

# 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, JANUARY 19, 2021

## I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, 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 Robert Yundt, Assemblymember Mokie Tew, Assemblymember Jesse Sumner, and Assemblymember Tam Boeve

## III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. McKechnie requested to pull Ordinance Serial No. 21-012 under introductions from the agenda to make changes and bring back at the next meeting.

Hearing no objections, Ordinance Serial No. 21-012 was pulled from the agenda.

The agenda was approved as amended.

## IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Emergency Services Fleet Crew.

## **V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS**

[21-011](#)

A. Regular Meeting Minutes: 12/15/20

Ms. McKecknie noted a change to the December 15, 2020, meeting minutes. Under staff comments to change Assemblymember Nowers to Mr. Spiropoulos, as he requested an executive session at the January 5, 2021, Regular Assembly Meeting to get an insurance update on Houston Middle School.

The minutes were approved as amended.

## **VI. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

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

#### **1. Reports From Cities**

Mayor Glenda Ledford, 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 activities of the State.

### **B. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committee On School Issues**

#### **2. Assembly Public Relations**

### **C. MANAGER COMMENTS**

#### **1. State/Federal Legislation**

#### **2. Strategic Planning Issues**

#### **3. Fleet Shop Foreman Award to Howard Smith**

Mayor Halter presented the third place recognition by Firehouse Magazine for Emergency Vehicle Technician of the Year for 2020 to Mr. Howard Smith, Fleet Supervisor for the Matanuska-Susitna Borough's Department of Emergency Services.

#### **4. State Redistricting Update**

Mr. John Harris and Bill Stoltz spoke to the state redistricting process.

#### **D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

Mr. Spiropoulos provided a report on Local Government Article, Sections 1 and 2 of the Alaska Constitution.

#### **E. CLERK COMMENTS**

Ms. McKechnie reported on the upcoming meeting schedule and the quasi-judicial report.

#### **F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE**

[21-019](#)

1. Board of Adjustments And Appeals: 11/06/20, Final Decision Case 20-04

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

#### **G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS**

[IM 21-010](#)

Reporting Of Conclusion Of Contract For Bid No. 20-100B To Western Construction And Equipment, LLC. For 2020 Roads Paving.

[IM 21-017](#)

Informing The Assembly Of A Memorandum Of Agreement With The Butte Community Council For The Community Assistance Program That Is To 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 person's to be heard.

##### **B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)**

OR 21-006

An Ordinance Adopting The Jonesville Public Use Area Management Plan; And Amending MSB 15.24.030, Comprehensive Plan And Purposes.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mr. Emerson Krueger provided staff report.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in support of the legislation: Mr. Brian Largent, Ms. Laure Flynn, and Mr. Jim Sykes.

The following person spoke concerns of the legislation and the needs for motorized use: Mr. Lloyd Neman.

The following person spoke concerns of the changes made from what was presented to the public to how it reads now: Mr. Andy Andersen.

The following person spoke to the need to postpone to allow more residents time to know about the legislation: Mr. Leslie Wright.

The following person spoke concerns to the future use of motorized vehicles: Mr. Greg Rubio.

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

There being no others present who with to testify, the public hearing closed and discussion moved to the Assembly.

**Assemblymember Hale moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 21-006.**

**Assemblymember Yundt moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 21-006 to August 3, 2021.**

**Assemblymember Sumner called the question. The motion failed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Sumner

**No:** 4 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Yundt, and Assemblymember Boeve

**The motion to postpone passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Sumner

**No:** 3 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, and Assemblymember Boeve

**OR 21-008**

An Ordinance Approving An Appropriation Of \$1,200,000 From The Central Mat-Su Fire Service Area Fund Balance, Fund 250, To Project No. 45076, Fund 405, For Further Expansion Of The Central Mat-Su Fire Service Area Training Complex Buildout.

RS 21-006: A Resolution Approving The Amended Scope Of Work And Budget For Project No. 45076, Fund 405, For Further Expansion Of The Central Mat-Su Fire Service Area Training Complex Buildout.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mr. Ken Barkley provided a staff report.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

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

**Assemblymember Tew moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 21-008 and Resolution Serial No. 21-006. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

[OR 21-009](#)

An Ordinance Amending MSB 18.04.080(A), Meetings; Scheduling Notice, To Address The Frequency Of Scheduled Port Commission Meetings From Monthly To Quarterly.

**Sponsors:** Halter

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Ms. Theresa Dolan and Deputy Manager George Hays provided a staff report.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

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

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 21-009: Mr. Jim Sykes.

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

**Assemblymember Boeve moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 21-009. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

### C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person.)

The following persons spoke to concerns with the amendments made to the Road Service Area No. 21 in AM 20-124: Ms. Brenda Landers, Mr. Bill Haller, and Mr. Mike Alexander.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 20-101 and concerns to the amendments made to AM 20-124: Mr. Jim Sykes.

The following person spoke to concerns with the public process and the use of calcium chloride on road service areas: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

The following persons spoke in support of the veto of Resolution Serial No. 20-123: Mr. Melissa Hoyer of the Susitna River Coalition and Ms. Ann Fuller.

The following persons spoke in support of using calcium chloride to maintain dust control: Mr. Garland Morrison and Mr. Brian Miller.

### D. CONSENT AGENDA

#### 1. RESOLUTIONS

#### 2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

[AM 21-005](#) Approval Of Amendment To Contract No. 17-086P To Clark Engineering Corporation, To Extend The Project Completion Time To December 31, 2021, For The Professional Services Of The Septage And Leachate Treatment And Disposal Facility.  
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Boeve 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 Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

[RS 21-010](#)

A Resolution Supporting School Bond Debt Reimbursement And Permanent Fund Dividend Payments As Detailed In The Governor's Most Recent Budget Proposals For Fiscal Year 2022.

**Sponsors:** Sumner

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Boeve moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 21-010.**

**Assemblymember Nowers moved to amend Resolution Serial No. 21-010 by inserting the following as the tenth "whereas" clause: the Matanuska-Susitna Borough received nearly \$38 million in Federal COVID relief funds in fiscal year 2021 that gives the Borough the ability to absorb this additional cost on a one-time basis: The amendment passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**Assemblymember Hale moved to amend Resolution Serial No. 21-010 by inserting the following to the end of the Now, therefore, be it resolved, clause: full funding for school bond debt reimbursement in future years at the end of the: The amendment passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**Assemblymember Sumner moved to call the question.**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve



**The main motion passed as amended by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers,  
Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt,  
Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Sumner

**No:** 1 - Assemblymember Boeve

**VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The meeting recessed at 8:35 p.m. and reconvened at 8:44 p.m.

[AM 21-003](#) Award Of Bid No. 21-111B To Roger Hickel Contracting, Inc. In The  
Contract Amount Of \$460,800 For Shirley Towne Bridge Repair.  
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**The main motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers,  
Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt,  
Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and  
Assemblymember Boeve

[OR 20-101](#) An Ordinance Reappropriating \$25,000 From Project No. 25020-2402;  
And \$40,542.05 From Project No. 25035-2407, To Project No. 25001,  
Fund 420, To Allow For The Purchase Of A Waste Container Roll-Off  
Trailer Pup.  
RS 20-106: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For  
The Purchase Of A Waste Container Roll-Off Trailer Pup.  
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Terry Dolan, Public Works Director, provided a staff report.

**Assemblymember Hale called the question.**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers,  
Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt,  
Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and  
Assemblymember Boeve

**The main motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers,  
Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, and  
Assemblymember Boeve

**No:** 2 - Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Sumner

## IX. VETO

### [RS 20-123](#)

A Resolution Repealing Resolution Serial No. 19-074 And Directing Borough Staff To Direct Efforts Elsewhere.  
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor Halter queried if there was a motion to override the Mayoral Veto.

There was no motion made, the veto stands.

## X. NEW BUSINESS

### A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 02/02/21 Assembly Chambers)

#### [OR 21-007](#)

An Ordinance Adopting MSB 15.24.030(H), The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

#### [OR 21-011](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating Additional Disaster Relief Funds For Colony High School Of \$49,728.09 For Damages Sustained During The 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake, Project No. 55026.  
RS 21-008: A Resolution Amending The Budget For Additional Disaster Relief Funds Of \$49,728.09 For Colony High School For Damages Sustained In The 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake.

#### [OR 21-012](#)

An Ordinance Annexing Parcels That Are In The Process Of Being Subdivided From The Greater Palmer Consolidated Fire Service Area Into The Central Mat-Su Fire Service Area, To Adhere To The Provisions Found In MSB 43.15.049(E), Final Plat; General Provisions; And Making The Boundary Changes To MSB 5.25.142(A) And 5.25.140(A).

**Sponsors:** Sumner

#### [OR 21-014](#)

An Ordinance Reappropriating \$30,000 From Project No. 47506, To Capital Project Fund 435, Project No. 10063, To Remodel The Ambulance Billing Office.  
RS 21-009: A Resolution Approving Scope Of Work And Budget For The Remodel Of The Ambulance Billing Office.  
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Boeve moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearings for February 2, 2021. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

## **B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

### **1. VACANCY REPORT**

[21-020](#)

Mayoral Requests for Confirmation  
Aviation Advisory Board  
David Palmer  
Local Emergency Planning Committee  
Ruthan Josten  
Daniel Hansen  
Platting Board  
Alan Leonard  
Transportation Advisory Board  
Donna McBride

**Assemblymember Boeve moved to confirm the appointments requested by the Mayor.**

**Assemblymember Boeve explained she did not move Barbara Doty to the Platting Board, as Ms. Doty has a case before the Platting Board at this time and does not want to be appointed until the case is finalized. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

## **C. OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

There was no other new business.

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

## **XI. RECONSIDERATION**

[AM 20-124](#)

Approval Of The Road Service Area Road Improvement Project List - Summer 2021. (Big Lake RSA No. 21 Is The Only Project List Left For Approval)

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Yundt move to reconsider AM 20-124. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**Assemblymember Sumner moved to delete sand and chips development from all road service area project lists. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Sumner

**No:** 3 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, and Assemblymember Boeve

**Assemblymember Sumner moved to divide the question to take the project list for Big Lake RSA No. 21 separately. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**First Segment. All road service areas project lists passed with the exception of Big Lake RSA No. 21 by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

**Second segment. Assembly member Sumner moved to postpone the question of the project list for the Big Lake RSA No. 21 to February 16, 2021. The motion passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Hale, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Yundt, Assemblymember Tew, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Boeve

## **XII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS**

Assemblymember Sumner stated that he looks forward to the Big Lake Road Service Area Board meeting to work through the process.

Assemblymember Nowers spoke to concerns with the amendments made to the local road service area. Expressed disappointment in the postponement of Ordinance Resolution No. 21-006, Jonesville public use area.

Assemblymember Yundt spoke to the Jonesville use are process and wanting the community counsel more time to meet. Also, noted he is impressed with Mr. Ken Barkely for saving money instead of asking for money from the Assembly.

Assemblymember McKee spoke to reservations on wetlands mitigation.

Assemblymember Tew expressed his appreciation of all community boards.

Assemblymember Hale described his disappointment in the postponement of Ordinance Resolution No. 21-006, Jonesville public use area.

Assemblymember Boeve expressed her thanks for passing AM 21-003, for Shirley Towne Bridge.

Mayor Halter thanked the Assembly for passing the Shirley Towne Bridge legislation, expressed his hope in Jonesville funding, and thanked the state and local emergency services for the efficiency for getting the COVID vaccine.

## **XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

## **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.