

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, MARCH 9, 2021

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Joint meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly/Planning Commission was held on Tuesday, March 9, 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. ASSEMBLY ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Mokie Tew, Assemblymember Jesse Sumner, and Assemblymember Tam Boeve

Excused: 2 - Assemblymember George McKee, and Assemblymember Robert Yundt

PLANNING COMMISSION ROLL CALL

Present: Planning Commissioner Jason Ortiz, Planning Commissioner Patricia Chesbro, Planning Commission Chair Colleen Vague, Planning Commissioner Chris Elder

Telephonic: Planning Commissioner Glashan and Planning Commissioner Sassan Mossanen

Excused: Planning Commissioner Mary Anderson

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Mr. James Amundsen, Chief of Highway Design for the state of Alaska.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

There was no one present who wished to testify.

VI. JOINT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Alaska State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities Projects Update (Requested by Administration)

Mr. James Amundsen, Chief of Highway Design for the state of Alaska, reported on State road and bridge projects in the Borough.

B. Palmer Fishhook Road to Pittman Road Transmission Routing Study (Requested by Administration)

C. Data-Driven Decision Making: Permitting and Compliance Resource Management (Requested by Administration)

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

(Planning Commissioners Glashan and Mossanen exited the meeting during comments.)

Planning Commissioner Ortiz thanked staff for the presentations. Stated that he supports being proactive instead of reactive to issues in the Borough. Noted that he appreciates staff efforts in implementing technology to make permitting easier.

Planning Commissioner Elder thanked the Assembly for hosting the meeting.

Planning Commissioner Chesbro spoke to her appreciation of the informative presentations. Thanked staff for their hard work in putting them together. Stated that she too would rather be proactive instead of reactive, especially relating to construction in flood zones.

Planning Commission Chair Vague stated that the joint meeting is a good opportunity for the bodies to get together. Stated that she appreciates that MEA consults with community councils in the areas that would be impacted by expansion of transmission lines. Stated that she would like to know what community councils have been updated. Opined that it is important to maintain updated and current community council information. Thanked body for the meeting.

Assemblymember Sumner stated that there is not a lot of construction in flood zones because you cannot get financing without flood insurance, which is quite expensive. Opined that it should not be a huge issue going forward.

Assemblymember Nowers spoke to her appreciation of the meeting. Stated that she is unsure if the Borough is doing everything possible to keep folks from building in flood zones. Related that some home buyers feel like they were not properly notified by their realtor that they were in a flood zone. Stated that she appreciates the joint meetings.

Assemblymember Tew opined that the Capital Improvement Project list is enormous. Advised that he is working on a matrix system for evaluating projects in road service areas. Stated that he enjoyed the meeting.

Assemblymember Hale thanked the presenters for the information they provided. Thanked the body for the meeting. Thanked staff for always being prepared to answer questions.

Assemblymember Boeve noted that building in flood plains is a real issue further north. Thanked Mr. Strawn for organizing the discussion for the meeting. Welcomed Mr. Jay Magers, the new Development Services Manager.

Mayor Halter thanked staff for working with the Alaska State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities. all coordination is paying off. Stated that it is important to keep information flowing so that the Borough can shared with its residents. Thanked staff and the presenters for the information provided. Thanked the Planning Commission for attending. Noted that the state of Alaska is the first state to provide COVID-19 vaccines for everyone in the state over the age of 16.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.