

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, APRIL 21, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, April 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: 6 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Ted Leonard, Assemblymember Dan Mayfield, Assemblymember Jesse Sumner, and Assemblymember Tam Boeve

Telephonic: 1 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. Stefan Hinman, Public Affairs Director.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

- A. Joint Assembly/Planning Commission Meeting Minutes: 03/10/20
- B. Regular Meeting Minutes: 04/07/20
- C. Work Session Minutes: 04/09/20

The minutes were approved as presented without objection.

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 Smoldon, Director of Governor Dunleavy's Mat-Su Office, reported on the status of Governor Dunleavy's budget.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee On School Issues

There was no report provided.

2. Assembly Public Relations

Mayor Halter reported on a telephonic meeting with Governor Dunleavy, Mayor DeVries, Mayor Thompson, and himself. Noted that Governor Dunleavy will be releasing new health mandates that are geared to getting Alaskans back to work. Stated that the Borough will be having a press conference on Wednesday, April 22. Related that Assemblymember Nowers has been putting together a survey on the economic impact of Covid-19.

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

1. State/Federal Legislation

2. Strategic Planning Issues

Governor Dunleavy's Health Mandate No. 014 - Non-Congregate Sheltering Order

Mr. Moosey reported that the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that provides a partnership framework for a phased feasibility analysis of the West Susitna Access. Requested that Assemblymember Nowers provide a report on a survey she has been working on.

Assemblymember Nowers reported on the status of the economic impact survey that she is working on.

Meeting recessed 6:30 p.m. and reconvened at 6:35 p.m.

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos reported on the activities of his office. Reported on the status of hiring a professional search firm to hire a new Borough Manager.

Assemblymember Mayfield moved to waive the standard purchasing procedures and direct the Manager, the Human Resources Director, the Attorney and the Clerk to select a hiring firm. The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve

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

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

[20-082](#)

1. Aviation Advisory Board: 04/10/19
2. Big Lake RSA Board of Supervisors: 10/03/19
3. Central Mat-Su FSA Board of Supervisors: 02/10/20
4. Greater Talkeetna RSA Board of Supervisors: 01/09/20
5. Library Board: Resolution No. 20-01
6. Point MacKenzie Community Council: 12/12/19
7. Platting Board: 12/19/19, 02/06/20
8. Susitna Community Council: 02/06/20
9. West Lakes FSA Board of Supervisors: 02/10/20

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

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

[IM 20-058](#)

Informing The Assembly Of A Memorandum Of Understanding Between The Department Of Emergency Services, Division Of Emergency Management And Mat-Su Senior Services For The Sharing Of Critical Information Or Resources.

[IM 20-070](#)

Informing The Assembly Of The Manager Entering Into An All Cash Purchase Agreement With A Lessee To Purchase By Application The Alaska Division Of Lands, Lease No. 19373, For The Fee Simple Estate Of Borough-Owned Lands.

[IM 20-072](#)

Informing The Assembly Of An Alaska State Department Of Natural Resources, Division Of Mining, Land And Water, Southcentral Regional Land Office, Land Use Permit No. LAS 33183 For The Purpose Of The Installation And Maintenance Of A Borough Floating Dock At The Lake Louise MSB Recreation Site Project Area.

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.)

There were no persons to be heard.

B. ALL PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY AND AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person)

The following person spoke to concerns with the Susitna access road:
Ms. Zoey Fuller.

The following person spoke to concerns with telephonic participation of the public: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

C. LEGISLATION SUBJECT TO TESTIMONY UNDER ITEM B

[OR 20-029](#) An Ordinance To Retain For Public Purpose A Portion Of The Northeast One-Quarter Of The Southwest One-Quarter In Section 11, Township 17 North, Range 2 East, Seward Meridian, Palmer Recording District, Third Judicial District, State Of Alaska And Lot 3, Block 2 Shadowmere Estates Phase I, Plat No. 84-273, Palmer Recording District, Third Judicial District, State Of Alaska, Identified As Borough Tax Parcels 117N02E11C013 And 52874B02L003, Which Were Acquired Through Tax Foreclosure.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Hale moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 20-029. 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 20-031](#) An Ordinance Appropriating \$22,000 From The Reserve For Assembly Project Fund 100.262.980, To The City Of Wasilla To Complete The Veteran's Wall Of Honor.

Sponsors: Halter and Mayfield

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Mayfield moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 20-031. 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 20-032](#)

An Ordinance Approving The Appropriation Of \$68,850 From Project No. 25048-2400-2416, Fund 420; And \$75,000 From Project No. 25048-2400-2417, Fund 420, To Project No. 25048-2400-2414, Fund 420; For An Increased Cost For The Fire Suppression And Ventilation System Repair/Upgrade At The Hazardous Waste Facility/Administrative Office Building At The Central Landfill.

RS 20-028: A Resolution Approving The Amended Scope Of Work To Include All Construction, Equipment , And Required Components To Project No. 25048-2400-2414; And The Amended Budgets For Project Nos. 25048-2400-2414, 25048-2400-2416, And 25048-2400-2417.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Mayfield moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 20-032 and Resolution Serial No. 20-028. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

[RS 20-033](#)

A Resolution Establishing The Minimum Level Of Funding For The Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District From Local Sources For The Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021.

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

[AM 20-022](#)

Award Of Bid No. 20-100B To Western Construction & Equipment, LLC. In The Contract Amount Of \$1,516,753 For 2020 Road Paving.

[AM 20-024](#)

Approval For Matanuska Telephone Association To Perform Utility Relocation In The Contract Amount Of \$294,126.18 For South Midway Street Improvements On Dearborn Drive, Amherst Court, Hornung Road, Paige Circle, Leslie Circle, And Terrace Circle, Project No. 30036.

[AM 20-025](#)

Award Of Bid No. 20-104B To Valley General Construction, LLC. In The Contract Amount Of \$403,199 For South Midway Street Improvements.

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

[AM 20-023](#) Award Of Bid No. 20-101B To Collins Construction, Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$4,004,728 For The Renovation And Addition To Public Safety Building 6-1.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember McKee moved to adopt AM No. 20-023.

The 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

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

IX. VETO

There were no vetoes presented.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTION (For Public Hearing 04/23/20, 04/28/20, 04/30/20, Assembly Chambers)

[OR 20-020](#) An Ordinance Appropriating Monies From The Central Treasury For The Borough Operating Funds, Enterprise Funds, Education Operating Fund And Capital Funds, Establishing The Rate Of Levy For All Borough Functions For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2020 And Ending June 30, 2021; And Setting The Surcharge Rate For The Wireline And Wireless Enhanced 911 Systems For The Period Of July 1, 2020 Through June 30, 2021.

B. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 05/05/20, Assembly Chambers)

[OR 20-033](#) An Ordinance Approving The Fair Market Value Sale Of Borough-Owned Land To The City Of Wasilla Where The Knik-Fairview Territorial School Is Located For Purpose Of Relocation Of The School And Benefit Of The City's Sewage Treatment Facility Expansion.

[OR 20-034](#) An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake Disaster Relief Monies In The Amount Of \$233,138.10 From The Federal Emergency Management Agency; And \$77,712.69 From The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management, To Fund 445, Project No. 55026.

RS 20-032: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For A Portion Of The 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake Disaster Relief Monies, Project No. 55026.

[OR 20-036](#) An Ordinance Approving An Appropriation Of \$35,000 From The Sale Of The Lake Louise Patient Transport Vehicle, To Project No. 45225, Fund 425, Ambulance Replacement/Remount And Refurbish.

RS 20-035: A Resolution Approving The Amended Budget On Project No. 45225, Fund 425, Ambulance Replacement/Remount And Refurbish.

[OR 20-037](#) An Ordinance Approving A Supplemental Appropriation Of \$2,500,000 From The Unrestricted Net Assets In The Solid Waste Enterprise Fund, Fund 510, With \$2,414,500 To Fund 420 Solid Waste Project No. 25056 To Design And Build A Landfill Gas Collection And Flare System And Associated Electrical, Piping, Plumbing And Any Other Equipment And Buildings Required For The Proper Function Of The System And \$85,500 To Budget Line Fund 510.150.401.426.900.

RS 20-036: A Resolution Establishing The Project, Scope Of Work And Budget For A Supplemental Appropriation Of \$2,500,000 From The Unrestricted Net Assets In The Solid Waste Enterprise Fund, Fund 510, With \$2,414,500 To Fund 420 Solid Waste Project 25056 To Design And Build A Landfill Gas Collection And Flare System And Associated Electrical, Piping, Plumbing And Any Other Equipment And Buildings Required For The Proper Function Of The System And \$85,500 To Budget Line Fund 510.150.401.426.900.

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 April 28, 29, 30 and May 5, respectively. The motion passed without objection by the following vote:

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

C. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

There was no vacancy report.

D. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

There was no other new business.

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

There were no referrals presented.

XI. RECONSIDERATION

[AM 20-019](#) Award Of Proposal No. 20-077P To CRW Engineering Group, LLC. In The Contract Amount Of \$146,070 For The Design Of Improvements At The Central Mat-Su Emergency Services Training Complex.
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember McKee moved to reconsider AM No. 20-019.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers,
Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Leonard, and
Assemblymember Sumner

No: 2 - Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve
**Assemblymember McKee moved to adopt AM No. 20-019. The
motion passed by the following vote:**

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

XII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos summarized the process of hiring a professional search firm to assist in the hiring of a new borough manager.

Assemblymember Leonard stated that he hopes everyone is taking appropriate safety precautions. Noted that he is looking forward to opening the economy in a safe manner.

Assemblymember Sumner stated that his is looking forward to moving forward with the Memorandum of Agreement with Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority. Spoke to concerns with the speed with which unemployment is plummeting and how that impacts property tax.

Assemblymember Hale thanked staff for putting the meeting together in a way that the public is able to testify telephonically. Opined that the meeting went much more smoothly than the last. Spoke to his concerns with suspending rules on procurement. Related that was the only reason he opposed the motion to hire a professional search firm. Spoke in support of how Anchorage conducts its telephonic meetings. Stated that he would like to have public hearings on each piece of legislation and not lumped together.

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the intentions for moving forward with telephonic participation for Assembly meetings and having individual public hearings.

Assemblymember McKee opined that now is the time for the Borough to begin looking at options for reduction of property tax for small business. Stated that small business is taking the brunt of the economy due to Governor Dunleavy's health mandates. Opined that small business will be the first to close. Opined that the Borough needs to look at other ways to fund the Borough's budget.

Assemblymember Mayfield noted his agreement with Assemblymember McKee regarding the concern for small business. Noted the need to look at other ways to fund the Borough's budget. Stated that it would be unfortunate to have to delay capital projects which would put folks back to work, should there be no funding for them. Spoke to the possibility of having someone look at the budget to determine where cuts could be made. Thanked the body for the meeting.

Mayor Halter stated that he would like for each member to put together their thoughts about the budget and what ideas you have to make cuts. Spoke to the lack of funding from the State and to concerns of how to replace it. Spoke to concerns with how Covid-19 has impacted his own personal small

business. Related that he knows firsthand what an impact it is having on all small business. Stated that he is looking forward to the results of Assemblymember Nower's survey.

Assemblymember Nowers stated that she appreciates the budget discussion. Stated that she would like to see best and worst case scenarios on budget impacts. Spoke to plummeting oil prices and to concerns with the stock market impact on the permanent fund dividend. Thanked staff for their hard work on trying to make the meeting work. Spoke to the need for more public participation.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.