc., To March 30, 2024, And Additional Change Order Authority, In The Amount Of \$234,000.00 For The Houston Middle School Project.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to approve the consent agenda as read into the record by the Clerk.**

**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

## VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

## IX. VETO

There were no vetoes presented.

## X. NEW BUSINESS

### A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 10/17/23, Assembly Chambers)

[OR 23-089](#) An Ordinance Amending Title 15 Relating To The Planning Commission.

**Sponsors:** DeVries

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to introduce the legislation into the record as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearing for October 17, 2023.**

**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

## **B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

### **1. VACANCY REPORT**

[23-121](#)

Mayoral Requests for Confirmation

Local Emergency Planning Committee

Shelia Olson

Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board

Emmet Leffel, resignation

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to confirm the appointment and resignation requested by the Mayor.**

**The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Fonov, 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 reconsiderations presented.

## **XII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS**

Assemblymember Fonov apologized for not attending in person. Spoke to having attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Mat-Su Central School.

Assemblymember Bernier thanked the public for their attendance. Said a prayer.

## **XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

## **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.