

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

George Hays, Acting

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, MAY 19, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, May 19, 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

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The following person lead the pledge of allegiance: Mr. Todd Smoldon, Executive Director of Governor Dunleavy's Mat-Su Office.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

A. Regular Assembly Meeting: 04/21/20

B. Budget Public Hearing: 04/23/20

C. Budget Public Hearing: 04/28/20

D. Budget Public Hearing: 04/30/20

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

There were no reports provided.

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 activities of 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. Moosey reported on the status of reopening of Borough-owned buildings.

Mr. John Harris, State Lobbyist for the Borough, reported on the activities of the State Legislature.

3. Alaska State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Update

Mr. Jim Amundsen, Highway Design Engineer with the Alaska State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, reported on the infrastructure improvements that are scheduled to begin this summer.

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos reported on the activities of his office. Requested an executive session for May 26 regarding potential involvement in Forrer vs. State of Alaska or similar litigation.

Mayor Halter queried if there was any objection.

There was no objection noted.

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule. Noted that the annual evaluations of the Borough Clerk and the Borough Attorney are due. Suggested June 2, 2020, at 3 p.m. for the Attorney and June 16, 2020, 4 p.m. for the Clerk.

Mayor Halter queried if there is any objection.

There was no objection noted.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

There was no citizen and other correspondence.

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

[IM 20-096](#) Informing The Assembly Of An Agreement Between The Borough And The Alaska State Department Of Natural Resources Committing Grant Funds And In-Kind Matching Funds To The Eska Strip Mine Trail Project In The Amount Of \$67,978.

[IM 20-097](#) Informing The Assembly Of A Special Land Use Permit To Construct, Reconstruct, Operate And/Or Maintain Talkeetna River Bank Protection Facilities With The Alaska Railroad For A Parcel Of Land At Milepost 227.13, Near Talkeetna At The Bank Of The Talkeetna River.

[IM 20-098](#) Informing The Assembly Of The Manager Entering Into A Commercial Use Permit With Colaska, Inc. For The Use Of Borough-Owned Land And Improvements Within The Point Mackenzie Port District, Located Within Section 22, Township 14 North, Range 4 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska, For A Term Of Not More Than 18 Months.

Informing The Assembly Of Agreements For The Community Assistance Program That Will Be Presented To The 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. ALL PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY AND AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three minutes per person)

The following person spoke in support of funding to clean up the compound in Butte: Mr. Mike Morrow, Ms. Claire Mothershead, Ms. Ginger Sweeney, Ms. Margaret Carloni; Ms. Linda Menard, Mr. Brad Empey, Mr. David Miller, Mr. Sweeney, and Ms. Stephanie Koonz.

The following person spoke in support of full funding for the Mat-Su Convention and Visitor's Bureau: Ms. Bonnie Quill, Executive Director of the Mat-Su Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

The following person spoke in support of transportation funding for transit programs in the Borough: Ms. Kim Schlosser, Sunshine Transit Manager.

The following person spoke in support of funding for the Willow Cabin upgrade project: Mr. James Huston.

The following person spoke to concerns with experience requirements for road service area maintenance contracts: Ms. Barbara Doty, a former member of the Assembly.

The following person spoke to concerns with funding for the Willow Cabin project, distribution of earthquake funds, Palmer City Council not wearing masks, CARES Act Funding spending, reopening businesses, and to concerns with the public process: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

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

The meeting recessed at 7:26 p.m. and reconvene at 7:37 p.m.

C. LEGISLATION SUBJECT TO TESTIMONY UNDER ITEM B. (Three Minutes Per Person.)

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.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Mayfield moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 20-020.

Assemblymember Mayfield moved to continue Ordinance Serial No. 20-020, to a time certain of May 26, 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

OR 20-038

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$34,847.84 From The Mat-Su Trails And Parks Foundation, To Fund 480, Project No. 15050, Fish Creek / Jay Nolfi Park Improvements

RS 20-037: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Fish Creek / Jay Nolfi Park Improvements, Fund 480, Project No. 15050.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Mayfield moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 20-038 and Resolution Serial No. 20-037. 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 20-040](#)

An Ordinance Appropriating Up To \$130,000 From The Community Transportation Program Grant Match Budget To Provide The Required Local Match For Federal Transit Grant For Sunshine Transit To Purchase And Modify A Transit Facility.

RS 20-039: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget To Provide The Required Local Match For Federal Transit Grant For Sunshine Transit To Purchase And Modify A Transit Facility.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Boeve moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 20-040 and Resolution Serial No. 20-039. 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 20-041](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$28,800 In Federal Funds From The Federal Highway Administration, Passed Through The Alaska State Department Of Natural Resources, For The Settlers Bay Coastal Project, Project No. 15040, Fund 440 To Develop And Produce Interpretive Signage At The Park; Reappropriate \$3,200 From Areawide Funds, Project No. 99999 Grant Match, Fund 480 To Fund 440 To Satisfy The Required Match.

RS 20-040: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Settlers Bay Coastal Park Interpretive Plan And Panels, Project No.15040, Fund 440.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Mayfield moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 20-041 and Resolution Serial No. 20-040. 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 20-042](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating A Grant In The Amount Of \$50,000 From The Alaska State Division Of Forestry, To Project No. 45131, Fund 480, To Operate Collection Sites And Dispose Of Dead Slash From Beetle Killed Trees For Mat-Su Residents.

RS 20-042: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Alaska State Division Of Forestry Grant, Project Number 45131, Fund 480, To Operate Collection Sites And Dispose Of Dead Slash From Beetle Killed Trees For Mat-Su Residents.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Mayfield moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 20-042 and Resolution Serial No. 20-042. 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 20-043](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake Disaster Relief Monies In The Amount Of \$376,864.35 From The Federal Emergency Management Agency And \$125,621.44 From The Alaska State Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management, To Fund 445, Project Nos. 55026 And 55027.

RS 20-043: 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 adopt Ordinance Serial No. 20-043 and Resolution Serial No. 20-043. 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 20-044](#) An Ordinance Appropriating \$100,000 From The Reserve For Major Repairs And Renovations Fund, 100 262.920 To Complete Restoration Of The Willow Cabin, Fund 435, Project No. 10182.
RS 20-044: A Resolution Amending The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Willow Cabin.

Sponsors: Boeve

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Boeve moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 20-044 and Resolution Serial No. 20-044. 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 20-051](#) A Resolution Urging The Governor Of The State Of Alaska To Stop Any Plan To Relocate Emergency Communications Centers To Anchorage.

Sponsors: Leonard

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

[AM 20-031](#) Authorization To Purchase From Stryker Medical In The Contact Amount Of \$310,458.25 For 20 LUCAS Chest Compression Systems.

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

[RS 20-050](#)

A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget To Provide The Required Local Match For The United States Army Corps Of Engineers Section 205 Talkeetna Flood Risk Reduction Study.
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember McKee moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 20-050. 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 20-052](#)

A Resolution Providing A One-Time Waiver Of Landfill Fees For Up To Ten Dumps For The Compound On Bodenbug Loop As Part Of The Butte Community Cleanup.

Sponsors: Hale

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Hale moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 20-052.

Assemblymember Hale moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 20-052, by striking the Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved Clause in it's entirety and inserting the following in its place: "Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, the Assembly supports the efforts of the Butte Community to clean-up the Compound and will provide the Butte Community Council \$10,000 to do so; and direct the Manager to find the funds in an existing budget. 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

[AM 20-029](#) Authorization To Purchase From Cummins, Inc. In The Amount Of \$133,880 For Emergency Generators For The Pump House And Lift Station For The Talkeetna Water And Sewer Service Area.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember McKee moved to adopt AM 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

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business.

IX. VETO

A. MOTION TO OVERRIDE MAYORAL VETO

[20-091](#) Veto of Motion to Direct the Manager to remove the 3-Year Municipal Experience portion of Road Service Area Contracts.

Sponsors: Halter

Assemblymember McKee moved to override the Mayoral Veto.

The motion failed by the following vote:

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

No: 1 - Assemblymember McKee

Assemblymember Boeve moved to establish a panel/task force to review and establish the minimum contractor qualifications, explore alternate solicitation methods, and review contract administration/enforcement. With a suggested make-up of the panel/task force to be as follows:

- * Two Assembly Members;**
- * the Public Works Director or Operations and Maintenance Division Manager;**
- * One road service area superintendent;**
- * The Purchasing Officer; and**
- * Two Road Service Area members.**

Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to make the two seats reserved for members of the Assembly to be Assemblymembers Boeve and Sumner. 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 by the following vote:

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

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 06/02/20, Assembly Chambers)

[OR 20-045](#)

An Ordinance Providing For The Sale Of Certain Borough-Wide Real Property Acquired Through Tax Foreclosure For Delinquent Real Property Tax Years 2013 And Prior, And Special Assessment For 2014 And Prior, And Not Needed For Public Purpose.

[OR 20-047](#) An Ordinance Approving An Acceptance And Appropriation Of \$10,127.91 Of Revenues From Fiscal Year 2020 Public Donations And Reappropriating \$4,118 Of Donations From Project 45276 To Project No. 10176, For Kennel Replacements And Enhancements To The Cat Kennel Area At The Animal Care And Regulation Facility.

RS 20-045: A Resolution Setting The Scope Of Work And Amending The Budgets For Projects 45276, Fund 435, And 10176, Fund 480, For The Replacement Of The Cat Kennels And Enhancements To The Cat Kennel Area Project.

[OR 20-048](#) An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$61,180 In Federal Funds From The Federal Highway Administration Through The Alaska Department Of Natural Resources For The Eska Strip Mine Trail, Project No. 15015, Fund 440, To Improve Eska Strip Mine Trail.

RS 20-046: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Eska Strip Mine Trail, Project No. 15015, Fund 440.

[OR 20-050](#) An Ordinance Approving a Reappropriation Of \$25,000 From The Fiscal Year 2020 Community Development Department Operating Budget 100-170-124, To Fund 440, Project No. 10157.

RS 20-048: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Purchase And Installation Of Video Surveillance Equipment At The Brett Memorial Ice Arena.

[OR 20-051](#) An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating A Grant In The Amount Of \$7,000 From The International Association Of Fire Chiefs “Ready, Set, Go” Grant Program, To Project No. 20399, Fund 405, For A Wildfire Mitigation Defensible Space Demonstration.

RS 20-049: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The International Association Of Fire Chiefs “Ready, Set, Go” Grant Program, To Project No. 20399, Fund 405, For A Wildfire Mitigation Defensible Space Demonstration.

[RS 20-053](#) A Resolution Directing The Clerk To Move Forward With A By-Mail Election Process For The November 3, 2020, Regular Election Only.

Sponsors: Mayfield and Boeve

Assemblymember Mayfield moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearings for June 2, 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

There was no vacancy report.

C. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

1. Recruitment Of A New Borough Manager

Mr. Spiropoulos provided a status report on the hiring of a recruitment firm to find a new borough manager.

Mayor Halter queried if there was any objection to scheduling a special meeting on June 5, 2020, in order to have a video conference meeting with the new firm.

There was no objection noted.

E. 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

Assemblymember Hale thanked the Assembly for their support of Resolution Serial No. 20-025.

Assemblymember McKee thanked the body for the meeting.

Assemblymember Nowers stated that she would like to have a discussion regarding what is entailed in the Borough becoming a first class borough. Spoke to the banners that have been placed around the city of Palmer recognizing Palmer High School graduates.

Assemblymember Boeve thanked the Assembly for their support of the legislation regarding the Willow Cabin project.

Assemblymember Sumner spoke to the police powers advisory question that was put before the voters. Opined that the body owes the public a duty to put the question back before them with the information that has been vetted.

Assemblymember Mayfield spoke to the passing of Mr. Pierre Strong, a long-time resident of Big Lake and also his father-in-law. Noted the impact that Mr. Strong had on the Big Lake community.

Mayor Halter opined that road service areas are archaic and that a better way to address road maintenance needs to be found. Opined that now is not the time to move to a strong mayor form of government, but noted that decision is up to the voters. Spoke in support of the question of the Borough becoming a first class borough being put before the voters.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.