

# 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, MARCH 2, 2021

## I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, March 2, 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:** 6 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember George McKee, Assemblymember Mokie Tew, Assemblymember Jesse Sumner, and Assemblymember Tam Boeve

**Telephonic:** 1 - Assemblymember Robert Yundt

## III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

## IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Todd Smoldon, Director of Governor Dunleavy's Mat-Su Office.

## V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

[21-050](#)

A. Special Assembly Meeting Minutes: 02/16/21

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**

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, spoke to the travel industry in Alaska.

### **B. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

There was no report provided.

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

There was no report provided.

### **C. MANAGER COMMENTS**

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

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

[21-058](#)

Presentations Under Manager's Report

Mike Brown reported on the status of the Houston Middle School FEMA claim.

Mr. Terry Dolan, Public Works Directory, reported on road bond projects.

#### **3 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report**

Ms. Joy Merriner, with BDO, presented the comprehensive annual finance report.

### **D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

[21-068](#)

Presentation Under Attorney's Comments

Mr. Spiropoulos reported on Article X of the State Constitution.

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

Ms. McKechnie reported on the upcoming meeting schedule. Queried if the Assembly would like to schedule the proposed budget meeting schedule.

Mayor Halter queried if there was any objection.

No objection was made.

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

[21-047](#)

1. Chickaloon Community Council: 01/08/20, 02/12/20, 03/11/20, 05/13/20, 06/10/20, 07/08/20, 08/12/20, 10/14/20, 12/09/20, 01/13/21

2. Enhanced 911 Advisory Board Minutes: 12/08/20

3. Greater Willow RSA Board of Supervisors: 11/10/20

4. Local Road Service Area Advisory Board: 01/21/21

5. Local Emergency Planning Committee Minutes: 10/21/20

6. Meadow Lakes Community Council: 11/11/20, 01/13/21

7. MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission: 12/17/20

8. Susitna Community Council: 01/07/21

9. Talkeetna Community Council: 01/04/21

10. Tanaina Community Council: 02/09/21

11. Transportation Advisory Board: 10/30/20, Resolution No. 20-04

12. West Lakes FSA Board of Supervisors: 12/14/20, 01/11/21

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

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

[IM 21-037](#)

Inform The Assembly Of The Borough's Intent To Enter Into A Cooperative Management Agreement For A Five-Year Term With The Alaska State Department Of Transportation And Public Facilities On Borough-Owned Land Located On Tract B, Skwentna Airport Survey, For The Shared Use Of A Building Structure (MSB007679).

[IM 21-041](#)

Informing The Assembly Of A Grant Amendment The Borough Manager Will Be Asked To Sign Relating To Response To The COVID-19 Pandemic.

[IM 21-042](#) Informing The Assembly Of An Agreement For The Community Assistance Program That Will Be Presented To The Borough Manager For Signature.

[IM 21-044](#) Informing The Assembly Of Grant Amendments From The Alaska State Department Of Military And Veterans' Affairs For The 2018 Cook Inlet Earthquake That Are 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.)**

[RS 21-015](#)

A Resolution Adopting The Fiscal Year 2021-2022 Capital Improvement Program.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Ms. Kim Sollien provided a staff report.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke to concerns with Assemblymember Sumner's possible amendment to the Birch Creek Villas: Ms. Sherry Rusher, president of Meadow Lakes Senior Housing; Ms. Patricia Fisher, president of Meadow Lakes Community Council; and Mr. Joe Boyle, Meadow Lakes Community Counsel member.

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

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

**Assemblymember Boeve moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 21-015.**

**Assemblymember Tew moved to amend the Capital Improvement List by striking number 398, referencing JoJoba Road and Kluani Drive and number 401, referencing sand pile storage development.**

**Assemblymember McKee called the question to stop debate. The motion passed by the following vote:**

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

**The primary amendment 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

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

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

[OR 21-018](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$231,191 From The Federal Transit Administration To Fund 480, Project No. 20396, Community Transit, For The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Centralized Mobility Management Software Project.

RS 21-014: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget And Authorizing The Borough Manager To Enter Into A Grant Agreement With The Federal Transit Administration For The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Centralized Mobility Management Software Project.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Assemblymember Tew declared a conflict of interest due to his daughter working for Valley Transit.

RULING: Mayor Halter ruled that Assemblymember Tew had a conflict of interest and would be recused from voting.

Assemblymember Tew exited the meeting.

Ms. Kim Sollien provided staff report.

Mayor Halter opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke concerns with the conflict of interest and the way it was handled: Mr. Eugene Carl Haberman.

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. 21-018 and Resolution Serial No. 21-014.**

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Assemblymember Sumner declared a conflict of interest due to providing money to a competing company for Medicaid vouchers.

RULING: Mayor Halter ruled that Assemblymember Sumner had a conflict of interest and would be recused from voting.

Assemblymember Sumner exited the meeting.

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

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

**Recused:** 2 - Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Sumner

Assemblymember Tew and Assemblymember Sumner re-entered the meeting.

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

The following person spoke to scholarship opportunities that Matanuska Telephone Association provides. Spoke to upcoming ten digit dialing that will be implemented due to FCC adding 988 suicide prevention hot line established in July 2022. Mr. Stu Graham, Matanuska Telephone Association representative.

The following person spoke to the need for removing the mask mandate for Borough properties. Spoke to concerns with like kind donations of employee time to the Arctic Winter games. Spoke in opposition to increased property tax assessments because we should not be raising taxes when folks are unemployed: Mr. Jason Michael.

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

#### **D. CONSENT AGENDA**

[RS 21-020](#) A Resolution Amending The Scope Of Work For Capital And Operating Expenditures Utilizing Cares Act Money.

[AM 21-018](#) Award Of Bid No. 21-125B To Capital Office In The Contract Amount Of \$141,765.47 To Supply And Install Furniture, Fixtures, And Equipment At Station 6-1, Phase II.  
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

## **1. RESOLUTIONS**

[RS 21-016](#) A Resolution Approving The Changes Needed To Update The Fiscal Year 2022 Schedule Of Rates And Fees Effective July 1, 2021.  
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Sumner moved to approve Resolution Serial No. 21-016.**

**The meeting recessed at 8:03 p.m. and reconvened at 8:11 p.m.**

**Assemblymember Tew moved to amend Rates and Fees Schedule, as follows:**

**•Municipal Solid Waste Disposal – per ton: Page 21, Line Number 536, by striking “\$142” and inserting “\$132”.**

**The primary amendment 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



**Assemblymember Tew moved to amend the Rates and Fees Schedule, as follows:**

**•Construction & Demolition Debris disposal – per ton: Page 21, Line Number 538, by striking “\$128” and inserting “\$121”.**

**The primary amendment 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

**Assemblymember Tew moved to amend the Rates and Fees Schedule, as follows:**

**•33-gallon or less bagged or canned garbage per - bag/can: Page 21, Line Number 534, by striking “\$4” and inserting “\$2”.**

**The primary amendment passed by the following vote:**

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

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

**Assemblymember Tew moved to amend the Rates and Fees Schedule, as follows:**

**• Minimum Charge if more than 2 bags, up to 200 pounds: Page 21, Line Number 535, by striking “\$17” and inserting “\$10”.**

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

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

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

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

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

## **2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS**

[AM 21-019](#) Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into A Memorandum Of Agreement With Valley Transit For The Centralized Mobility Management Software Project.  
CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Assemblymember Tew declared a conflict of interest due to his daughter working at Valley Transit.  
CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Assemblymember Sumner declared a conflict of interest due to providing money to a competing company for Medicaid vouchers.  
RULING: Mayor Halter ruled that Assemblymembers Tew and Sumner would be recused from voting.

Assemblymember Tew and Assemblymember Sumner exited the meeting.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Boeve moved to adopt AM 21-019.**

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

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

**Recused:** 2 - Assemblymember Tew, and Assemblymember Sumner

Assemblymember Tew and Assemblymember Sumner re-entered the meeting.

## **VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

## **IX. VETO**

There were no vetoes presented.

## **X. NEW BUSINESS**

## **A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 03/16/21, Assembly Chambers)**

There were no Introductions to be introduced.

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

### **1. VACANCY REPORT**

[21-054](#)

Mayoral Requests for Confirmation

There were vacancies to be confirmed.

## **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**

There were no reconsiderations.

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

Assemblymember Nowers noted she is disappointed that Alaska will have 2 zip codes, noted she is grateful to have member type cooperatives like MEA and MTA that support our community. Spoke to the need to move Houston Middle School along. Spoke concerns with Governor's proposal for road projects 50 percent road bond match. Is impressed with the number of communities on the Capital Improvement Program that want sidewalks and bike paths. Requested when it is possible, that she would like to see amendments before the meeting.

Assemblymember Tew opined that the Central Landfill should tighten up its spending. Announced he will continue to try to reduce their spending like he did tonight.

Assemblymember Boeve thanked Assemblymember Sumner for leaving Meadow Lakes senior housing on the Capital Improvement Program list. Mayor Halter Thanked Ms. Kim Sollien, Planning Services Manager, for attending the meeting tonight.

## **XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

## **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.