

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

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

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



Mary Anderson, District 1
Jason Ortiz, District 2
Patricia Chesbro, District 3
Colleen Vague, District 4
Chris Elder, District 5
Stafford Glashan, District 6
Sassan Mossanen, District 7

MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

JOINT ASSEMBLY/PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING 6:00 PM

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Joint Assembly/Planning Commission meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, October 13, 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. ASSEMBLY ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Dan Mayfield, Assemblymember Jesse Sumner, and Assemblymember Tam Boeve

Telephonic: 1 - Assemblymember Ted Leonard

PLANNING COMMISSION ROLL CALL

Planning Commission Member Mary Anderson, Planning Commission Member Jason Ortiz, Planning Commission Member Chesbro, Planning Commission Chair Colleen Vague, and Planning Commission Member Chris Elder.

Telephonic: Planning Commission Member Sassan Mossanen.

Excused: Planning Commission Member Stafford Glashan.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Halter stated that he would like to add an emergency ordinance as an item of business for the Assembly to take up immediately following audience participation. Queried if there was any objection.

There was no objection noted and the agenda was approved as amended.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. George Hays, Interim Borough Manager, led the pledge of allegiance.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The following person opined that the number of cultivation facilities should be limited in the Borough: Ms. Sam Hanson.

[OR 20-097](#) An Emergency Ordinance Waiving The Witness Signature Requirement For Absentee By Mail Ballots For The Regular Borough Election To Occur On November 3, 2020.

Sponsors: Halter

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mr. Spiropoulos 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 Mayfield moved to adopt Emergency Ordinance Serial No. 20-097. The motion failed (required six votes) by the following vote:

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

No: 2 - Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Sumner

VI. JOINT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

Assemblymembers McKee and Mayfield exited the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

A. Seward Meridian Extension to Seldon Road (Requested by Commissioner Anderson)

Mr. Jim Amundsen, Alaska State Transportation and Public Facilities Engineer, reported on the timeline for the Seward Meridian to Seldon Road project.

B. Engstrom Road - Bogard Road Intersection Discussion (Requested by Commissioner Anderson)

Mr. Jim Amundsen, Alaska State Transportation and Public Facilities Engineer, reported on the timeline for the upgrade to Engstrom Road intersection project.

C. Fostering an Efficient Transportation Network (Requested by Administration)

Mr. Alex Strawn, Planning and Land Use Director, reported on fostering an efficient transportation network.

1. Right-of-Way Acquisition for Roads and Trails

Mr. Alex Strawn, Planning and Land Use Director, reported on possible rights-of-way acquisitions needed for future roads and trails.

2. School Walking Routes

Mr. Adam Bradway, Planner I, reported on the impact school walking routes have on communities.

3. Official Streets and Highways Plan Update

Mr. James Smith, Traffic Engineer with Kinney Engineering and Borough Contractor, provided an update on the Official Streets and Highway Plan.

D. Supplemental Wetlands Ordinance Update (Requested by Administration)

Mr. Ted Eschied, Planner II, provided an update on the supplemental wetlands ordinance.

E. Marijuana Facilities Distribution Map (Requested by Administration)

Assemblymember McKee re-entered the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Mr. Alex Strawn, Planning and Land Use Director, reported on the creation of a map that will reflect where marijuana facilities are located within the Borough.

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, PLANNING COMMISSION, AND STAFF COMMENT

Planning Commissioner Mossanen thanked staff for the reports that were provided.

Planning Commissioner Chesbro thanked staff for the very informative presentations.

Planning Commissioner Elder noted that the presentations were very professional.

Planning Commissioner Ortiz thanked the Assembly for hosting the joint meeting. Thanked staff for the reports that were provided. Spoke in support of the marijuana facilities map being available to the public.

Planning Commissioner Anderson thanked the Assembly for hosting the meeting. Thanked staff for the great presentations.

Planning Commission Chair Vague stated that the presentations were very informative. Spoke to her appreciation of the information presented. Thanked staff for their hard work.

Assemblymember Boeve thanked staff for the presentations. Spoke to her appreciation of the joint meeting.

Assemblymember Hale thanked staff for their professional presentations. Thanked the Planning Commission for attending the meeting.

Assemblymember Nowers spoke to her enjoyment of the visual data provided in the presentations. Spoke in support of safe walking routes for schools. Stated that she appreciates all the presentations that were provided. Reported on the CARES Act Small Business Grants. Thanked the body for the meeting. Noted that Alaska Municipal League has a board position available for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and stated that she would like to apply.

Mayor Halter queried if there was any objection.

There was no objection noted.

Assemblymember Leonard thanked the body for the joint meeting. Thanked staff for their hard work on the presentations.

Assemblymember Sumner spoke in support of the marijuana facilities mapping tool being available to the public. Thanked staff for the

presentations. Spoke to the possibility of setting aside funds for future rights-of-way purchases

Mayor Halter thanked staff for their presentations.

[Clerk's Note: The Planning Commission exited the meeting at 8:25 p.m.]

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION (For Matters, Which The Immediate Public Knowledge Of Which Would Clearly Have An Adverse Effect Upon The Finances Of The Borough; And Matters Which By Law, Municipal Charter, Or Ordinance Are Required To Be Kept Confidential; And To Discuss Matters Involving Consideration Of Borough Records That By Law Are Not Subject To Public Disclosure; And Discussion Of Matters Subject To The Attorney/Client Privilege.)

A. Potential Federal Regulatory Commission Litigation

Assemblymember Boeve moved to enter into executive session for matters, which the immediate public knowledge of which would clearly have an adverse effect upon the finances of the Borough; And matters which by law, municipal charter, or ordinance are required to be kept confidential; and to discuss matters involving consideration of matters subject to Attorney/Client privilege. Those present in the executive session were the Mayor, the Assembly, the Interim Borough Manager, the Attorney, the Clerk, and the Internal Auditor.

The motion passed without objection and the Assembly entered into executive session at 8:27 p.m.

Assemblymember Boeve moved to exit executive session.

There was no objection noted and the Assembly exited executive session at 9:10 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.