

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

Michael Brown

BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Nicholas Spiropoulos



BOROUGH ASSEMBLY

Tim Hale, District 1
Stephanie Nowers, District 2
George McKee, District 3
Robert Yundt, District 4
Mokie Tew, 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, OCTOBER 6, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, October 6, 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. Lamar Anderson, a member of the audience.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

There were no minutes presented.

VI. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

A. AGENCY REPORTS (MSB 2.12.082; Seven minutes per person)

1. Reports From Cities

There were no reports provided.

2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

There was no report provided.

3. State of Alaska

Mr. Todd Smoldon, Executive Director of Governor Dunleavy's Mat-Su Office, spoke to number of things that are occurring around the state.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee On School Issues

There was no report provided.

2. Assembly Public Relations

There were no reports provided.

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

1. State/Federal Legislation

2. Strategic Planning Issues

Mr. Russ Krafft, Acting Deputy Borough Manager provided a status report on the possibility of the Borough hosting the Arctic Winter Games.

Mr. Hays stated that he will continue to gather information on funding and bring back more information to the Assembly.

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos advised that the State Courts will be opening up for misdemeanor cases soon and for felony cases in January. Stated that the bulk of the cases that the Borough has are for misdemeanor cases. Advised that if the Assembly has any questions to stop by his office for more information.

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule. Noted that the agendas for both October 13 meetings are attached. Stated that the October 14 agenda for the joint meeting that Anchorage is hosting is also attached but has a typo that says the meeting is on Thursday, but it is actually on Wednesday. Noted that she would reach out to them about that tomorrow. Stated that the joint resolution with the Anchorage Assembly will move forward separately by each body and that the Borough's would be on the November 17, regular meeting agenda.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

20-139

1. Board of Adjustment and Appeals: 06/11/20, Final Decision BOAA 20-02
2. Butte FSA Board of Supervisors: 06/11/20
3. Central Mat-Su FSA Board of Supervisors: 07/13/20
4. Greater Butte RSA Board of Supervisors: 07/09/20, 09/10/20
5. MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission: 02/27/20, 05/07/20
6. Meadow Lakes Community Council: 06/10/20, 07/08/20, 08/12/20
7. Planning Commission: 08/17/20, Resolution No. 20-21, 20-30, 20-32
8. Platting Board: 07/16/20
9. Port Commission: 07/20/20
10. Susitna Community Council: 08/06/20
11. Sutton Community Council: 01/29/20
12. Tanaina Community Council: 08/11/20, 08/25/20
13. Trapper Creek Community Council: 08/20/20

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

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

IM 20-181

Reporting Of Conclusion Of Contract For Bid No. 19-073B To Western Construction & Equipment LLC. For Shaw's Tri Lakes Subdivision Streets.

IM 20-182

Reporting Of Conclusion Of Contract For Bid No. 19-120B To Valley General Construction For Bergman Road, Fritz Road, Melin Road, And Dorismae Circle Upgrades.

IM 20-186

Reporting The Conclusion Of Contract For Bid No. 19-064B With Axyx, LLC. For The Palmer Pool Improvements, Project No. 15041, For The Final Contract Amount Of \$6,076,750.07.

[IM 20-191](#)

Informing The Assembly That Three Amendments For The Community Assistance Program Will Be Presented To The Acting Borough Manager For Signature.

The informational memorandums were 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. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)

[OR 20-090](#)

An Ordinance To Accept And Appropriate A \$19,000 Grant From The Mat-Su Trails And Parks Foundation Association, For The Extension Of The East Nelson Road Pedestrian/Bike Path Phase II Project, Fund 430, Project No. 35468.

RS 20-091: A Resolution Approving The Amended Budget For The Extension Of The East Nelson Road Pedestrian/Bike Path Phase II Project, Fund 430, Project No. 35468.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mr. Bradley Sworts, Presdesign and Engineering Division Manager, provided a staff report.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

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

Assemblymember McKee moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 20-090 and Resolution Serial No. 20-091. 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 the concerns with the public process:
Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

[RS 20-092](#) A Resolution Allocating Human Services Community Matching Grant Funds To Nonprofit Human Service Agencies Within The Community; And Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into A Grant Agreement With The Subgrantee Agencies.

[RS 20-093](#) A Resolution Revising The Fiscal Year 2021 Schedule Of Rates And Fees To Reflect The Correct Ambulance Service Fees Passed By The Assembly On May 20, 2015, In Conjunction With Ordinance Serial No. 15-015.

[RS 20-095](#) A Resolution Approving Federal Legislative Priorities For 2022.

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

[AM 20-113](#) Approval Of Change Order No. 5 To Contract No. 19-113B To Orion Construction, Inc. In The Amount Of \$102,327.41 To Complete The Talkeetna Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades - Phase 1 Project, Project No. 25053.

Ms. McKechnie read the consent agenda 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

[RS 20-096](#) A Resolution Approving Fiscal Year 2022 Borough Priorities And Project Funding.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Sumner moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 20-096.

Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 20-096, by inserting a new item under Borough Action Priorities, to read: "H. Request that the Alaska State Legislature amend Alaska Statute Title 29 to allow the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to elect a sheriff."

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Sumner

No: 3 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Boeve

The main motion passed as amended by the following vote:

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

No: 1 - Assemblymember McKee

[RS 20-099](#) A Resolution Amending The Scope Of Work For Capital And Operating Expenditures Utilizing CARES Act Money.

Sponsors: Boeve

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Sumner moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 20-099.

Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 20-099 and IM 20-193, by increasing the budget by \$85,000 for the project Z-Gen Hypochlorous Acid Generator. 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

Assemblymember Nowers moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 20-099 and IM 20-193, by increasing the budget by \$21,300 and inserting the two projects as follows:

- Sanitation Equipment, Supplies, and No-Touch Check-In Equipment for Volunteers in the amount of \$13,700; and
- Equipment to Enable Remote Work for Animal Care and Regulation Officers in the amount of \$7,600.

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

Assemblymember Mayfield moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 20-099 and IM 20-193, as follows:

- **by striking No. 57 – Rebarchek Historical and Youth Development Program in the amount of \$65,000; and**
- **by inserting \$65,000 into No. 39 – State Fair, to increase the total grant amount to \$515,000.**

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Leonard, Assemblymember Mayfield, and Assemblymember Boeve

No: 2 - Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Sumner
The main motion passed as amended without objection.

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

[AM 20-111](#) Award of Bid No. 21-077B to JGH Plumbing & Heating In The Contract Amount Of \$436,577 For Wasilla Pool Shower Improvements.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember McKee moved to adopt AM No. 20-111.
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. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 11/17/20, Assembly Chambers)

[OR 20-088](#)

An Ordinance Annexing Five Properties Located On South Back Home Drive Into The Greater Butte Road Service Area No. 26, Without The Placement Of The Question On The Ballot And Finding That It Serves The Public Interest.

RS 20-088: A Resolution Finding The Annexation Of Five Properties Located On South Back Home Drive Into The Greater Butte Road Service Area No. 26 Serves The Public Interest.

[OR 20-091](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$189,076 From The United States Fish And Wildlife Service To Fund 410, Project No. 30114, For The Replacement Of Up To Two Culverts As Part Of The Fish Passage Improvement 2025 Project, Project No. 30114

RS 20-094: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Replacement Of Up To Two Culverts For Fish Passage Improvements 2025 Project, Project No. 30114.

[OR 20-092](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$417,889.19 In Grant Funds From The Alaska State Department Of Commerce, Community, And Economic Development, Division Of Community And Regional Affairs, Through The Willow Library Association, To Fund 435, Project No. 10186, The New Willow Library And Community Center Upgrades.

RS 20-097: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The New Willow Library And Community Center Upgrades Project, Fund 435, Project No. 10186.

[OR 20-093](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$2,400,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Transportation And Public Facilities.

RS 20-098: A Resolution Approving The Amended Budgets, Amended Scope Of Work, Transfer Of Funds In The Amount Of \$191,181.25 From Collector Road Access To Machetanz Elementary (Also Known As Trunk Road Extension South), Fund 430; Roads And Bridges Capital Projects, Project No. 35402, To Felton Street Extension Project, Fund 430; Roads And Bridges Capital Projects, Project No. 35401; And Authorize The Manager To Enter Into A Transfer Of Responsibilities Agreement With The Alaska State Department Of Transportation And Public Facilities To Complete The Felton Street Extension Project, Project No. 35401.

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 November 17, 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

[20-141](#) Mayoral Requests for Confirmation

Sponsors: Halter

MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission

Dan Mayfield, resignation

Assemblymember Mayfield moved to confirm the resignation as 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

1. Recruitment of a New Borough Manager

There was no report provided.

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. Spiropoulos advised that the amendment to RS 20-096 about requesting the Legislature amend Title 29 to allow the Borough to elect a sheriff, that the Borough already has that power.

Assemblymember Sumner stated that was not the information he was provided, but that if it is true, then the Borough has already accomplished a priority in the legislation.

Assemblymember Halter opined that the Assembly has done a lot of good with the CARES Act Funds. Noted that most of the funding has gone to small businesses and not to working folks. Related that the city of Wasilla is looking at establishing a utility assistance program and that he would like to see the Borough do the same.

Assemblymember Nowers stated that she is glad to see the Willow Library project get started. Spoke to her virtual attendance at a recent high school swim meet. Noted that the lighting in the pool area is so much better since it has been remodeled. Stated that although this has been a tough year, that there have been a lot of good things happening

Assemblymember Mayfield spoke to his reasons for resigning from the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission. Opined that the Commission deserves someone who can dedicate more time to the cause as the work is very important. Summarized a list of accomplishments of the Commission. Wished the Commission well. Thanked the Mayor for the opportunity to serve on that commission.

Mayor Halter noted that there was a Police Powers Committee and that the body should follow that advice. Noted that was not put before the voters this year due to COVID. Requested Ms. Heindel report on what CARES Act funds still need to be allocated.

Ms. Henidel provide a staff report.

Mayor Halter noted that the ground breaking for the Willow Library was fun and well attended. Spoke to his amazement on how quickly the old library was taken down. Spoke to his pleasure that the project is well under way.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.