

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

350 East Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska 99645 - 907-861-8683

BOROUGH MAYOR

Edna DeVries

BOROUGH CLERK

Lonnie R. McKechnie, CMC

BOROUGH MANAGER

Michael Brown

BOROUGH ATTORNEY

Nicholas Spiropoulos



Tim Hale, District 1  
Stephanie Nowers, District 2  
Dee McKee, District 3  
Robert Yundt, District 4  
Mokie Tew, District 5  
Jesse Sumner, District 6  
Ron Bernier, District 7

## MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

4:00 PM

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021

### I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, December 7, 2021, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 4 p.m. by Mayor Edna DeVries.

### II. ROLL CALL

**Present:** 5 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Mokie Tew, Assemblymember Jesse Sumner, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

**Telephonic:** 2 - Assemblymember Tim Hale, and 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 Mr. Mike Brown, Borough Manager.

## **V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

The following persons spoke to the need to preserve the public process regarding the conditional use process and to the need to preserve greenbelts: Sarah Gotshall, Cath Halley, Bill Longbrake, Chad Scott, Bill Mohrwinkel, Gary Wolff, Esther (did not state her last name), Ellen Van DeVisse,

The following persons spoke in opposition to Ordinance Serial Nos. 22-002 and 22-003 and concerns with eliminating the public process: Amy Pettit, Wes Hoskins, Tim Zallinger, Brett Westcott, Patricia Fisher, Dave Musgraves, Camden Yehle, Jill Valerius, Erin Kitteridge, Melody Wright, Amy Schacle, and Jim Beck.

The following persons spoke in support of a gravel severance tax: Murph O'Brien and Richard Harbuck.

The following person spoke to the importance of preserving greenbelts and connecting kids to nature: Jacob Dewey.

The following person spoke in opposition to an areawide gravel tax and in support of cities deciding on their own gravel tax: Mayor Virgie Thompson, city of Houston.

The following person spoke in support of the Borough and gravel industry experts working together to come up with a solution that works for everyone: Steve Colligan.

The following person spoke in support of development of gravel pits: Gerald Renault.

## **VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

## **A. Discussion Regarding Gravel Tax (The Gravel Industry Has Been Invited To Speak)**

Mr. Spiropoulos spoke to how gravel tax legislation (Ordinance Serial No. 21-070) came to be. Noted that the legislation was postponed indefinitely in order to allow the Assembly and the gravel industry to work on a mutually agreeable solution.

Assemblymember Yundt spoke to the reasons why he brought Ordinance Serial No. 21-070 forward. Noted that his intent was not to punish anyone in the gravel industry. Noted that as a developer, that he too would be subject to any gravel tax should one be adopted. Spoke to concerns with reclamation of gravel pits. Noted that gravel is not a renewable resource. Commented that it is unfortunate that there was so much audience participation that the intended discussion did not occur. Stated that he would like to work with the industry to come up with a good solution. Requested that the meeting be continued so that a discussion can occur.

**Assemblymember Sumner moved to continue the meeting to January 4, 2022, at 3 p.m. The motion passed by the following vote:**

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

## **VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT**

Assemblymember Nowers thanked the public for their attendance and testimony. Stated that she is pleased that the meeting was continue so that discussion can occur. Advised the public that Ordinance Serial Nos. 22-002 and 22-003 are on the 6 p.m. meeting agenda and that no action will occur until that meeting.

Assemblymember Hale disclosed that on December 1, 2021, the Assembly received a comment about the Mat-Su greenbelt and gravel extraction and he inadvertently replied all with the comment, “Well said Terri, thank you for your input.” Stated that a copy of that email and his response has been provided to the Assembly and copies were made available for the public in order to be clear and transparent.

Assemblymember Sumner spoke to the possibility of creating a gravel working group that consists of stakeholders, sometime after the January 4, 2022, meeting.

Assemblymember Nowers noted that the Assembly recognizes the value of green belts.

Assemblymember McKee noted her confusion as to which greenbelts were being discussed.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.