

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 21, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, January 21, 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: 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 requested that there be a moment of silence for Roger DeLongchamp, Willow Firefighter who recently passed away.

A moment of silence was observed.

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 Mr. David Lundin, a member of the audience.

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.

3. State Of Alaska

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

4. Mat-Su Convention And Visitor's Bureau

Ms. Bonnie Quill, Mat-Su Convention and Visitor's Bureau Executive Director, reported on the activities of the Bureau.

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

Mr. Moosey reported on the first day's activities of the State Legislature. Spoke to the start of the 2020 Census. Presented an award to Ms. Cheyenne Heindel, from the Alaska Government Finance Officers Association, in recognition of the budget preparation for 2020.

3. Alaska State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Projects Update

Mr. James Amundsen, Alaska State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Chief of Highway Design, reported on the State's current priority infrastructure projects.

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos advised that he is requesting that an executive session be added to the February 4 agenda to discuss the status of several law suits.

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule. Noted that Mayor Halter and Mr. Moosey will be gone on February 18, which has a meeting scheduled for discussion regarding police powers. Suggested March 17, 2020, at 3 p.m. as an alternative.

Mayor Halter queried if there was any objection.

There was no objection noted.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

There was no citizen and other correspondence.

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

[IM 20-016](#)

Reporting Of Conclusion Of Contract For Bid No. 19-076B To Jim Psenak Construction, LLC. For Yoder Dike Repair And Riprap Replacement, For The Final Contract Amount Of \$525,709.73.

[IM 20-017](#)

Reporting Of Conclusion Of Contract For Bid No. 18-112B To Jim Psenak Construction, LLC. For The Reddane Road Extension Project. The informational memorandum was presented and no comments were noted.

VII. SPECIAL ORDERS

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

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)

[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.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mr. George Hodden, Land Management Specialist, provided a staff report.

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 Hale moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 20-003. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

[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.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Ms. Kim Sollien, Planning Services Manager, provided a staff report.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke to concerns with the clarity of language in the legislation: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

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

Assemblymember Mayfield moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 20-004 and Resolution Serial No. 20-002.

Assemblymember Sumner moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 20-004 and Resolution Serial No. 20-002, to a time certain of February 4, 2020. The motion failed by the following vote:

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

No: 4 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve

The main motion passed by the following vote:

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

No: 1 - Assemblymember McKee

[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.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Ms. Kim Sollien, Planning Services Manager, provided a staff report.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

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

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

Assemblymember Mayfield moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 20-005 and Resolution Serial No. 20-003.

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

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

The main motion passed by the following vote:

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

[OR 20-009](#)

An Ordinance Adopting MSB 3.08.225, Competition.

The meeting recessed at 7:36 p.m. and reconvened at 7:42 p.m.

Mayor Halter queried if there was any objection to taking up Ordinance Serial No. 20-009 next.

There was no objection noted.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mr. Moosey provided a staff report.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

The following persons stated that they are opposed to the legislation and that it is too exclusionary: Mr. Charles Kentley, Mr. David Lundeen, Mr. John Hermann, Mr. Gary Wolff, Ms. Joelle Hall, Mr. Chris Whittington-Evans, Mr. Tom Adams, Mr. Colin Fray, Ms. Pam Cline, Mr. Shane Wentz, and Mr. Curtis Nelson.

The following person spoke in support of the legislation: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

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

Assemblymember Mayfield moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 20-009.

Assemblymember Mayfield moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 20-009, indefinitely. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

[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. Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mr. Hugh Leslie, Recreation and Library Services Manager, provided a staff report.

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 Boeve moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 20-006 and Resolution Serial No. 20-004. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

[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.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mr. Ken Barkley, Emergency Services Director, provided a staff report.

Mayor Halter opened the Public Hearing.

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

Assemblymember Hale moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 20-007 and Resolution Serial No. 20-005. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

[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.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mr. Ken Barkley, Emergency Services Director, provided a staff report.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

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

Assemblymember Nowers moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 20-008 and Resolution Serial No. 20-006. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person.)

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

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

[AM 20-008](#) Award Of Proposal No. 20-056P To ECI In The Contract Amount Of \$527,932 To Design The Willow Library Replacement And Community Center Upgrades.

[AM 20-009](#) Award Of Proposal No. 20-001P To Bezek, Durst, Seiser, Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$2,449,313 For The Design Of Houston Middle School Repair And Reconstruction.

Mr. Mayor read the legislation into the record.

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

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

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

[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.

MOTION PENDING: Assemblymember Sumner moved to adopt AM No. 20-005.

Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to AM 20-005, by striking the words "cannot and should not always reduce congestion in the Valley by building more, wider, and faster road facilities" and inserting in its place the words "recognize that there are a variety of options to consider to help reduce congestion in the Valley" to read: "It is acknowledged that the DOT&PF and MSB recognize that there is a variety of options to consider to help reduce congestion in the Valley. Uncertain fiscal times means that financial resources to supply the growing demand for capacity may be difficult to come by and planning best practices suggest a multi-modal approach. This partnership aspires to ensure mobility by better integrating land use, transportation and strategic planning."

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

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

The main motion passed as amended by the following vote:

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

IX. VETO

There were no vetoes presented.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 02/04/20, Assembly Chambers)

[OR 20-010](#) An Ordinance Approving The Less Than Fair Market Value Sale Of Borough Land In The Amount Of Ten Dollars To The Trapper Creek Community Service Association, Inc. For The Purpose Of Owning, Constructing, Managing, And Maintaining A Community Well And Watering Point On Lot 2, Trapper Creek Center II Subdivision (MSB007340).

Sponsors: Boeve

[OR 20-011](#) An Ordinance Amending MSB 17.10.110, Aviation Activity Notice Area, By Adopting The Wasilla Creek Airpark Aviation Activity Notice Area.

[OR 20-012](#) An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake Disaster Relief Monies In The Amount Of \$2,105,126.51 From The Federal Emergency Management Agency; And \$701,708.82 From The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management, To Fund 445, Project Nos. 55026 And 55027.

RS 20-010: 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.

Assemblymember Mayfield moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearings for February 4, 2020. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

[20-012](#)

Appointments and Resignations

Sponsors: Halter

Board of Equalization

Elizabeth Elder

Russell Joyce

Joint Assembly/School Board on School Issues

Thomas Bergey

Local Emergency Planning Committee

Jesse Christensen

Caswell Lakes RSA No. 15

Sheena Fort

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

Yes: 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, 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

Mr. Moosey apologize that his Manager's Report was so lengthy.

Assemblymember McKee thanked Mr. Moosey for his effort in his attempt to address bidding competition concerns. Stated that he would have liked to hear from Borough engineering staff regarding the competition ordinance. Spoke to the need to be fiscally responsible.

Assemblymember Hale thanked Mr. Moosey for bringing forward the competition ordinance. Spoke to the possibility of a working group to address competition concerns. Related that the local jobs that he applied for would have conflicted with Assembly meeting schedules, therefore he did not take them. Stated that he will be doing a three and one rotation schedule and will be calling in to every other meeting. Thanked the body for their support.

Assemblymember Leonard spoke in support of the Willow Library and Community Center project.

Assemblymember Nowers thanked Mr. Terry Dolan for the tour of the landfill that she recently went on. Spoke to the importance of reducing and recycling. Spoke to a meeting with Emergency Medical Services that she attended. Related that there have been 10,000 overdose cases in 2019. Stated that she is looking forward to meeting with the School Board and to the planning session this weekend. Opined that the 2010 Strategic Economic Development Plan should be looked at for ideas to be discussed at the Planning Session.

Assemblymember Mayfield noted that the procurement issue has always been a concern of the Assembly. Stated that he does not blame Mr. Moosey for trying to improve the procurement process. Opined that Ordinance Serial No. 20-009 is Federal procurement regulations on steroids that went way beyond the requirements of the Code of Federal Regulations. Stated that he is glad the body postponed it indefinitely. Congratulated Ms. Heindel and the Finance Department on award they were presented with this evening.

Mayor Halter requested that Mr. Moosey to invite Mr. John Wood to attend next meeting to provide an update on the Fisheries Board meeting that was held in Kodiak. Requested a report on the expenses associated with the Shirley Towne Bridge. Stated that he is looking forward to seeing how the planning session will go.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session conducted.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.