

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

## MEETING MINUTES

COTTONWOOD PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING  
STATION 6-5  
680 NORTH SEWARD MERIDIAN PARKWAY, WASILLA

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

9:00 AM

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2024

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Saturday, September 10, 2024, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Mayor Edna DeVries.

### II. ROLL CALL

**Present:** 5 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Robert Yundt, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier (telephonic and entered in-person at 10:47 a.m.)

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

### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

### IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assemblymember Nowers.

### V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

## **A. Strategic Planning Session**

Discussion ensued regarding:

- \* the value of property tax handout;
- \* sales tax, property tax, and excise tax;
- \* dog and cat registrations; and
- \* number of marijuana stores, regulations, and licensing.

The meeting recessed at 10:20 a.m. and reconvened at 10:33 a.m.

Discussion continued regarding the community clean-up program.

The meeting recessed at 12:10 a.m. and reconvened at 12:29 p.m.

Discussion continued led by Julie Estey, Business Director at Alaska Center for Energy and Power:

- \* Matanuska Energy Association, MEA.

## **VI. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

There was no one present who wished to testify.

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

Assemblymember Fonov noted he learned a lot and questioned what type of business could assist in seeing the diversity of the revenue and industry types in the Borough.

Assemblymember Yundt spoke to impassable fish culverts and public transit.

Assemblymember Gamble thanked staff and speakers for presenting. Spoke to the need to receive updates from Troopers once a year, deferred maintenance program for Borough paved roads.

Mr. Spiropoulos noted that information regarding the Supreme Court ruling on social media will be distributed to the Mayor and assembly.

Assemblymember Nowers spoke to crime statistics, strategic planning meetings, state land transfers, and substandard roads. Thanked the presenters.

Assemblymember Bernier requested an update on the gun training grant. Spoke to Isaiah 25.12 and led a prayer.

Mr. Brown spoke the to state legislative priorities. Noted that there will be a health care update at the regular meeting on September 3, 2024.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2: 55 p.m.

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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, AUGUST 20, 2024

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, August 20, 2024, 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:** 6 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, (entered at 6:05 p.m.) Assemblymember Bill Gamble, Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

**Telephonic:** 1 - Assemblymember Yundt

### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Brown requested that Ordinance Serial No. 24-078 and Resolution Serial No. 24-072 be pulled from the agenda.

The agenda was approved as amended without objection.

### IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assemblymember Hale.

### V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

There were no minutes presented.

## **VI. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

### **A. AGENCY REPORTS (MSB 2.12.082; Seven minutes per person)**

#### **1. Reports From Cities**

There was no report provided.

#### **2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District**

Katie Gardner, Deputy Superintendent of Business and Operations, reported on the start of the school year, student transportation, and fall activities. Noted there is a School Board Meeting August 21, 2024.

#### **3. State of Alaska**

There was no report provided.

### **B. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee On School Issues**

There was no report provided.

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

There were no reports provided.

### **C. MANAGER COMMENTS**

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

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

Tom Adams, Director of Public Works, provided an update on the Talkeetna Erosion Issue and Information Memorandum 24-135.

Mr. Brown spoke to the mill rate.

### **D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

There was no report provided.

### **E. CLERK COMMENTS**

Ms. McKechnie reported on the upcoming meeting schedule and noted pertinent election dates for the November 5, 2024, regular election included in the report.

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

**24-106**

1. Abbreviated Plat: 07/24/24, 07/31/24
2. Chase Community Council: 4/10/24
3. Greater Talkeetna RSA Board of Supervisors: 7/11/24
4. Local Emergency Planning Committee: 4/17/24
5. Planning Commission: 6/17/24
6. Susitna Community Council: 6/6/24
7. Willow Area Community Organization: 5/1/24

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

**G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS**

**IM 24-135** Informing The Assembly Of The Completed Planning Assistance For States Technical Report For Talkeetna Erosion Assessment December 2023, By The United States Army Corp Of Engineers.

**IM 24-148** Informing The Assembly Of The Manager Entering Into An All-Cash Purchase Agreement With A Lessee To Purchase By Application The Fee Simple Estate Of Borough-Owned Lands.

**IM 24-155** Informing The Assembly Of The Submittal Of 29 Notice Of Interest Forms For The Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grants Programs.

**IM 24-156** Informing The Assembly Of The Managers Signature On And Submittal Of The Federal Fiscal Year 2024 Emergency Management Performance Grant Application Requesting \$268,962.30 To Cover 50 Percent Of The Wages And Benefits For Emergency Operations Center Staff.

The informational memorandums were presented, and no comments were noted.

**VII. SPECIAL ORDERS**

**A. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (You Can Speak Under One Of The Audience Participations On The Agenda, But Not Both; Three Minutes Per Person.)**

The following persons spoke to the most recent Library Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting: Karen Lewis and Jackie Goforth.

The following persons spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 24-070: Rod Hanson, Chair of North Lakes Community Council; and John Miller.

The following person spoke in support of the Burma Road Safety Improvements amendment to Ordinance Serial No. 24-070: Denise Gober.

The following person spoke to recycling plastics: Travis Friesen.

The following person spoke to concerns with Resolution Serial No. 24-084: Margaret Stern, Susitna River Coalition Communications and Outreach Manager.

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

**OR 24-075** An Ordinance Approving A Supplemental Appropriation Of \$35,000 From Point MacKenzie Special Service Area Fund 292, To The Point MacKenzie Special Service Area Fiscal Year 2025 Operating Budget, Fund 292, To Adequately Fund The Annual Road Maintenance Of Roads Within The Service Area.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Tom Adams, Public Works 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 Gamble moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 24-075.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**OR 24-076** An Ordinance Approving An Appropriation In The Amount Of \$100,000 From The Greater Palmer Consolidated Fire Service Area Fund Balance To Purchase Fire Hose And Related Equipment.  
RS 24-070: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For A Project To Buy Fire Hose And Related Equipment For The Great Palmer Consolidated Fire Service Area.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Ken Berkley, Director of Emergency Services, 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 Nowers moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 24-076 and Resolution Serial No. 24-070.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**OR 24-078** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$75,000 Of Road Service Area Surplus Sale Revenue To A Project Account To Purchase An Asphalt Recycler.  
RS 24-072: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Purchase Of A Trailer Mounted Master Mixer Asphalt Recycler.

[Clerk's Note: Ordinance Serial No. 24-078 and Resolution Serial No. 24-072 were removed from the agenda at the approval of the agenda and no public hearing was held.]

**C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (You Can Speak Under One Of The Audience Participations On The Agenda, But Not Both; Three Minutes Per Person.)**

The following persons spoke in opposition of Resolution Serial No. 24-075: Garland Morrison, Road Service Area 21 Board of Supervisors member; and Pat Daniels, Road Service Area 21 Board of Supervisors member.

The following persons spoke in favor of Resolution Serial 24-084 and the East Terminus West Susitna Parkway: James Mills, Point MacKenzie Community Council member; and Ray Latchem.



## **D. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **1. RESOLUTIONS**

### **2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS**

- AM 24-087** Authorization To Purchase Fiscal Year 2025 Computer Replacements From Government Computer Sales Under The National Association Of State Procurement Officials Agreement In The Amount Of \$225,249.
- AM 24-088** Award Of Bid No. 25-016B To Dirtworks, Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$199,160 To Install A New Well Pump And Well Line At Station 3-3.
- AM 24-089** Award Of Bid No. 25-004B To Neeser Construction, Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$3,565,694 To Construct A New Pathway And Roadway Improvements On Edgerton Parks Road And Mountain Trails Drive.
- AM 24-090** Award Of Proposal No. 25-033C To Fugro USA Land, Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$175,400 To Provide Pavement Assessment And Analysis Services.
- AM 24-091** Award Of Bid No. 25-005B To AAA Valley Gravel LLC. In the Contract Amount \$4,219,893.33 To Construct Point MacKenzie Road MP 0-7 Rehabilitation Phase 1.
- AM 24-093** Authorizing The Purchase Of Sodium Chloride (Road Salt) From Northern Gravel And Trucking In The Amount Of \$244,125.
- AM 24-094** Authorizing The Purchase Of A Rosenbauer Pumper/Tender For Butte Fire Service Area In The Amount Of \$940,750.
- AM 24-095** Authorizing The Purchase Of A Custom Hazmat Truck Body From TriVan Truck Body In The Amount Of \$186,912.72 For Emergency Services.
- AM 24-096** Approval To Enter Into An Agreement With Cell Tower Solutions For A Cell Tower Valuation Project In The Amount Of \$285,697.50.

**AM 24-098** Approval Of Contract Extension For Contract No. 23-063P With Dowl, LLC To Extend The Final Completion Date To October 31, 2024, For The Historical Preservation Plan Update, Phase II.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**RS 24-075** A Resolution Removing Mr. Garland Morrison From The Big Lake Road Service Area No. 21 Board Of Supervisors.

**Sponsors:** DeVries and Gamble

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Fonov moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 24-075.**

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

**Yes:** 1 - Assemblymember Gamble

**No:** 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Absent:** 1 - Yundt

[Clerk's Note Assemblymember Yundt was absent from the call during the vote, due to technical phone issues.]

The meeting recessed at 7:12 p.m. and reconvened at 7:22 p.m.

**RS 24-084** A Resolution Supporting The West Susitna Access Road Project With An Eastern Terminus In The Point MacKenzie Area.

**Sponsors:** Gamble

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Fonov moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 24-084.**

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

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

**No:** 2 - Assemblymember Yundt and Assemblymember Fonov

### **VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**OR 24-066** An Ordinance Amending MSB Title 24, Animal Care And Regulation.

**MOTION PENDING:** Assemblymember Gamble moved to amend Ordinance 24-066.

Assemblymember Gamble moved a primary amendment to Ordinance 24-066, as follows:

\* MSB 24.10.010(A), (C), and (F) by changing it to read as follows:

(A) **Optional License.** Within the borough, it is optional to license each dog or cat. A separate kennel or cattery license is required for each species type of five or more animals over the age of six months.;

(C) **Immunization Required.** Within the borough, all dogs and cats over the age of six months must be vaccinated with a state of Alaska approved rabies vaccine by a license veterinarian, or by a state of Alaska lay rabies vaccinator, and the period of immunization has not expired. Proof of immunization shall be a completed rabies vaccination certificate in the form required by the state of Alaska.;

(F), striking subsection "(A)" and inserting subsection "C";

\* MSB 24.10.020 Licensing; Kennels and Catteries by changing section (A) to read: (A) License required. In addition to the requirements of MSB 24.10.010(c), no person shall own or operate a kennel or cattery or own five or more dogs or cats over the age of six months without licensing as a kennel or cattery operator for each location of a kennel or cattery. This section does not apply to the registration of sled dogs if there is a current mushing facility license as per MSB 24.07 in place for the facility at issue. A separate kennel or cattery license is required for each species type of five or more animals over the age of six months. Dual licensing shall be made available to persons owning both a kennel and a cattery. Only one licensing fee will be required if applying for both licenses simultaneously.

\* MSB 24.10.020 (G)(2)(c), striking "animal licensing" and inserting "under this title";

\* MSB 24.10.030, by striking "dog or cat owner and" and "MSB 24.10.010(B) and";

\* MSB 24.10.050(A), by striking "shall" and inserting "may" and "upon request by the owner", (B) by striking "shall" and inserting "should", (C) by striking "shall" and inserting "should" and striking "as long as rabies vaccinations are maintained as current. If rabies vaccinations lapse, lifetime licensing is forfeited and the animal must be relicensed.";

**\* MSB 24.10.070(A), updating to read as follows: (1) The optional license fee for a dog or cat shall be set by assembly resolution if the animal is spayed or neutered. For animals that are not spayed or neutered the optional license fee shall be set by assembly resolution. The license tag shall remain current for three years. If the animal is spayed or neutered and microchipped, the lifetime optional licensing fee shall be set by assembly resolution. For animals that are microchipped but are not spayed or neutered the optional lifetime licensing fee shall be set by assembly resolution. (2) The optional licensing fee for an animal that is newly adopted from the animal care and regulation shelter shall be set by assembly resolution. The license tag shall be current for the life of the animal since the animal is microchipped before leaving the shelter.;**

**\* MSB 24.10.090, Exemptions, by changing it to read: (A) The optional licensing for dogs and cats under this chapter do not apply to any dog or cat listed in a licensed cattery or kennel. Or a dog or cat kept within the borough for less than 30 calendar days. All such dogs and cats are subject to all other provisions of this title. (B) The Humane Society shelters, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals shelters, and hospitals and clinics operated by licensed veterinarians for the care and treatment of animals are exempted from the kennel and cattery licensing requirements set forth in MSB 24.10.020. However, the shelters, hospitals, and clinics are subject to all other requirements of this title.**

**\* MSB 24.10.130, Distribution of Title 24, Animal Care and Regulation, by changing it to read: Every owner optionally licensing a dog or a cat, or a kennel or a cattery, shall be furnished a copy of Title 24: Animal Care and Regulation, and acknowledge in writing the receipt thereof.;**

**\* MSB 24.15.050(A), Adoption, by changing it to read: (A) No dog or cat over the age of six months shall be adopted from the shelter unless the prospective owner agrees to have the animal spayed or neutered. The animal care manager may deny a request to adopt an animal if any person living in the prospective adoptive household has been convicted of failure to provide humane animal care or cruelty to animals in any jurisdiction, including the borough.;**

**\* MSB 24.20.020, Rabies Immunization, by changing it to read: (A) A person may not keep, own, or harbor a dog or cat over six months of age unless the dog or cat has been immunized for rabies in accordance with the laws of the state and borough ordinance. The person is required to provide proof of the rabies**

certificate to the borough in the form required by the state of Alaska upon application to optionally license any dog or cat, or upon notification by the chief animal care and regulation officer. Violation of this provision is an infraction. It shall be an affirmative defense that the animal was currently vaccinated for rabies at the time that proof of the rabies certification was requested by the chief animal care and regulation officer.;

\* MSB 24.26.30(A)(1), by striking ", licensing requirements set forth in MSB 24.10";

\* MSB 24.26.040(C) regulation of classified animals by changing it to read: (C) Microchip and immunization requirements. To ensure correct identification, all classified animals shall be implanted with a permanent microchip to identify the animal and its owner. All animals shall be vaccinated with an Alaska State approved rabies vaccine and all vaccinations appropriate to species.;

\* MSB 24.40.050, Fines for Infractions, by deleting the entire row for fines related to MSB 24.10.010(A), Failure to Register Dog or Cat; and

\* Delete section 9 of the ordinance.

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**OR 24-070** An Ordinance Relating To The Construction, Additions, Improvements, Betterments, Repair, Reconstruction, Or Acquisition Of Public Roads And Pathways And Facilities Related Thereto In The Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Together With All Necessary Equipment And Transportation Facilities Including Improving School Access, And The Acquisition Of Lands Or Rights In Lands In Connection Therewith; And A Debt Of The Borough, Authorizing The Issuance Of Areawide General Obligation Bonds Of The Borough In An Amount Not To Exceed The Sum Of \$33,320,000 To Finance The Cost, In Whole Or In Part, Of Such Public Roads, Facilities, And Lands, And Submitting The Proposition To The Voters At The November 5, 2024, Regular Borough Election.

**Sponsors:** Fonov

**MOTION PENDING: Assemblymember Gamble moved to amend Ordinance 24-070.**

**Assemblymember Gamble moved a primary amendment to Ordinance 24-070, as follows:**

**\*Inserting the following project, Burma Road Safety Improvements for an estimated project cost of \$950,000, to the ballot proposition for November 5, 2024, and striking "\$33,320,000" throughout the ordinance and IM and inserting "\$34,270,000" in its place; and**

**\*Inserting the following project, Echo Lake Drive Improvements for an estimated project cost of \$1,620,000, to the ballot proposition for November 5, 2024, and striking "\$34,270,000" throughout the ordinance and IM and inserting "\$35,890,000" in its place.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

## IX. VETO

There were no vetoes presented.

## X. NEW BUSINESS

### A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 09/03/204 Assembly Chambers)

- OR 24-079** An Ordinance Borough Assembly Creating Homestead Drive Natural Gas Local Improvement District No. 667, Approving The Improvement Plan For The District, Authorizing The Manager To Proceed With The Improvement, And Assessing Equally Among The Properties Within The District The Costs Of The Improvement.
- OR 24-080** An Ordinance Approving The Sale Of Borough-Owned Property Identified As Lot 15 Rustic Wilderness Division 2 To The Adjacent Property Owners, Kelly And Pamela Hill.
- OR 24-081** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$20,700 In Anticipated Project Income During Fiscal Year 2025 For The Rail Extension Project From Port MacKenzie To The Mainline.  
RS 24-079: A Resolution Establishing The Scope Of Work And Budget For Anticipated Project Income During Fiscal Year 2025 For The Rail Extension Project From Port MacKenzie To The Mainline.
- OR 24-082** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating A Grant In The Amount Of \$44,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Health And Social Services, For The Continued Management Of Points Of Dispensing And Medical Countermeasures.  
RS 24-080: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For A Grant In The Amount Of \$44,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Health And Social Services, For The Continued Management Of Points Of Dispensing And Medical Countermeasures.
- OR 24-083** An Ordinance Extending The Effective Date Of The Waterbody Setback Advisory Board To March 18, 2025.
- OR 24-084** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating Additional National Opioid Settlement Funding Totaling \$215,644.52 From The Manufacturers And Traders Trust Company For Opioid Settlement Relief.  
RS 24-081: A Resolution Amending The Scope Of Work And Budget For Opioid Settlement Relief.



**OR 24-085** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$316,302 From The Alaska State Department Of Health And Social Services For The Human Services Community Matching Grant Program.  
RS 24-082: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Human Services Community Matching Grant Program.

**OR 24-087** An Ordinance Creating A New Regular Full Time Position Of Healthcare Concierge As A Non-Bargaining Unit Position Within The Borough Manager's Office.

**Sponsors:** Yundt

**OR 24-088** An Ordinance Extending The Time Limit Of Expiring Match Funds For The Alaska State Department Of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Fund Program Grant, Being Used To Complete The Borough's Historic Preservation Plan Update, To February 2025.  
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Hale moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and set the public hearings for September 3, 2024.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

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

### **1. VACANCY REPORT**

**24-107** Mayoral Request for Confirmation

There was no one up for confirmation.

## **C. OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Motion to Amend Something Previously Adopted**

**OR 24-072** An Ordinance Authorizing The Borough To Issue Areawide General Obligation Bonds In The Aggregate Principal Amount Of Not To Exceed \$58,146,600, To Finance The Acquisition, Design, Construction, Major Renovation And Renewal Of Educational And Related Capital Improvement Projects In The Borough, And To Submit The Question Of The Issuance Of Such Bonds To The Qualified Voters Of The Borough At The November 5, 2024, Borough Regular Election.

**Sponsors:** Yundt

**Assemblymember Fonov moved a primary amendment to Ordinance Serial No. 24-072:**

**\* Increase the total amount of the bond package by \$1,925,000 for a total amount of \$60,071,600 throughout the Ordinance and IM;**

**\* inserting a WHEREAS clause after the first clause to read as follows: WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly recognizes the important need to replace boilers at school facilities;**

**\* inserting 2 additional WHEREAS clauses just prior to the final town clauses to read as follows: WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District has also supported placing needed capital repair projects on the bond propositions before the voters via Matanuska-Susitna Borough School Board Resolution 24-004; and WHEREAS, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly recognizes the backlog of capital repair at existing schools and the need to offer safe, accessible and functional learning environments for students; and**

**\* adding the following projects to the IM, and the list of projects in Sections 3 and 5 of the Ordinances; Cottonwood Creek Elementary Boiler Replacement, Finger Lake Elementary Boiler Replacement, Snowshoe Elementary Boiler Replacement, Sutton Elementary HVAC Control Upgrades, and Wasilla Middle Boiler Replacement.**

Discussion followed.

**Assemblymember Fonov moved to withdraw the primary amendment.**

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

Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt,  
**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and  
Assemblymember Bernier

**No:** 2 - Assemblymember Hale and Assemblymember Nowers

**D. REFERRALS (For Referral To The Planning Commission For 90 Days Or Other Date Specified By The Assembly)**

There were no reconsiderations presented.

**XI. RECONSIDERATION**

There were no reconsiderations presented.

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

Assemblymember Yundt noted it was a good meeting and thanked everyone.

Assemblymember Bernier said a prayer.

Assemblymember Hale mused he was glad with how Ordinance Serial No. 24-066 was amended.

Assemblymember Nowers congratulated the Bush family that won Farmer of the Year and spoke to local farms. Opined that salmon runs have been almost nonexistent. Spoke to the possibility of future legislation regarding stray animals.

Assemblymember Gamble thanked fellow assemblymembers for support with the Ordinance Serial No. 24-070 amendment.

Assemblymember Fonov spoke to Resolution Serial No. 24-084 and to supporting charter schools.

**XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

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

BOROUGH MAYOR  
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BOROUGH CLERK  
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Michael Brown

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Vacant, 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, SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, 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:** 5 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee (entered at 6:04 p.m.), Assemblymember Bill Gamble, and Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov

**Telephonic:** 1 - Assemblymember Rob Yundt and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda approved as presented.

### IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assemblymember Nowers.

### V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

**24-110** A. Regular Assembly Meeting: 08/06/24  
The minutes were approved as presented without objection.

### VI. 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**

Mr. Todd Smoldon, Executive Director of Governor Dunleavy's Mat-Su Office, reported on Governor Dunleavy's Statewide Education Forum.

## **B. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee On School Issues**

There was no report provided.

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

Assemblymember Hale thanked Mike Brown, Borough Manager and Jason Ortiz, Development Services Manager, for their support in assisting an elderly couple in his district get their property cleaned up and noted that the community is working on a solution to build a wheelchair ramp to their front door.

## **C. MANAGER COMMENTS**

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

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

### **3. Big Lake Lion's Recreation Center Update**

Jillian Morrissey, Community Development Director, provided a summary of what it would entail for the Borough to acquire the Big Lake Lions Recreation Center.

[Clerk's Note: RS 24-038 was previously adopted on 04/02/24. It is attached for reference only and no action will be taken.]

**RS 24-038** A Resolution Directing The Manager To Research And Report On The Feasibility Of Procuring The Big Lake Lions Recreation Center, Currently Owned By the Big Lake Lions Club, Inc., To Possibly Be Owned And Operated By The Borough.

**Sponsors:** Gamble

**4. Health Care Plan Update**

[Clerk's Note: the health care plan update was not provided; it was moved to the 09/10/24 Assembly meeting.]

[Clerk's Note: RS 24-064 was previously adopted on 06/04/24. It is attached for reference only and no action will be taken.]

**RS 24-064** A Resolution Encouraging The Mat-Su Health Foundation To Return To Its Former Policy Of Allowing Members To Vote In The Election Of Board Members; And Encouraging The Mat-Su Health Foundation To Advocate For Lower Pricing To Benefit The Residents Of The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Who Require Hospital Services.

**Sponsors:** Yundt

**D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

There was no report provided.

**E. CLERK COMMENTS**

Ms. McKechnie reported on the upcoming meeting schedule and pertinent election dates. Stated that the election brochure would be emailed to the body for approval at the September 10, 2024, regular Assembly meeting.

**F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

**24-113**

1. Abbreviated Plat: 08/14/24
2. Animal Care and Regulation Board: 04/17/24, Final Decision 24-02
3. Big Lake Community Council: 07/09/24, Resolution No. 24-02
4. Central Mat-Su FSA Board of Supervisors: 04/08/24
5. Enhanced 911 Advisory Board: 06/11/24
6. Gateway Community Council: 04/10/24, 05/08/24, 06/12/24, Resolution No. 2023-03
7. Historical Preservation Commission: 05/09/24
8. Library Board: 05/31/24
9. Library Citizen's Advisory Committee: 07/08/24
10. Planning Commission: 07/15/24, 08/05/24, Resolution Nos. 24-15, 24-17, 24-18, 24-20, 24-23
11. Platting Board: 07/18/24, 08/01/24
12. Waterbody Setback Advisory Board: 07/23/24, Resolution No. 24-02
13. West Lakes FSA Board of Supervisors: 05/13/24, 07/08/24

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

**G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS**

- IM 24-169** Advising The Assembly That The Total For The Transportation System Project Bonds Has Been Updated To Reflect A Total Of \$36,390,000. The informational memorandum was presented, and no comments were noted.

**VII. SPECIAL ORDERS**

**A. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (You can speak under one of the audience participations on the agenda, but not both; Three Minutes Per Person.)**

The following person spoke to concerns that the Borough's Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Survey appears to favor only pedestrian safety and bicycle lanes. Further added that it does not take into consideration motorized vehicles and is not being shared with all Borough residents: Esther Huddleston.

The following person praised the Alaska State Fair for their recycling efforts and wondered if they also had recycling available for cardboard and for food composting: Travis Friesen.

The following persons spoke to concerns with the Graphic Adaptation of Ann Franks Diary being in Borough libraries and how books are chosen by librarians: Jackie Goforth and Karen Lewis.

The following person spoke to concerns to a pedophile agenda: Chris Tyree.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 24-083: Jean Holt.

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

**OR 24-080** An Ordinance Approving The Sale Of Borough-Owned Property Identified As Lot 15 Rustic Wilderness Division 2 To The Adjacent Property Owners, Kelly And Pamela Hill.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Jillian Morrissey, Community Development 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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 24-080.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier



**OR 24-081** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$20,700 In Anticipated Project Income During Fiscal Year 2025 For The Rail Extension Project From Port MacKenzie To The Mainline.

RS 24-079: A Resolution Establishing The Scope Of Work And Budget For Anticipated Project Income During Fiscal Year 2025 For The Rail Extension Project From Port MacKenzie To The Mainline.

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 Gamble moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 24-081 and Resolution Serial No. 24-079.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**OR 24-082** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating A Grant In The Amount Of \$44,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Health And Social Services, For The Continued Management Of Points Of Dispensing And Medical Countermeasures.

RS 24-080: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For A Grant In The Amount Of \$44,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Health And Social Services, For The Continued Management Of Points Of Dispensing And Medical Countermeasures.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Cheyenne Heindel, Finance Director, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke in support of the legislation: Jean Holt.

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

**Assemblymember Hale moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 24-082 and Resolution Serial No. 24-080.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**OR 24-083** An Ordinance Extending The Effective Date Of The Waterbody Setback Advisory Board To March 18, 2025.

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.

The following persons spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 24-083: Rod Hanson, North Lakes Community Council; and Patti Fisher, Meadow Lakes Community Council.

**Assemblymember Hale moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 24-083.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**OR 24-084** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating Additional National Opioid Settlement Funding Totaling \$215,644.52 From The Manufacturers And Traders Trust Company For Opioid Settlement Relief.  
RS 24-081: 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 Hale moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 24-084 and Resolution Serial No. 24-081.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and

**OR 24-085** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$316,302 From The Alaska State Department Of Health And Social Services For The Human Services Community Matching Grant Program.  
RS 24-082: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Human Services Community Matching Grant Program.  
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 Hale moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 24-085 and Resolution Serial No. 24-082.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**OR 24-087** An Ordinance Creating A New Regular Full Time Position Of Healthcare Concierge As A Non-Bargaining Unit Position Within The Borough Manager's Office.

**Sponsors:** Yundt

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Sonya Conant, Human Resources 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 Hale moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 24-087.**

**Assemblymember Nowers moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 24-087 to October 15, 2024.**

**The motion to postpone failed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 2 - Assemblymember Hale and Assemblymember Nowers

Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt,  
**No:** 5 - Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and  
Assemblymember Bernier

**Assemblymember Gamble moved a primary amendment to Ordinance Serial No. 24-087 by striking the base salary of "\$65,000" and inserting "\$85,000" in its place.**

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

**Yes:** 3 - Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, and  
Assemblymember Fonov

**No:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers,  
Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Bernier

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

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember McKee,  
Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble,  
Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**No:** 1 - Assemblymember Nowers

**OR 24-088** An Ordinance Extending The Time Limit Of Expiring Match Funds For The Alaska State Department Of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Fund Program Grant, Being Used To Complete The Borough's Historic Preservation Plan Update, To February 2025. Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Leda Borys, Long Range Planner, 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 Hale moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 24-088.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers,  
Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt,  
Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and  
Assemblymember Bernier

**C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (You can speak under one of the audience participations on the agenda, but not both; Three Minutes Per Person.)**

(The meeting recessed at 8:22 p.m. and reconvened at 8:30 p.m.)

There was no one signed up to speak under this audience participation.

**D. CONSENT AGENDA**

**1. RESOLUTIONS**

**RS 24-091** A Resolution Allocating National Opioid Settlement Funding Totaling \$63,273 To Local Nonprofits Organizations Under The Mat-Su Opioid Training And Education Grant.

**2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS**

**AM 24-099** Authorization To Vacate The 50-Foot-Wide Section Line Easement On The Eastern Boundary Of Tract B-1, Hatcher Pass Village Phase I, Plat No. 2018-112, Located West Of Little Susitna River, East Of North Mountain Trails Drive, And North Of East Edgerton Parks Road, Within The Northeast 1/4, Section 33, Township 19 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian.

**AM 24-100** Authorization To Vacate The 66-Foot-Wide Section Line Easement In Little Susitna Flats, Plat No. 2022-133, Located North Of North Pittman Road, Directly West Of West Sunrise Place, And South Of The Little Susitna River. Lying Within Sections 14 And 23, Township 18 North, Range 2 West, Seward Meridian.

**AM 24-101** Award Of Bid No. 25-032B To Western Construction & Equipment, LLC. In The Amount Of \$292,475 For The Talkeetna Revetment And Dike Repair Project.

**AM 24-102** Award Of Bid No. 24-144B To Nodak Electric & Construction, Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$344,200 To Supply And Install Generators At Emergency Services Stations.

Ms. McKechnie read the consent agenda into the record.

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

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**AM 24-092** Authorization To Vacate A Public Use Easement Located Directly Northeast Of North Engstrom Road, North Of Cornelius Lake, And Southwest Of North Palmer-Fishhook Road Lying Within Section 22, Township 18 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record

**Assemblymember Nowers moved to adopt AM 24-092.**

Alex Strawn, Planning and Land Use Director and Tom Adams, Public Works Director, provided a staff report.

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**AM 24-103** Award Of Proposal No. 24-135P To The Boutet Company, Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$250,153.40 To Design The Kepler Bradley Bridge Replacement.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Assemblymember Yundt declared a conflict of interest as he does business with the Boutet Company and plans to continue in the future.**

**RULING: Mayor DeVries ruled that Assemblymember Yundt had a conflict of interest and would be recused from voting.**

**[Clerk's Note: Assemblymember Yundt was attending telephonically and was unable to exit the meeting. He did not participate in discussion, and he did not vote on the legislation.]**

**Assemblymember Hale moved to adopt AM 24-103.**

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

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Recused:** 1 - Assemblymember Yundt

## VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

## IX. VETO

There were no vetoes presented.

## X. NEW BUSINESS

### A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 09/10/24, Assembly Chambers)

- OR 24-086** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$944,804 From The United States Department Of Transportation Maritime Administration For The Port MacKenzie Rough Terrain Cargo Crane Project.  
RS 24-083: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Port MacKenzie Rough Terrain Cargo Crane Project.
- OR 24-089** An Ordinance Amending MSB 4.50.030(A), Local Emergency Planning Committee Composition.
- OR 24-090** An Ordinance Appropriating \$75,000 Of Road Service Area Fund Balance That Resulted From The Sale Of Surplus Road Service Area Equipment To A Project Account To Purchase An Asphalt Recycler.  
RS 24-085: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Purchase Of A Trailer Mounted Asphalt Recycler.
- OR 24-091** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating Additional January 2022 Mat-Su Windstorms Disaster Relief Funds In The Amount Of \$30,389.73 From The Federal Emergency Management Agency; And \$10,129.90 From The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management.  
RS 24-087: A Resolution Approving The Amended Budget For The January 2022 Mat-Su Windstorms Disaster.
- OR 24-092** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating January 2022 Mat-Su Windstorms Disaster Relief Funds In The Amount Of \$207,916.20 From The Federal Emergency Management Agency; And \$69,305.39 From The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management.  
RS 24-088: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Borough-Wide Debris Removal As A Result Of The January 2022 Mat-Su Windstorms Disaster.

### B. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 10/01/24, Assembly Chambers)



**OR 24-079** An Ordinance Creating Homestead Drive Natural Gas Local Improvement District No. 667, Approving The Improvement Plan For The District, Authorizing The Manager To Proceed With The Improvement, And Assessing Equally Among The Properties Within The District The Costs Of The Improvement.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Hale moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearings for September 10, 2024, and October 1, 2024, respectively.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

## **C. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

### **1. VACANCY REPORT**

**24-115** Mayoral Requests for Confirmation  
Central Mat-Su FAS No. 130  
James Craig Robinson  
**Assemblymember Hale moved to confirm the appointment requested by the Mayor.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

## **D. OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

There was no other new business.

## **E. 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.

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

Assemblymember Bernier commented God bless everyone.

Assemblymember Yundt stated that he would like an update from the Manager on the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Survey. Stated that he is looking forward to going moose hunting.

Assemblymember Nowers stated that she too would like an update from the Manager on the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Survey. Noted that the Borough's webpage search engine does not bring it forward when it is searched for. Stated that she would like to understand why that is. Spoke to her enjoyment of the Alaska State Fair. Spoke to the high costs of health care. Opined that hospitals are not being transparent as required by Section 2718 of the Public Health Service Act, titled "Bringing down the costs of health care coverage." Noted that it is unfortunate that no one is policing hospitals and enforcing that requirement. Spoke to the possibility of finding a way to get the Borough's health insurance limitations known to more employees, rather than hiring a health insurance concierge.

Mr. Brown stated that the Borough's website does not have a federated search engine at this time, because free software is being used, but that it is an ongoing effort to change that.

Assemblymember Gamble opined that a Health Insurance Concierge would be a valuable position to the Borough. Opined it requires a higher salary in order to hire someone who is qualified for the position. Stated that he did not know that the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Survey even existed and that he would like to know more.

Assemblymember Fonov spoke to having attended a community council meeting in which the Comprehensive Safety Action Plan Survey was being discussed. Opined that it appeared to be biased toward pedestrians and opposed to motorized vehicles. Further opined that it needed to be distributed to more Borough residents.

## **XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

## **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

# 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  
Robert Yundt, District 4  
Bill Gamble, District 5  
Dmitri Fonov, District 6  
Ron Bernier, District 7



Thomas Bergey, District 1  
Kendal Kruse, District 2  
Kathryn McCollum, District 3  
Jubilee Underwood, District 4  
Brooks Pitcher, District 5  
Ole Larson, District 6  
Ted Swanson, District 7

## MEETING MINUTES

### ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

JOINT ASSEMBLY/SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

4:00 PM

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The joint Assembly/School Board meeting was held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Mayor Edna DeVries.

### II. ASSEMBLY ROLL CALL

**Present:** 3 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

**Excused:** 1 - Assemblymember Dee McKee

**Telephonic:** 2 - Assemblymember Tim Hale (entered telephonically at 4:03 p.m.) and Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov

### SCHOOL BOARD ROLL CALL

**Present:** School Board Member Thomas Bergey, School Board Member Kendal Kruse, School Board Member Kathryn McCollum, School Board Member Jubilee Underwood, School Board Member, and School Board Member Ted Swanson.

**Absent:** School Board Member Ole Larson

### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

### IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by School Board President Jubilee Underwood.

## **V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

The following persons spoke to concerns with the behavior of members of the Library Board, to concerns with peer review of books of concern, and to the need to protect children from pornographic books: Jackie Goforth and Karen Lewis.

The following person opined that there are no obscene books in libraries. Spoke to concerns with derogatory terms that are allegedly being used toward Librarians and staff, to concerns with comments made by the Library Citizen's Advisory Committee, and to concerns with the lack of response to a public records request she filed: Mary Robinson.

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

### **A. Superintendent Report - School Opening**

Dr. Randy Trani, School District Superintendent, reported on the opening of the 2024 school year.

### **B. Building Construction Progress**

### **C. Capital Construction Plan**

Cole Branham, Project Management Division Manager, reported on school construction progress and the capital construction plan.

### **D. District State Legislative Priorities**

Katie Gardner, Deputy School District Superintendent, reported on the District's State legislative Priorities.

## **VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, SCHOOL BOARD, AND STAFF COMMENT**

School Board Member Kruse thanked the body for the meeting. Spoke to her appreciation of the exchange of information during joint meetings. Noted that she was happy that good news regarding students could be shared.

School Board Member Swanson thanked the body for working cooperatively on school district needs. Wished everyone a safe trip home.

School Board Member McCollum spoke to her appreciation of joint meetings. Thanked Dr. Traini and Katie Gardner for their reports. Spoke to her appreciation of the hard work of teachers and staff. Stated that she would like to see more students enroll in Mat-S Central School.

School Board Member Bergey stated that School District staff work very hard. Noted that in life and as adults, kids are expected to compete globally. Spoke to the need to continue the uptrend in education milestones and compare the School District on the national and global level and strive to be first amongst that crowd.

School Board Member Pitcher opined that the new Mat-Su Central School is a large building and esthetically pleasing. Stated that he is pleased that its construction is on schedule. Spoke to his appreciation of the efforts to increase student rates. Read a letter of thanks from Assemblymember Yundt.

School Board President Underwood spoke to her appreciation of the bodies working together to improve education. Noted that she has learned quite a bit during her service. Stated that she always looks forward to working together to benefit the community.

Assemblymember Nowers stated that she appreciates joint meetings and the exchange of information presented. Noted her agreement with School Board Member Bergey on preparing children to compete nationally and globally.

Assemblymember Fonov thanked School Board Member Pitcher for reading the farewell letter from Assemblymember Yundt.

Assemblymember Bernier thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Said a prayer.

Assemblymember Gamble thanked Dr. Trani and Katie Gardner for their informative presentations. Spoke in support of the work that teachers do.

Noted that both his children went to valley schools, and both are doing outstanding. Stated that he hopes the School Board will take an active role in the School District's budget.

Mayor DeVries thanked the body for coming and thanked them for their service to the community.

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

# 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  
Vacant, 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, SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Mayor Edna DeVries.

### II. ROLL CALL

**Present:** 3 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

**Excused:** 2 - Assemblymember Dee McKee and Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov

**Telephonic:** 1 - Assemblymember Tim Hale

### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

### IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Lonnie R. McKechnie, Borough Clerk.

### V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

There were no minutes of preceding meetings.

### VI. 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.

**4. Petersville Community Non-Profit Corporation**

Michelle Stevens and Lisa Agnew of the Petersville Community Non-Profit Corporation, provided a brief introduction to a video regarding concerns with the proposed Alaska Long Trail.

(The meeting recessed at 6:14 p.m. and reconvened at 6:25 p.m.)

**B. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee On School Issues**

There was no report 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 upcoming Mat-Su Emergency Expo that will be held on September 28, 2024, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Menard Sports Complex.

**D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

Mr. Spiropoulos noted that once the resolution regarding Assemblymember Yundt's resignation is adopted, it starts the 30-day timeframe in which the Assembly has to fill the District 4 vacancy. Advised that the body should discuss how they want to proceed under Assembly comments.



## **E. CLERK COMMENTS**

Ms. McKechnie reported on the upcoming meeting schedule. Noted that the election brochure is attached for approval. Queried if there were any questions or changes that the Assembly may have.

Assemblymember Nowers spoke to concerns with text spacing on page 11 and opined that the text should be larger, as the page appears to have room for larger text.

Ms. McKechnie advised that she would take a look at that. Related that it was Ms. Weise's art work on the cover page and that she and Jamie Jokhy worked together to make the absentee ballot application the centerfold.

Mayor DeVries queried if there was any objection to the election brochure.

There was no objection noted.

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

**24-120**

1. Big Lake Community Council: 06/25/24
2. Caswell Lakes RSA Board of Supervisors: 04/08/24, 06/10/24
3. Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board: 06/24/24
4. Willow Area Community Organization: 06/05/24

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

## **G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS**

**IM 24-167** Notifying The Assembly Of The Certification Of 2024 Regular Real Property, Personal Property, Oil And Gas Properties, Exempted Properties, And Board Of Equalization Actions.

The informational memorandum was presented, and no comments were noted.

## **VII. SPECIAL ORDERS**

**A. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (You can speak under one of the audience participations on the agenda, but not both; Three Minutes Per Person.)**

The following person spoke to concerns with complications with candidate filing. Recommended that the current process be reviewed to see if it could be refined so that it would allow candidates the opportunity to make corrections or changes after candidate filing ends: Steve Ault.

The following person stated that she is grateful for the Library Citizen's Advisory Committee. Opined that it should be able to make a decision on what books are allowed in Libraries instead of being an advisory only committee. Spoke to a recent review of a book and how the process played out: Karen Lewis.

The following persons spoke to concerns with possible federal overreach, to concerns with the possible negative impact to Alaska due to federal regulations and opined that Alaska should have total control of the Alaska Long Trail: Esther Huddleston, Luke Landry, Michelle Stevens, and Lisa Agnew.

The following person spoke to concerns with pornographic books in Borough libraries: Jackie Goforth.

The following persons spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 24-096, which would ban mobile home parks in the Borough: Zane Henning and Alex LNU.

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

**OR 24-086** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$944,804 From The United States Department Of Transportation Maritime Administration For The Port MacKenzie Rough Terrain Cargo Crane Project.  
RS 24-083: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Port MacKenzie Rough Terrain Cargo Crane Project.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

David Griffin, Port 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 Gamble moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 24-086 and Resolution Serial No. 24-083.**

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

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

**OR 24-089** An Ordinance Amending MSB 4.50.030(A), Local Emergency Planning Committee Composition.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Ken Barkley, Emergency Services 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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 24-089.**

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

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

**OR 24-090** An Ordinance Appropriating \$75,000 Of Road Service Area Fund Balance That Resulted From The Sale Of Surplus Road Service Area Equipment To A Project Account To Purchase An Asphalt Recycler. RS 24-085: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Purchase Of A Trailer Mounted Asphalt Recycler.  
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Cole Braham, Project Management Division Manager, 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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 24-090 and Resolution Serial No. 24-085.**

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

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

**OR 24-091** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating Additional January 2022 Mat-Su Windstorms Disaster Relief Funds In The Amount Of \$30,389.73 From The Federal Emergency Management Agency; And \$10,129.90 From The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management. RS 24-087: A Resolution Approving The Amended Budget For The January 2022 Mat-Su Windstorms Disaster.  
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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 24-091 and Resolution Serial No. 24-087.**

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

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

**OR 24-092** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating January 2022 Mat-Su Windstorms Disaster Relief Funds In The Amount Of \$207,916.20 From The Federal Emergency Management Agency; And \$69,305.39 From The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management.

RS 24-088: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Borough-Wide Debris Removal As A Result Of The January 2022 Mat-Su Windstorms Disaster.

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 Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 24-092 and Resolution Serial No. 24-088.**

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

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

**C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (You can speak under one of the audience participations on the agenda, but not both; Three Minutes Per Person.)**

The following person spoke to concerns with possible federal overreach, to concerns with the possible negative impact to Alaska due to federal regulations and opined that Alaska should have total control of the Alaska Long Trail: Samuel Schilling, Chugiak Back Country Free Riders President.

**D. CONSENT AGENDA**

**1. RESOLUTIONS**

**RS 24-093** A Resolution Amending The Scope Of Work To Purchase A Skid Steer And Related Equipment For Snow Removal For The Brett Ice Arena Snow Mitigation.

**RS 24-096** A Resolution Amending The Scope Of Work, Budgets, And Titles From Colony Middle School Boiler Pumps And Controls, Susitna Valley Jr/Sr High School Boiler Replacement, And Wasilla High School Boiler Replacement - Fiscal Year 2025; To Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District Boiler Upgrades - Fiscal Year 2025.

**RS 24-101** A Resolution Accepting The Resignation Of Assemblymember Yundt And Declaring The District 4 Assembly Seat Vacant As Of September 10, 2024.

## **2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS**

**AM 24-104** Acceptance Of Late Filed And Retroactive Senior Citizen And Disabled Veteran Exemption Applications.

**AM 24-105** Approval Of Change Order No. 1 To Contract No. 24-089C With Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company, Inc. To Add \$12,006 For The Central Landfill Cell 4 Design Expansion.

**AM 24-106** Approval Of Contract Amendment To Contract No. 24-077B With Pro Built, LLC. To Extend The Completion Date To November 30, 2024, For Station 7-9 West Lakes Ambulance Building Remodel Project.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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

**Assemblymember Gamble moved to divide the question to take up Resolution Serial No. 24-099, separately.**

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

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

**FIRST SEGMENT: The motion to approve the consent agenda with the exception of Resolution Serial No. 24-099, passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

**RS 24-099** A Resolution Opposing The Release Of Land Authority Along The Proposed Alaska Long Trail As It Pertains To The National Scenic Trail Feasibility Study.

**Sponsors:** Gamble and Yundt

**SECOND SEGMENT: Approval of Resolution No. 24-099.**

**Assemblymember Gamble moved to postpone Resolution Serial No. 24-099 to October 1, 2024.**

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

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Gamble, 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 10/01/24, Assembly Chambers)**

**OR 24-093** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating Additional January 2022 Mat-Su Windstorms Disaster Relief Funds In The Amount Of \$658.49 From The Federal Emergency Management Agency; And \$219.50 From The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management.

RS 24-092: A Resolution Approving The Amended Budget For The January 2022 Mat-Su Windstorms Disaster.

**OR 24-094** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$11,000 From The Mat-Su Trails And Parks Foundation.

RS 24-094: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget And Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into The Grant Agreement Amendment For A Sutter 500 Trail Dozer

**OR 24-095** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$1,440,340 From The Environmental Protection Agency's Solid Waste Infrastructure For Recycling Grants For Communities.  
RS 24-095: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Solid Waste Division's Sustainable Organic Materials Compost Program And Infrastructure Development.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearings for October 1, 2024.**

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

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

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

### **1. VACANCY REPORT**

**24-122** Mayoral Requests for Confirmation  
There were no appointments to confirm on this vacancy report.

## **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)**

**OR 24-096** An Ordinance Amending MSB 17.73 To Clarify That Mobile Home Parks Are Not Permitted In The Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

**Sponsors:** Nowers

**Assemblymember Nowers moved to refer Ordinance Serial No. 24-096 to the Planning Commission for a period of 90 days.**

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

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

## **XI. RECONSIDERATION**

There were no reconsiderations presented.



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

Mr. Spiropoulos encouraged the Assembly to move expeditiously to fill the District 4 vacancy within 30 days. Advised that they should follow the same process that was used when former Assemblymember Sumner resigned and summarized that process. Suggested that the time line could be to close the application period on September 23 and then to have a meeting on September 24 to determine which applicants to interview and then have the interviews on September 26.

Assemblymember Nowers thanked body for referring mobile home park ordinance to the Planning Commission.

Assemblymember Bernier spoke to 3D concrete printer that is used for printing houses. Related that there will be one in Nome soon and that he is hopeful it will reduce home building costs in remote areas. Said a prayer.

[Clerk's Note: The Assembly discussed meeting dates to fill the Assembly District 4 vacancy and scheduled them as follows: Assembly Special Meeting Re: Filling the Assembly District 4 Vacancy (October 1, 2024, at 4 p.m.) and Assembly Special Meeting Re: Filling the Assembly District 4 Vacancy - Candidate Interviews (October 3, 2024, at 6 p.m.) The applications are to be submitted by September 27, 2024, by 5 p.m.]

Mr. Spiropoulos noted that if the Assembly has any ideas for questions, please swing by his office.

Mayor DeVries queried if there was any objection to allow Mr. Robertson to testify.

There was no objection noted.

The following person requested a fire truck fill station at Mile 37 of the Glen Highway for emergency fill stations for fire trucks: Tom Robertson.

## **XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

## **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.