

# 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

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 REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2020

## I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, January 7, 2020, 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:** 5 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Dan Mayfield, Assemblymember Jesse Sumner, and Assemblymember Tam Boeve

**Excused:** 1 - Assemblymember Ted Leonard

**Telephonic:** 1 - Assemblymember Tim Hale

## III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Halter 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 Mr. Thomas Bergey,  
Matanuska-Susitna Borough School Board President.

## V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

[20-003](#)

A. Regular Meeting Minutes: 12/03/19

B. Regular Meeting Minutes: 12/17/19

Mayor Halter queried if there were any changes to the minutes being presented.

The minutes were approved as presented.

## **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**

Mr. Mayor spoke to the letter he wrote to the School Board regarding Houston Middle School construction funds.

### **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. A Memorandum Of Agreement Between Alaska State Department Of Natural Resources, Division Of Parks & Outdoor Recreation And Matanuska Susitna Borough.**

[20-002](#)

A Memorandum Of Agreement Between State Of Alaska And Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

Mr. Moosey to the Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

Terry Dolan, Public Works Director, provided an update regarding the Willow Creek flooding. Spoke to plans and cost of removing ice block and returning the water back into the Creek.

Mr. Moosey spoke to a contract with PND Engineers, Inc., to provide options for the Shirley Towne Bridge. Noted he would like the Assembly's approval to remove the ice on Willow Creek. Advised that 3 permits are required from the State. Noted that he has not signed the permit with the Department of Natural Resources, as it requires to be indemnified. Stated that the Borough will use funds received through a river management grant, which will relieve the burden on the road service area.

Mr. Aschenbrenner provided summary on state policy on navigable waterways. Noted State owns the waterway in the area where the flood is occurring. Explained States indemnification clause.

**Assemblymember Mayfield moved to approve the Manager's plan on removing the ice from Willow Creek and to sign the permit with the Department of Natural Resources.**

**Mayor Halter queried if there was any objection.**

**There was no objection noted.**

## **2. Possible Extension Of Disaster Declaration For Willow Creek Area**

**Assemblymember Mayfield moved to extend the disaster declaration to 1/21/20.**

**Mayor Halter queried if there was any objection.**

**There was no objection noted.**

## **3. Census Bureau Recruitment**

Ms. Mable Quillium spoke to the need for employees for the 2020 census in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and requested the Assembly help in recruiting.

## **4. State/Federal Legislation**

## **5. Strategic Planning Issues**

There were no strategic planning issues presented.

#### **D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

There was no comments provided.

#### **E. CLERK COMMENTS**

Ms. McKechnie reported on the upcoming meeting schedule.

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

##### 20-008

1. Agriculture Advisory Board: 10/16/19
2. Aviation Advisory Board: Resolution No. 19-01
3. Butte FSA No. 2 Board Of Supervisors: 11/21/19
4. Central Mat-Su FSA No. 130 Board Of Supervisors: 11/04/19
5. Enhanced 911 Advisory Board: 11/12/19
6. Historical Preservation Commission: Resolution No. 19-01, 19-02
7. Library Board: 10/19/19
8. MSB Fish And Wildlife Commission: 11/21/19
9. Parks, Recreation, And Trails Advisory: 10/28/19, Resolution No. 19-06, 19-07
10. Planning Commission: 11/18/19
11. Platting Board: 11/07/19
12. Port Commission: 10/21/19
13. Transportation Advisory Board: 06/27/19, 07/18/19
14. West Lakes FSA No. 136 Board of Supervisors: 11/11/19
15. Wastewater And Septage Advisory Board: 08/08/19, 10/10/19
16. Fishhook Community Council: 07/18/19
17. Glacier View Community Council: 09/26/19, 10/24/19
18. Knik-Fairview Community Council: 06/19/19, 07/17/19, 08/07/19, 09/18/19, 10/16/19, 11/06/19
19. Point Mackenzie Community Council: 04/11/19
20. Susitna Community Council: 11/07/19
21. Talkeetna Community Council: 11/04/19, 11/25/19
22. Trapper Creek Community Council: 10/17/19

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

#### **G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS**

##### IM 20-003

Reporting Of Conclusion Of Contract For Bid No. 18-107B To Jim Psenak Constuction LLC, For Cormorant Way And Phalarope Drive Improvements.

**Reporting Of Conclusion Of Contract For Bid No. 19-071B To Hybrid Construction Alaska, LLC, For Nelson Pathway.**

The informational memorandums were presented.

**VII. SPECIAL ORDERS**

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

There were no person's to be heard.

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

The meeting recessed at 7:03 p.m. and reconvened at 7:10 p.m.

An Ordinance Approving Dual Land Classification Of Reserved Use And Public Recreation Lands For A Five-Year Period On Borough-Owned Land Identified As Tax Parcel 18N02E33A015 To Allow Palmer Little League Time And Opportunity To Seek Funding For Construction Of An Indoor\_Baseball Facility (MSB007513).

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mr. Moosey provided a staff report.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 20-002: Mr. David Combs, Mr. David Sutton, Ms. Frieda Schoon, Mr. Matt Hartman, Mr. Rob Meyer, Mr. Dixon Hall, Mr. Andre Brown, Ms. Patty Arnold, Mr. Brady Schultz and Greg De Armond.

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

**Assemblymember Nowers moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 20-002. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

[OR 20-001](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake Disaster Relief Monies In The Amount Of \$1,050,943.70 From The Federal Emergency Management Agency And \$350,314.56 From The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management, To Fund 445, Project Nos. 55026 And 55027.

RS 20-001: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For A Portion Of The 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake Disaster Relief Monies, Project Nos. 55026 And 55027.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mr. Moosey provided a staff report.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

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

**Assemblymember Mayfield moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 20-001 and Resolution No. 20-001. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person.)**

There was no audience participation.

**D. CONSENT AGENDA**

**1. RESOLUTIONS**

[RS 20-007](#)

A Resolution Requesting That The State Legislature And The Governor Move Forward With Dispatch In Regards To The Construction Of Improvements To Knik-Goose Bay Road.

**2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS**

[AM 20-001](#)

Authorization To Purchase Two Pumper Tender Fire Apparatus For The Central Mat-Su Fire Department From Pierce Manufacturing, Inc. For The Amount Of \$1,861,999.

[AM 20-003](#)

Award Of Bid 20-042B To Matsu Auto And Fleet Services, LLC To Provide Equipment Maintenance Services For The Solid Waste Division In The Amount Not To Exceed \$152,250.

- [AM 20-004](#) Acceptance Of Late Filed And Retroactive Senior Citizen And Disabled Veteran Tax Exemptions.
- [AM 20-007](#) Award Of Contract 20-086C To Braun Northwest Inc, For Remount And Refurbish One Ambulance In The Contract Amount Of \$169,282.  
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.  
**Assemblymember Mayfield moved to approve the consent agenda as read into the record by the Clerk. The motion passed by the following vote:**
- Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve
- [AM 20-002](#) Authorization To Purchase Fiscal Year 2020 Areawide Computer Replacements From Government Computer Sales Under The National Association Of State Procurement Officials Agreement In The Amount Of \$113,430.  
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.  
**Assembly member Sumner moved to adopt AM 20-002. The motion passed by the following vote:**
- Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve
- [AM 20-005](#) Authorization For The Borough Manager To Enter Into A Memorandum Of Understanding With The State Of Alaska Department Of Transportation And Public Facilities For The Coordination Of State And Borough Transportation And Public Infrastructure Planning.  
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.  
**Assemblymember Sumner moved to postpone AM 20-005 to January 21, 2020. The motion passed by the following vote:**
- Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

## VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no unfinished business presented.

## IX. VETO

There were no vetoes presented.

## X. NEW BUSINESS

### A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 01/21/20, Assembly Chambers)

[OR 20-003](#) An Ordinance Approving A Restriction Within The Plumley-Maud Multi-Use Trail Easement To Prohibit Highway Vehicles Use In Order To Protect The Rehabilitated Trail Surface And Maintain Trail Integrity In The Future.

[OR 20-004](#) An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$100,000 From The State Of Alaska Department Of Transportation And Public Facilities To Fund 480, Project No. 47038, Regional Transportation Organization For The Performance Of Pre-Metropolitan Planning Organization Planning Efforts.

RS 20-002: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget, And Authorizing The Borough Manager To Enter Into A Memorandum Of Agreement For The Performance Of Pre-Metropolitan Planning Organization Planning Efforts.

[OR 20-005](#) An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$840,000 From The State Of Alaska Department Of Transportation And Public Facilities To Fund 480, Project No. 47038, Regional Transportation Organization For The Performance Of Arterial Related Planning Activities.

RS 20-003: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget, And Authorizing The Borough Manager To Enter Into A Memorandum Of Agreement For The Performance Of Arterial Related Planning Activities.

[OR 20-006](#) An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$450,000 From The Rasmuson Foundation, To Fund 435, Project No. 10186, The New Willow Library And Community Center Upgrades.

RS 20-004: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Amended Budget For The New Willow Library And Community Center Upgrades.



[OR 20-007](#)

An Ordinance Approving An Appropriation Of 60,000 From The Greater Palmer Consolidated Fire Service Area Fund Balance, Fund 259, To Project Nos. 45155 And 10166, Fund 405, To Allow The Greater Palmer Consolidated Fire Service Area To Expand And Pave The Parking Lot And Driveway At Station 3-2 And Replace The Bay Doors At Station 3-5.

RS 20-005: A Resolution Approving The Scopes Of Work And Budgets For Project Nos. 45155 And 10166, Fund 405, To Allow The Greater Palmer Consolidated Fire Service Area To Expand And Pave The Parking Lot And Driveway At Station 3-2, And Replace The Bay Doors At Station 3-5.

[OR 20-008](#)

An Ordinance Approving A Reappropriation Of Funds From Project No. 45225, Fund 425, To Project No. 45288, Fund 425, For Land Purchase And Civil Prep Work For A New Ambulance Station 3-9.

RS 20-006: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget On Project No. 45288, Fund 425, For Land Purchase And Civil Prep Work For A New Ambulance Station 3-9.

[OR 20-009](#)

An Ordinance Adopting MSB 3.08.225, Competition.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Mayfield moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearings for January 21, 2020. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

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

### **1. VACANCY REPORT**

**Sponsors:**

Halter

Agriculture Advisory Board-Resignation

Margaret Adsit

Aviation Advisory Board

Bernie Willis

Borough Area Schools Site Selection Committee

Patricia Chesbro

Jim Hart

Leslie Berberich

Library Board

Georgia Knazovich

Parks, Recreation, & Trails Advisory Board

Jessica Kelsch

Talkeetna FSA # 24

Christopher Byrd

Talkeetna Sewer & Water Service Area # 36

Jane Steere

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

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**C. OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Motion To Amend Something Previously Adopted**

**a. RS 19-100: A Resolution Approving Fiscal Year 2021 Borough Priorities And Project Funding.**

[RS 19-100](#)

A Resolution Approving Fiscal Year 2021 Borough Priorities And Project Funding.

**Assemblymember Mayfield moved to amendment to Resolution 19-100 by inserting the following as item G under Borough Funding Priorities:**

**G. SHIRLEY TOWNE DRIVE BRIDGE - \$3.2 Million**

**The Shirley Towne Drive Bridge incurred severe damage and the road approach at the north end of the bridge was washed out by flooding in 2012. No bridge replacement or repairs has occurred to-date leaving Deneki Bridge, which is several miles downstream, as the sole means of access. The road access to the Deneki Bridge is within the Willow Creek floodplain and periodically floods throughout the year including winter due to ice-jams. It is imperative to have a second means of access for residents and users of the land on the north side of Willow Creek during natural disasters such as flooding, fire or earthquakes. The replacement or repair of Shirley Towne Drive Bridge would provide this second means of access. The Shirley Towne Drive Bridge replacement or repair project would also provide direct access to North Willer Kash Road and North Jim Carter Road, which are access points for Borough and State timber harvest areas. Funding for this project would provide for design, right-of-way acquisition, utility relocation and construction.**

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

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Mayfield, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

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

There were no referrals.

**XI. RECONSIDERATION**

**A. Motion To Reconsider Reinstating The Alaska Municipal League Membership (Requested By Assemblymember Hale).**

**Motion That The Manager Renew Matanuska Susitna Borough Membership In The Alaska Municipal League Effective As Soon As Possible But No Later Than January 1st, 2020. The Source Of Funding Is To Be Left To The Discretion Of The Manager.**

No motion was presented.

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

Assemblymember Sumner spoke to concerns regarding the wording of AM 20-005.

Assemblymember Nowers spoke of her appreciation of staff for working on the Willow Creek flood. Thanked the staff for their hard work and keeping her updated while she was out of state. Inquired about the second phase of the Glenn Highway project. Requested agenda information prior to strategic session.

Assemblymember Mayfield spoke to having the Little League kids at the meeting. Spoke of prayers to American Service men and women stationed in Iraq.

Mayor Halter thanked the Assembly for approving the letter to the School Board. Spoke to Deniki Bridge and the Willow Creek flood. Spoke to concerns and disappointment in the State of Alaska. Noted the need to go forward on the Shirley Towne Bridge.

**XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

**XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.