

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

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 REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, September 17, 2019, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Vern Halter.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Assemblymember Jim Sykes, Assemblymember Matthew Beck, Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Ted Leonard, Assemblymember Dan Mayfield, Assemblymember Jesse Sumner, and Assemblymember Tam Boeve

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

The agenda was approved as presented.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mayor Bert Cottle, city of Wasilla.

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

Mayor Bert Cottle, city of Wasilla, reported on the activities of the city.

2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

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

Assemblymember Mayfield reported on attending the ribbon cutting ceremonies for Station 6-2 and the Settler's Bay Coastal Park.

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

1. State/Federal Legislation

2. Strategic Planning Issues

Mr. Ken Barkley, Department of Emergency Services Director and Ms. Stephanie Bishop, Emergency Operations Center Responder, reported on the status of the McKinley and Deshka Fires.

3. Governor Dunleavy's Office Update

Mr. Todd Smolden, Director of Governor Dunleavy's Mat-Su Office, reported on the activities of the State Legislature.

4. Police Task Force Update

Mr. George Hays, Deputy Borough Manager, reported on the activities of the Police Task Force.

Mr. Moosey noted that the Borough received a certificate of appreciation from the residents of the Williwaw Subdivision. Related that Point MacKenzie Road is in dire need of repairs as it is a serious safety issue and was damaged in the earthquake. Advised that the Borough is seeking contracts in order to get it repaired prior to winter.

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos stated that he reviewed the Plat for the Finger Lake Subdivision with Mr. Alex Strawn, Development Services Manager. Stated that this is a subdivision in which residents have concerns with a commercial building being constructed. Noted that there are covenants on the plat but that the Borough does not enforce covenants.

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule. Noted that the draft of the election brochure is included with the Clerk's Report. Inquired if the Assembly had any changes.

Mayor Halter asked if there was any objection to the election brochure as presented.

There was no objection noted.

Ms. McKechnie advised that the cities are having their election on October 1, which is the same day as an Assembly meeting. Noted that Chambers will be divided in half that day.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

[19-128](#)

1. Library Board: 01/19/19, 02/16/19, 03/16/19, 04/20/19, Resolution No. 19-01

2. Office of Administrative Hearings: Final Decision OAH 19-01

3. Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board: 05/22/19, Resolution No. 19-05

4. Platting Board: 07/18/19

The citizen and other correspondence were presented. Assemblymember Mayfield commented on the timeliness of the Library Board resolution.

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.)

There were no persons to be heard.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)

[OR 19-106](#)

An Ordinance Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into A Long-Term Lease With The Alaska State Department Of Transportation And Public Facilities On State Owned Land For The Lake Louise Recreational Site For The Operations And Maintenance Of A Parking Area And Boat Launch Facilities (MSB007509).

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

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

Assemblymember Sykes moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 19-106. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

[OR 19-107](#)

An Ordinance Reappropriating \$20,000 From Administration Operating Budget Fund 200, To Fund 480, Project No. 47021 Board Of Fisheries.

RS 19-079: A Resolution Approving The Amended Scope Of Work And Budget For The Board Of Fisheries Project No. 47021 And Approving The Amended Budget For Project No. 47520.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

There being on one present who wished to testify, the public hearing closed and discussion moved to the Assembly.

Assemblymember Beck moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 19-107 and Resolution Serial No. 19-079. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve

No: 2 - Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Sumner

OR 19-108

An Ordinance Amending MSB 3.08.342(J), Findings And Decision, To Change The Date The Hearing Officer's Decision Is Due, From Calendar Days To Business Days.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke to concerns with the public process: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

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

Assemblymember Beck moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 19-108. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

OR 19-109

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$4,200,000 In Insurance Proceeds To Fund 445, Project No. 55026, School Infrastructure; And Reappropriating \$5,000,000 From Fund 445, Project No. 55027, Borough Infrastructure, To Fund 445, Project No. 55026, School Infrastructure.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke to concerns with the public process: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

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

Assemblymember Beck moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 19-109. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person.)

The meeting recessed at 7:19 p.m. and reconvened at 7:27 p.m.

The following persons spoke to concerns with commercial development in Finger Lake Subdivision: Ms. Vicki Wintz, Mr. David Wintz, Mr. Gary Kuhn, Ms. Brenda Kuhn, Mr. Tony Paden, Mr. Terry Cosgrove, Mr. Dan Roche, Ms. Ruth Pechota, Mr. Carol Christiansen, and Ms. Amy Hansen.

The following persons spoke in support of Resolution Serial No. 19-083: Ms. Amy Hansen, Mr. Norm Stout, Ms. Bev Cutler, Mr. Mark Troutman, Mr. Dave Musgrave, Mr. Rob Wells, Ms. Mia Kirk, Ms. Dawn Anthony,

The following person spoke in opposition of Resolution Serial No. 19-083: Mr. Mike Coons, Mr. David Young, Mr. Mike Alexander, Mr. Nick Brockett, Mr. Brian Endle, Mr. Neil Moss, Mr. Mike Kelly, Mr. Earl Lackey, and Mr. John James.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

[AM 19-103](#) Award of Bid No. 20-029B to Western Construction & Equipment, LLC. In The Contract Amount Of \$129,697 For Penny Lane and Rush Circle Improvements.

[AM 19-104](#) Authorization To Purchase From National Auto Fleet Group For The Amount Of \$164,150, A Waste Container Hauling Roll Off Truck For The Central Landfill.

[AM 19-105](#) Approve Matanuska Electric Association To Perform An Electrical Upgrade In The Amount Of \$343,555 For Conversion Of Existing Single-Phase Distribution Circuit To Three-Phase Power, As Part Of The Talkeetna Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project.
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

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

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

[RS 19-083](#) A Resolution Requesting That Staff Develop A Conditional Use Permit Process For Commercial, Educational, And Nonprofit Outdoor Shooting Facilities.

Sponsors: Boeve

Assemblymember Sumner moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 19-083.

Assemblymember Sumner moved to postpone Resolution Serial No. 19-083 indefinitely.

Assemblymember McKee called for the question (to stop debate). The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

The motion to postpone failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, and Assemblymember Sumner

No: 4 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve

Assemblymember Sykes moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 19-083, by inserting after the word process the following language: "with input from a citizen working group from the shooting community and those concerned about safety" to read: "NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Assembly requests that staff develop a conditional use permit process with input from a citizen working group from the shooting community and those concerned about safety for commercial, educational, and nonprofit outdoor shooting facilities to be reviewed by the Planning Commission and adopted by the Assembly."

The primary amendment failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, and Assemblymember Mayfield

No: 4 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

The main motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve

No: 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, and Assemblymember Sumner

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

IX. VETO

There were no vetoes presented.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 10/01/19 Assembly Chambers)

[OR 19-110](#) An Ordinance Amending MSB 3.15.075(C), Tax Adjustment, To Amend The Deadline For Filing An Application For Tax Adjustments On Property Affected By The Fire.

Sponsors: Boeve

[OR 19-111](#) An Ordinance Amending MSB 4.48.030, Local Road Service Area Advisory Board - Organization; Meetings, To Amend Quorum Requirements.

Sponsors: Beck

[OR 19-113](#) An Ordinance Approving An Appropriation Of \$28,751 From The Greater Palmer Consolidated Fire Service Area Fund Balance, Fund 259, To Project No. 45215, Fund 405, To Allow The Greater Palmer Consolidated Fire Service Area To Purchase A Lion Attack Digital Fire Training System.

RS 19-080: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Project No. 45215, Fund 405, To Allow The Greater Palmer Consolidated Fire Service Area To Purchase A Lion Attack Digital Fire Training System.

[OR 19-115](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$289,311 From The Alaska State Department Of Health And Social Services, To Fund 475, Project No. 20397 For The Human Services Community Matching Grant.

RS 19-081: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Participation In The Human Services Community Matching Grant Program.

RS 19-082: 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 Agreement With The Sub-Grantee Agencies.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Beck moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearings for October 1, 2019.

Assemblymember Sumner moved to divide the question to take up the introduction of Ordinance Serial No. 19-115, separately. The motion to divide the question failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, and Assemblymember Sumner

No: 4 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve

The main motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve

No: 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, and Assemblymember Sumner

B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

Animal Care and Regulation Board

Georgia Knazovich

Knik RSA No. 17

Dan Huttunen, resignation

Talkeetna Sewer & Water Service Area No. 36

James Kellard

Assemblymember Beck moved to confirm the appointments and resignations requested by the Mayor. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

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.

XII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Sykes spoke to the need for zoning in the Borough. Opined that residents can self-zone. Opined that there is something that can be done for Finger Lake Subdivision and shooting ranges.

Assemblymember Sykes moved to direct the Manager to have staff bring forward the details of the grant to the Assembly, that is associated with Ordinance Serial No. 19-115. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

Assemblymember McKee spoke to successful shooting ranges that are located in neighborhoods. Opined that it is not outlandish for staff to figure out what other areas have done and provide that information to the Assembly. Spoke to the importance of ensuring the public receives the information they need. Noted that zoning can be a double edged sword. Thanked the body for the meeting.

Assemblymember Sumner noted that good builders would not build in opposition of covenants. Opined that it is insane to construct anything that would be in violation of covenants.

Assemblymember Leonard thanked Mr. Barkley for hosting the grand opening of Station 6-2. Noted that the building is very impressive. Stated that the thing he noticed the most is how young most of the firefighters are. Stated that he enjoyed the event immensely.

Mayor Halter added that during the grand opening celebration that cars driving by on Knik Goose Bay would honk their horns.

Assemblymember Boeve thanked the participants of the informational open house for McKinley fire residents. Stated that she appreciated their involvement.

Assemblymember Mayfield spoke in support of creating a reasonable process for shooting ranges. Noted that anything that has something to do with firearms is highly politically charged. Stated that the Borough has no authority to regulate private ranges.

Mayor Halter stated that it was a good meeting and it is good to discuss the sensitive issues. Stated that it will require a lot of work and careful consideration to address shooting ranges.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.