

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

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



## MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

6:00 PM

WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 2019

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Wednesday, July 3, 2019, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Deputy Mayor Matthew Beck.

### II. ROLL CALL

**Present:** 5 - Assemblymember Jim Sykes, Assemblymember Matthew Beck, Assemblymember Ted Leonard, Assemblymember Dan Mayfield, and Assemblymember Tam Boeve

**Excused:** 2 - Assemblymember George McKee, and Mayor Vern Halter

**Telephonic:** 1 - Assemblymember Jesse Sumner

### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Deputy Mayor Beck queried if there was any objection to having the Manager provide an update regarding the Montana Creek Fire.

There was no objection noted.

The agenda was approved as amended without objection.

### IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the members of the audience.

## V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following persons spoke in opposition to the body scheduling a last minute meeting the day before a major holiday and the lack of information of what the meeting is about: Ms. Terry Snyder, Ms. Patti Fisher, and Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

The following person spoke in support of the State Legislative Delegation conducting their business in Wasilla: Ms. Janet Johnson.

The following person thanked the Assembly for having the special meeting and spoke in support of the State Legislative Delegation conducting their business in Wasilla: Ms. Carolyn Porter.

## VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Ms. Moosey reported on fire evacuation locations for those residents impacted by the Montana Creek Fire, the status of containment, and current fire bans in place.

### A. Discussion Regarding Legislative Session Location

Assemblymember Sumner reported on the research he has done regarding the State Legislative Delegation's choice of session location.

**Deputy Mayor Beck noted that Mr. Spiropoulos has a presentation and inquired if the body would have any objection to hearing it. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, Assemblymember Leonard, and Assemblymember Sumner

**No:** 2 - Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve

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Mr. Spiropoulos reported on State Statute regarding the location of a special legislative session.

Representatives Colleen Sullivan-Leonard and David Eastman spoke in support of the State Legislative Delegation meeting in Wasilla.

**Deputy Mayor Beck queried if there was any objection to continue on to the next agenda item. The motion passed by the following vote:**

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

**No:** 2 - Assemblymember Leonard, and Assemblymember Sumner

## **B. Discussion Regarding Potential Port Projects**

The meeting recessed at 6:27 p.m. and reconvened at 6:35 p.m.

Mr. Moosey provided an update regarding the Alberta to Alaska (A2A) Railroad Extension project.

**Assemblymember Mayfield moved to reaffirm the authority of the Manager to evaluate any contract that is before him, to determine if it is in the best interests of the Borough.**

**Assemblymember Sykes moved a primary amendment to go through the regular process with Land Management and that Attorney be involved and the Assembly advised. The motion failed (tie vote) by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 3 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck, and  
Assemblymember Boeve

**No:** 3 - Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield,  
and Assemblymember Sumner

**Assemblymember Leonard moved a primary amendment to include the words "contracts and project development."**

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

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck,  
Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield,  
Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

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

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Sykes, Assemblymember Beck,  
Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield,  
Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

## **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Deputy Mayor Beck inquired if there was any objection to conducting a second audience participation.

There was no objection noted.

The following person spoke to the need for the Assembly to make decisions on contracts and to concerns with the Assembly taking action this evening: Ms. Elizabeth Maxson.

The following person spoke to concerns with the public process and the lack of information provided to the public: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

## **VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session conducted.

## VIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Mr. Spiropoulos stated that if the body had any questions regarding any topics discussed this evening, to please let him know. Noted that the legislature has the power to call themselves into special session. Related for that to happen, it requires 40 votes. Spoke to the environmental impact statement (EIS) that has come out regarding Port MacKenzie. Noted the direction provided to the Manager does spill over into the Law Department. Spoke to how he intends to handle special projects or contracts brought to him by the Manager.

Mr. Moosey thanked the body for clarifying how they wanted him to move forward on projects. Advised that the Montanan Creek Fire is now estimated at 300 acres.

Ms. McKechnie advised that she had hired a Deputy Clerk, Ms. Kelly Johnson, who comes with a lot of election experience.

Assemblymember Sumner noted that he felt the Assembly had somewhat paralyzed the Manager by their budgetary actions. Spoke to the importance of not ignoring potential projects.

Assemblymember Sykes summarized the history of the Port MacKenzie issue regarding the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Spoke to the possibility of conducting future studies regarding the shoal at Port MacKenzie. Thanked the body for the meeting.

Assemblymember Leonard wished the body happy July 4th. Thanked all military members for their service. Stressed that the Assembly did not approve or take any direction on any project. Noted that it was just to clarify to the Manager that he has the authority to move forward with bringing projects to the Assembly. Thanked Mr. Spiropoulos for the presentation regarding the special session location.

Assemblymember Boeve spoke in appreciation of the information received. Spoke in opposition to the date of the special meeting. Noted that her thoughts are with the northern communities during this time.

Assemblymember Mayfield spoke to the difficulty of trying to attend the meeting this evening. Questioned the necessity of the meeting being called on such short notice. Opined that it could have been done at a later date. Requested that unless it is an emergency, to please do not call a meeting on such short notice unless it is an emergency or there is actual business. Wished the body a safe and happy Independence Day.

Assemblymember Leonard thanked the fire fighters who are putting their lives on the line.

Deputy Mayor Beck opined that meeting should have been July 2. Spoke in support of the possibility of a timber harvest deal with Korean investors. Thanked staff for their hard work and meeting support.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.