

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 22-020**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY DIRECTING ADMINISTRATION TO EXPLORE THE FORMATION OF A REGIONAL PORT AUTHORITY AND/OR CREATING AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ZONE AT PORT MACKENZIE; AND REPORT TO THE ASSEMBLY.

WHEREAS, the Borough owns and operates Port MacKenzie; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality of Anchorage owns and operates the Port at Anchorage which they have called the port of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the Alaska Governor's preliminary budget released in December 2021 contains a line item of \$175,000,000 for Knik Arm Port Infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, a recent study of Port MacKenzie recommended formation of a port authority; and

WHEREAS, AS 29.35.600-730 is the Municipal Port Authority Act and allows for one or more municipalities to create port authorities; and

WHEREAS, the formation of a regional port authority in Upper Cook Inlet may be beneficial to taxpayers, consumers, and all of Alaska; and

WHEREAS, there are many details under AS 29.35.600-730 to be addressed in forming a port authority; and

WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly believes adequate time and resources should be devoted to exploring the

viability of a Regional Port Authority in upper cook inlet to include the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and Anchorage ports; and

WHEREAS, an economic development zone for Port MacKenzie could also be beneficial; and

WHEREAS, an economic development zone for Port MacKenzie would include state and local tax incentives to encourage private investment; and

WHEREAS, forming an economic development zone might require changes to State law or Borough code; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly believes adequate time and resources should be devoted to exploring the viability and any necessary changes to State law or Borough code to create an economic development zone at Port MacKenzie.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Assembly directs Administration to direct the appropriate time and resources and engage with the Municipality of Anchorage to explore the formation of a regional port authority to include, at a minimum, the ports in the Borough and Municipality of Anchorage.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Assembly directs Administration to direct the appropriate time and resources to exploring the formation of an economic development zone for Port MacKenzie and also pursue any changes to State law or Borough code necessary to form such a zone.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Administration is directed to provide periodic reports to the Assembly updating the Assembly as to the status of such exploration.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 15 day of February, 2022.


EDNA DeVRIES, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

(SEAL)



PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: Hale, Nowers, McKee, Yundt, Tew, Sumner, and Bernier