

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

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

BOROUGH MAYOR  
Vern Halter

BOROUGH CLERK  
Lonnie R. McKechnie, CMC

BOROUGH MANAGER  
John Moosey

BOROUGH ATTORNEY  
Nicholas Spiropoulos



Tim Hale, District 1  
Stephanie Nowers, District 2  
George McKee, District 3  
Ted Leonard, District 4  
Dan Mayfield, District 5  
Jesse Sumner, District 6  
Tam Boeve, District 7

## MEETING MINUTES

### ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

11:00 AM

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2019

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## ASSEMBLY EMERGENCY MEETING

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The special emergency meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Saturday, December 28, 2019, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Mayor Vern Halter.

### II. ROLL CALL

**Present:** 7 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Ted Leonard, Assemblymember Dan Mayfield, Assemblymember Jesse Sumner, and Assemblymember Tam Boeve

### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Halter inquired if there were any changes to the agenda.

Mayor Halter inquired if there was any objection to adding audience participation to the agenda. There were no objection noted.

The agenda was approved as amended without objections.

### IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by a member of the audience.

## V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was no one present who wished to speak.

## VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

### **A. Issues Surrounding The Local Disaster Emergency Declared On December 23, 2019, In The Willow Creek Area.**

Mr. John Moosey, Borough Manager, provided update.

**Assemblymember Dan Mayfield moved to extend the emergency declaration to January 7, 2020.**

**The motion passed as follows:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

Ken Barlkey, Emergency Services Director, provided overview and update.

James Jensen, Operations and Maintenance Manager and Dave Lander of HDL Engineering Consultants, LLC, provided actions being taken and future options.

Taunnie Boothby, Development Services Planner, spoke to the state permitting process.

Nicholas Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney, spoke to emergency declarations and how they work.

## VII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person thanked staff for the work done so far on Deneki Road and bridge, finding trails to get to issue areas, concerns with design and drainage, and issues with the Shirley Towne Bridge: Mr. Tom Phillips, Greater Willow Road Service Area Board of Supervisors.

The following person thanked staff for the work done on the Willow Creek issue, the disasters that have struck Willow as of late, the need for the public to understand a local disaster versus a state disaster, and advised that Governor Dunleavy had not been given a recommendation to issue a declaration of emergency: Mr. Todd Smolden, Director of Governor Dunleavy's Mat-Su Office.

The following person spoke to the Municipality of Anchorage handling disasters better than Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the public process: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

## VIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Assemblymember McKee noted he would have liked to have seen a written engineering analysis of cost and possible ramifications. Spoke to concerns with no immediate solutions. Noted if we can get rid of the water people can take care of themselves better.

Assemblymember Hale thanked staff for response to the issue. Noted HDL Engineering Consultants, LLC does have a plan. Spoke to closing out ice roads to make sure it doesn't cause flooding issues.

Assemblymember Sumner request a written plan on what the Borough is going to do before spring.

Assemblymember Leonard noted his thoughts and prayers are with the people in the Willow Creek area. Spoke to his appreciation of staff and there community coming together. Noted the temporary solutions that are going forward. Requested Mr. Moosey to have a written plan for the Assembly at the January 7 meeting. Thanked Assemblymember Boeve for her support to her constituents.

Assemblymember Mayfield noted his trust in staff and troopers with handling immediate needs of residents. Noted the Assembly is a political body and not here to second guess staff. Spoke to needing a more detailed plan before breakup. Thanked Emergency Services, Operations and Maintenance, Development Services, and HDL Engineering Consultants, LLC for the work they have done. Recognized Assemblymember Boeve for her diligence.

Assemblymember Boeve thanked the Willow Community for again stepping up and being proud of where they live. Spoke regret for this happening during the holidays. Thanked the staff who have worked on this issue and she cannot say enough about the Dive Team, Emergency Medical Services, Alaska State Troopers and Mat-Su Animal Care for their compassion and working under adverse conditions. Advised that she was not pleased with how this meeting was scheduled. Noted that the Assembly Members who called the meeting did not contact her.

Mayor Halter spoke to an article in the Anchorage Daily News that the Deneki Bridge would be closed until spring. Noted this is not the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's intention. Spoke to the flow of Willow Creek. Stated he was glad that staff had taken the steps they are taking. Spoke to Deneki and Shirley Towne Bridge issues. Noted he was pleased with the Borough's response. Stated that hearts go out to the residents. Advised that there has been seven press releases that were very detailed informing

citizens.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

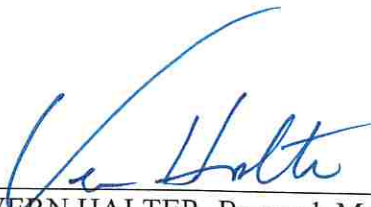


Mayoral Signature and Clerk Attestment

For

December 28, 2019, Assembly Special Meeting Minutes

(5 pages)

  
VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

  
LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk

Minutes Approved: 02/04/20