

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



BOROUGH ASSEMBLY

Jim Sykes, District 1

Matthew Beck, District 2

George McKee, District 3

Steve Colligan, District 4

Dan Mayfield, District 5

Barbara J. Doty, District 6

Randall Kowalke, District 7

MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2017

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, August 15, 2017, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Presiding Officer Kowalke.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Assemblymember Jim Sykes, Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Steve Colligan, Assemblymember Dan Mayfield, Assemblymember Barbara J. Doty, and Assemblymember Randall Kowalke

Excused: 1 - Assemblymember Matthew Beck

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Presiding Officer Kowalke queried if there were any changes to the agenda.

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Patricia Fisher, a member of the audience.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

[17-050](#)

1. Special Assembly Meeting: 08/01/17
2. Regular Assembly Meeting: 08/01/17

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Presiding Officer Kowalke queried if there were any changes to the minutes.

Assemblymember Sykes moved to amend the August 1, 2017, regular meeting minutes, page 6 of 16, prior to Assemblymember Colligan's motion to postpone indefinitely, by inserting the following language: "Assemblymember Sykes suggested postponement to a time certain instead." The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke
Presiding Officer Kowalke queried if there was any objection to the minutes as amended. The minutes were approved as amended by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

VI. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

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

1. Reports From Cities

Presiding Officer Kowalke read comments from Wasilla City Mayor Bert Cottle, in which he requested that the Assembly postpone Ordinance Serial No. 17-099, until after the City has had an opportunity to conduct a meeting on the subject.

Mr. Nathan Wallace, Palmer City Manager, reported on the activities of the city.

2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

Dr. Monica Goyette, School District Superintendent, reported on student enrollment.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee On School Issues

There was no report provided.

2. Assembly Public Relations

There was no report provided.

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

1. State/Federal Legislation

2. Strategic Planning Issues

There was no report provided.

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos reported on the Court's decision to dismiss the Marijuana Ballot Initiative lawsuit.

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie noted that the Election Brochure is attached to the Clerk's report and queried if the Assembly had any changes.

There were no changes noted.

Ms. McKechnie advised that there had been a request to schedule a joint meeting with the Alaska State Legislative Delegation on November 1, 2017, at 10 a.m. and queried if this was a meeting the body would like to schedule.

There was no objection noted.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

[17-049](#)

1. Caswell FSA Board Of Supervisors: 05/10/17
2. Greater Palmer Consolidated FSA Board Of Supervisors: 02/28/17
3. Platting Board: 06/15/17
4. Transportation Advisory Board: 06/21/17
5. Louise/Susitna/Tyone Community Association: 01/21/17
6. Trapper Creek Community Council: 06/15/17

Sponsors: Borough Manager

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

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

There were no informational memorandums presented.

VII. SPECIAL ORDERS

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

(Requires 11 Days Advance Notice And Must Otherwise Be In Compliance With The Necessary Code Requirements. If No Advance Notice Is Given, Persons Wishing To Speak May Do So Under The Audience Participation Section Of The Agenda.)

There were no persons to be heard.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)

[OR 17-099](#)

An Ordinance Adopting MSB 3.80, To Establish A Program Designed To Reduce The Use Of Plastic Bags By Imposing An Excise Tax For Plastic Carryout Bags On Large Retailers.

Sponsors: Doty

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Presiding Officer Kowalke opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 17-099: Ms. Patricia Fisher, Ms. Liz Jackson, Ms. Mary Wilson, Mr. Robert Wallace, Ms. Pam Hyuck, Ms. Lynn Fuller, Ms. Suzanne Hayes, Ms. Diana Ramstad, Ms. Penny Rigsby, Ms. Bonnie Dinkel, Ms. Frankie Barker, Ms. Diana Zitmanis, Ms. Samantha Langfeld, Ms. Molly Boyer, Ms. Carol Montgomery, Ms. Helen Woodings, Ms. Victoria Stone, Mr. Thomas Buckley, Ms. Nancy Kent, and Ms. Kristina Kurpius.

The following persons spoke in opposition to Ordinance Serial No. 17-099: Mr. Brian Endel, Mr. Steve St. Clair, Ms. Abby St. Clair, Mr. Lief Jensen, Mr. Garvin Bucharia, Mr. Wayne Hatch, Mr. Robert Friesen, Mr. Charles Miller, Ms. Helen Munoz, Mr. Pio Cottini, and Ms. Amy Henry.

The following person spoke to concerns that the tax does not apply to all retailers who provide plastic bags: Ms. Noel Bell.

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

The meeting recessed at 7:53 p.m. and reconvened at 8:02 p.m.

Assemblymember Doty moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 17-099.

Assemblymember McKee moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 17-099 indefinitely. The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 1 - Assemblymember McKee

No: 5 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

Assemblymember Colligan moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 17-099, to a time certain of December 5, 2017. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember McKee,
Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, and
Assemblymember Kowalke

No: 1 - Assemblymember Doty

OR 17-100

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$40,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Health And Social Services Grant Program, To Fund 425, Project No. 45284, For Supplies, Equipment, And Personnel Costs To Allow For The Implementation And Management Of Points Of Dispensing.

RS 17-056: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Alaska State Department Of Health And Social Services Grant, Fund 425, Project No. 45284, For Supplies, Equipment, And Personnel Costs To Allow For The Implementation And Management Of Points Of Dispensing.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Presiding Officer Kowalke opened the public hearing.

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

Assemblymember Colligan moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 17-100 and Resolution Serial No. 17-056. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember McKee,
Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield,
Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

[OR 17-101](#)

An Ordinance Approving The Loan Offer From The Alaska State Department Of Environmental Conservation, Clean Water Fund, Loan No. 561071, And Authorize The Manager To Incur Debt In The Principle Amount Of \$7,000,000, Accept And Appropriate The Loan Proceeds To The Solid Waste Enterprise Fund 420, Project No. 25055, For The Management, Design And Construction Of Central Landfill, Cell 4 With Associated Infrastructure.

RS 17-057: A Resolution Adopting The Scope Of Work And Budget In The Amount Of \$7,000,000 For The Management, Design, Construction And Related Infrastructure For A New Landfill Lined Cell Known As Cell 4, Project No. 25055.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Presiding Officer Kowalke opened the public hearing.

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

Assemblymember Colligan moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 17-101 and Resolution Serial No. 17-057. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

[OR 17-102](#)

An Ordinance Adopting The Five-Year Timber Harvest Schedule Per MSB 23.20.090.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Presiding Officer Kowalke opened the public hearing.

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

Assemblymember Colligan moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 17-102. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

[OR 17-104](#)

An Ordinance Reappropriating \$507,000 From The Mat-Su Career And Technical High School Addition Capital Project No. 40190, Fund 400, To The Houston And Palmer Middle School Locker Replacement Capital Project No. 40195, Fund 400, And To Amend Scope Of Work To Include Palmer High School Locker Replacement.

RS 17-058: A Resolution Reappropriating \$507,000 From The Mat-Su Career And Technical High School Addition Capital Project No. 40190, Fund 400, To The Houston And Palmer Middle School Locker Replacement Capital Project No. 40195, Fund 400, And To Amend Scope Of Work To Include Palmer High School Locker Replacement.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Presiding Officer Kowalke opened the public hearing.

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

Assemblymember Colligan moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 17-104 and Resolution Serial No. 17-058. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

[OR 17-105](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$284,270 From The Alaska State Department Of Health And Social Services, To Fund 475, Project No. 20392, For The Human Services Community Matching Grant.

RS 17-059: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Participation In The Human Services Community Matching Grant Program.

RS 17-060: A Resolution Allocating Human Services Community Matching Grant Funds To Non-Profit Human Service Agencies Within The Community And Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into Grant Agreements With The Sub-Grantee Agencies.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Presiding Officer Kowalke opened the public hearing.

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

Assemblymember Colligan moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 17-105 and Resolution Serial Nos. 17-059 and 17-060. The motion passed by the following vote.

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person.)

The following person spoke to the need for a regional wastewater septage treatment facility: Ms. Helen Munoz.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

[RS 17-061](#) A Resolution Approving The Amended Scope Of Work For Project No. 30092, Purchase Of Asphalt Processor/Reclaimer, To Include The Purchase Of A Tilt Utility Trailer And Accessories For The Tilt Utility Trailer, Project No. 30092.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

[RS 17-066](#) A Resolution Encouraging Congress To Create A Reliable And Predictable Stream Of Resources To Address Deferred Maintenance Needs In America's National Park System.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

[AM 17-072](#) Approval Of Election Officials For The October 3, 2017, Regular Borough Election.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

[AM 17-081](#) Award Of Contract No. 18-023C To Braun Northwest, Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$605,212 To Remount And Refurbish Four Ambulances.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

[AM 17-083](#) Approval Of Change Order No. 1 To Contract No. 17-041P With Burns & McDonnell Engineering Company Inc. In The Amount Of \$59,600 For The Borough Solid Waste Business Roadmap/Study, Project No. 25002.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

[AM 17-084](#) Award Of Bid No. 18-010B To Valley General Construction, LLC. In The Contract Amount Of \$107,723.50 For Yentna Drive Upgrade.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

[AM 17-085](#) Award Of Bid No. 18-009B To Valley General Construction, LLC.
In The Contract Amount Of \$191,995.60 To Reconstruct 1,424
Linear Feet Of East Tattler Drive.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Ms. McKechnie read the consent agenda into the record.

**Assemblymember Colligan moved to approve the consent
agenda as read into the record by the Clerk. The motion
passed by the following vote:**

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember McKee,
Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield,
Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

[AM 17-082](#) Award Of Bid No. 18-012B To Earhart Roofing Company Inc., In The
Contract Amount Of \$525,000 For Mat-Su Borough School District
Warehouse Roof Replacement.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

The meeting recess at 8:57 p.m. and reconvened at 9:03 p.m.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember McKee moved to adopt AM 17-082.

**Assemblymember Doty moved to postpone AM 17-082 to a
time certain of September 5, 2017. The motion passed by the
following vote:**

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember McKee,
Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield,
Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

IX. VETO

There were no vetoes presented.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 09/05/17 Assembly Chambers)

[OR 17-088](#) An Ordinance Amending MSB 17.55, Setbacks And Screening Easements; Amending Definitions And Eliminating Unnecessary Language.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

[OR 17-106](#) An Ordinance Approving An Appropriation Of \$120,000 From Fairview Road Service Area No. 14 Fund Balance, Fund 271, To Fund 410, Project No. 30037, For Fairview Road Service Area No. 14 Capital Projects.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

[OR 17-107](#) An Ordinance Approving An Appropriation Of \$170,000 From Knik Road Service Area No. 17 Fund Balance, Fund 274, To Fund 410, Project No. 30040, For Knik Road Service Area No. 17 Capital Projects.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

[OR 17-108](#) An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$19,200 From The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management For The Borough Local Emergency Planning Committee, Fund 480, Project No. 20259, For Fiscal Year 2018 Operations.

RS 17-063: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management Grant, Project No. 20259, Fund 480, For The Borough Local Emergency Planning Committee.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Colligan moved

No objection.

[OR 17-110](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$6,558.16 From The Mat-Su Trails And Parks Foundation, To Fund 440, Project No. 15015, For The Acquisition Of Materials To Be Used In Constructing Trail Improvements Which Will Provide Long-Term Improvements On The West Butte Trail.

RS 17-065: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The West Butte Trail.

Sponsors: Borough Manager

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Colligan moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearings for September 5, 2017. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

[17-048](#)

08/15/17 - Vacancy Report

Sponsors: Halter

Emergency Medical Services Board

Rebecca Frey, resignation

Roger Swingle, removal

Thomas Check

Mindy Bickle, resignation

Platting Board

Gregory Pugh, resignation from Alternate No. 2

Gregory Pugh

Assemblymember Colligan moved to confirm the appointments and resignations requested by the Mayor.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Colligan, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Doty, and Assemblymember Kowalke

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 Doty thanked the public for their testimony. Spoke in support of the public process. Stated that she is excited to have further discussions regarding the plastic bag ordinance.

Assemblymember Colligan opined that it was an interesting meeting. Noted that there are several sides to the plastic bag issue. Stated that he is looking forward to the results of the city of Wasilla having their discussion regarding plastic bags. Spoke in opposition of taxing the public.

Ms. McKechnie reported on the steps that are being taken to notify voters that there will be some precincts that have nothing to vote on, due to the fact that there are no areawide questions on the Borough ballot this year. Stated that those voters will be receiving a notice from the Clerk's Office and that there is also advertising that is occurring.

Mr. Spiropoulos thanked the body for a good meeting.

Assemblymember McKee spoke to his concerns with not being able to hear some of the testimony provided by the public.

Assemblymember Sykes opined that it is an interesting concept that if a buyer does not use a plastic bag at the grocery store, that they would not have to pay bag tax. Spoke to the ribbon cutting for West Butte Trailhead. Thanked the body for the meeting.

Assemblymember Mayfield thanked Assemblymember Doty for bringing the plastic bag ordinance forward. Related that although he does not agree with the tax, that he appreciates the discussion of how to reduce plastic bag waste. Spoke to the need to engage the public in recycling. Opined that there was a lot of good discussion this evening.

Deputy Manager Hayes advised that the Assembly will have answers to questions on AM 17-082 prior to the next meeting.

Presiding Officer Kowalke thanked the body for the privilege of being Chair. Stated that he hopes that the job he did as Chair meets the satisfaction of the body.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.