

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



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

FRONT HALF OF ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

2:00 PM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Thursday, January 16, 2020, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 2 p.m. by Mayor Vern Halter.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Dan Mayfield, Assemblymember Jesse Sumner, and Assemblymember Tam Boeve

Excused: 1 - Assemblymember Ted Leonard

Telephonic: 1 - Assemblymember Tim Hale

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Halter stated that he would like to move audience participation after the discussion with Governor Dunleavy. Queried if there was any objection.

There was no objection noted.

The agenda was approved as amended.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mayor Bert Cottle, city of Wasilla.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Discussion With Governor Dunleavy

Mr. Moosey summarized the Borough's state priorities as contained in Resolution Serial No. 19-100.

Governor Dunleavy spoke to budget issues and the Borough's priorities.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

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

The following person spoke to the need to be fiscally responsible: Mr. Mokie Tew.

The following person spoke to the need to tap the public for ideas on the budget: Mr. Nick Brockin.

The following person spoke to concerns with deforestation of a portion of a boreal forest in Alaska: Ms. Amy Henry.

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

Assemblymember Hale thanked Governor Dunleavy for attending the meeting and listening to the Borough's priorities. Thanked Governor Dunleavy for the funding of 50 percent for the school bond debt reimbursement.

Assemblymember McKee opined that more law enforcement does not equal less crime. Opined that the way schools are funded is not working. Stated that test scores are in the tank. Commented that the School District does not need more money but needs to consider changing the way things are done. Thanked Governor Dunleavy for attending the meeting.

Assemblymember Nowers noted her surprise in the lack of audience participation. Stated that she is grateful that Governor Dunleavy supports agriculture development. Spoke to her appreciation for Governor Dunleavy attending the meeting and engaging in discussion with the Assembly. Stated that she appreciates the state supporting the debt reimbursement as the voters agreed upon.

Assemblymember Boeve thanked Governor Dunleavy and his staff for attending the meeting. Stated that she is aware of how busy they are and appreciates their time.

Assemblymember Mayfield thanked Governor Dunleavy for attending the meeting. Opined that the Borough is having difficulty getting our story out to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding Port MacKenzie. Commented that he wonders what Governor Dunleavy could do to assist and support us. Noted that SnowTrac funding was not in Governor Dunleavy's proposed budget this year. Related that last year it was put back in by the Legislature. Stated that he is hopeful it will be put back in this year.

Mayor Halter thanked Governor Dunleavy for attending the meeting. Commented that he hopes that Houston Middle School will be repaired quickly. Noted that the Borough has been fortunate as the areawide mill rate has been stable for many years. Noted that he would like to keep it that way. Stated that he would like to see the school bond debt reimbursement at what the voters approved, which is a 70/30 split. Noted that the roads in our road bond package cannot wait any longer as they are in critical need of upgrading. Related that the flood in Willow has been contained and that Borough crews are still monitoring the situation.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.