

# 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



Michael Bowles, District 1  
Stephanie Nowers, District 2  
Dee McKee, District 3  
Maxwell Sumner, District 4  
Bill Gamble, District 5  
Dmitri Fonov, District 6  
Ron Bernier, District 7

## MEETING MINUTES

COTTONWOOD PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING  
STATION 6-5  
680 NORTH SEWARD MERIDIAN PARKWAY, WASILLA

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

10:00 AM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Saturday, February 14, 2026, at the Cottonwood Public Safety Building Station 6-5, 680 N. Seward Meridian Parkway, Wasilla, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. by Mayor Edna DeVries.

### II. ROLL CALL

**Present:** 7 - Assemblymember Michael Bowles, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee (entered at 10:03 a.m.), Assemblymember Maxwell Sumner, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Assemblymember Bernier moved to have Audience Participation moved to after the Pledge of Allegiance.

The agenda was approved as amended without objection.

### IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by George Hays, Deputy Manager.

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

The following person spoke to issues with property tax assessments: Dawson White.

## **V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

### **A. Strategic Planning Session**

Mr. Brown, Borough Manager, led the discussion regarding:  
\*performance reports; and  
\*role of elected officials during a disaster.

The meeting recessed at 12:15 p.m. and reconvened at 12:35 p.m.

Discussion ensued:  
\*Strategic Plan overview;  
\*waterbody setbacks;  
\*State Trooper Facility; and  
\*AKLNG Tax structure.

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

Ms. McKechnie spoke to publishing in the Frontiersman and the definition of "a newspaper of general circulation" referred to in the Opening Meeting Act.

Mr. Brown spoke to recent road bids.

Assemblymember McKee spoke to potential taxes.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

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Ron Bernier, District 7

## MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS

350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Edna DeVries.

### II. ROLL CALL

**Present:** 7 - Assemblymember Michael Bowles, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Maxwell Sumner, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

### IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Assemblymember Sumner.

### V. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

#### A. Mayoral Proclamation in Recognition of Education and Sharing Day

**26-042**      Mayoral Proclamation

Mayor DeVries read the proclamation in recognition of Education and Sharing Day and presented it to Rabbi Greenberg.

**VI. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS**

- 26-039**      A. Assembly Regular Meeting Minutes: 01/06/26  
                  B. Assembly Special Meeting Minutes: 01/20/26  
                  C. Assembly Regular Meeting Minutes: 01/20/26  
                  D. Assembly Regular Meeting Minutes: 02/03/26  
                  The minutes were approved as presented without objection.

**VII. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**1. Reports From Cities**

There were no reports provided.

**2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District**

There was no report provided.

**3. State of Alaska**

Todd Smoldon, Executive Director of Governor Dunleavy's Mat-Su Office, spoke to increased property values and the Alaska Permanent Divided Fund. Noted possible sales tax for the State of Alaska and the gas line project.

**B. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committees**

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**

Mr. Brown provided an update on the Request for Interest to evaluate opportunities for attracting data centers and other large power users to Borough-owned lands.

### **D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

### **E. CLERK COMMENTS**

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule.

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

- 26-040**
1. Caswell Lakes RSA Board of Supervisors: Resolution No. 26-01
  2. Central Mat-Su FSA/West Lakes FSA Joint Board of Supervisors: 10/13/25
  3. Chase Community Council: 07/14/25
  4. Greater Palmer Consolidated FSA Board of Supervisors: 01/21/26
  5. Meadow Lakes RSA Board of Supervisors: 12/04/25, Resolution No. 26-01
  6. Point MacKenzie Community Council: 05/09/24, 09/12/24
  7. South Lakes Community Council: 01/05/26
  8. Talkeetna Community Council: 01/05/26

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

### **G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS**

- IM 26-038** Informing The Assembly Of The Managers' Signature On A Grant Application For Submission To The Mat-Su Health Foundation.  
The informational memorandum was presented, and no comments were noted.

## **VIII. SPECIAL ORDERS**

**A. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (You can speak under one of the audience participations on the agenda, but not both; Three Minutes Per Person.)**

The following person spoke to the Parks, Recreation & Trails Advisory Board and spoke to proposed pipeline going through his property: David Palmer.

The following person spoke to the Library Board and obscene library books: Jackie Goforth.

The following person spoke to starting an advisory group called Mat-Su oil and gas and spoke to the pipeline coming to the Mat-Su: Tom Roberson.

The following person spoke to property taxes: Dawson White.

The following persons spoke to obscene books: Karen Lewis and Linda Spohn.

The following person spoke to black history month and library books. Noted the passing of Reverend Jesse Jackson: Mary Robinson

The following person spoke in opposition of Ordinance Serial No. 25-102: Joel Stefanski.

The following persons spoke in opposition of Ordinance Serial No. 26-016: Gigi Hersh, Scott Ashmore, Carl Sedloske, Darren Rad, Mallory Smyth, Jamie Harms-Smyth, James Ramey Smyth, Becca Moore, Banyan Smyth, Sarah Lorimer, David (Last name was indiscernible), Carol Tyler, Hannah Hensley, Cathleen (Last name was indiscernible), Maria (Last name was indiscernible), Margaret Goodman, and Matthew (Last name was indiscernible).

The following person spoke to local libraries, snow plowing, flooding, shooting range, and the Big Lake Ice Arena: Jeanne Troshynski.

The following person spoke to Road Service Area contract issues: Terry Gorlick.

The following person property taxes: Jackie Gorlick.

The following person spoke to banning books, the recent MSB Library Board meeting, and Alaska Senate Bill 238: Dana Raffaniello.

The following person spoke to the 250th anniversary of our country and spoke to Randy Trani, Mat-Su Borough School District Superintendent. Noted the upcoming budget cycle: Mark Spohn.

The following person spoke to the proposed Engstrom and Trunk connector: Rod Hasnon, North Lakes Community Council Chair.

The following person spoke to Valley Transit and Trunk Road: Scott Lindbloom

The following person spoke to obscene library books and data centers: Elory Gibbs.

The meeting recessed at 7:45 p.m. and reconvened at 7:56 p.m.

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

**OR 25-127** An Ordinance Amending MSB 17.67, Tall Structures Including Telecommunication Facilities, Wind Energy Conversion Systems, And Other Tall Structures; To Reduce The Minimum Setback Requirements For New Telecommunications Towers.

**Sponsors:** Fonov

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

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

**Assemblymember Fonov moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-127.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**OR 26-013** An Ordinance Extending The Time Of Completion Of The Expiring Beetle Kill Fire Reduction Initiative Grant Match Funds Through September 30, 2027.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

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

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-013.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**OR 26-015** An Ordinance To Purchase The Adjacent Lot Next To The Big Lake Lions Recreation Center In The Amount Of \$110,000; And To Classify The Land As Reserved Use Lands For The Purpose Of A Sewer System Lot.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

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

**Assemblymember Gamble moved to Ordinance Serial No. 26-015.**

**Assemblymember Nowers moved a to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 26-015 to March 3, 2026.**

**Assemblymember Gamble moved a primary amendment to strike March 3, 2026, and insert June 2, 2026.**

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

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

**No:** 2 - Assemblymember McKee and Assemblymember Fonov

**The motion to postpone to June 2, 2026 passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

**No:** 3 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Fonov

**OR 26-016** An Ordinance Approving The Land Classification Of A Borough-Owned Property As Reserved Use Land For The Purpose Of A Shooting Range. Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in opposition of Ordinance Serial No. 26-016: Linda Oxley, Willow Area Community Organization member; Sandy McDonald; Thomas Blair; John McDonald; Robert Morgan; Kori Morgan; Jeff Morgan; Kelton Hensley; Darcie Morgan; Mallory Smyth; Jamie Harms-Smyth; Nila Morgan; James Ramey Smyth; Elory Gibbs; and Christopher (Last name was indiscernible).

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

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 26-016.**

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 26-016 to April 7, 2026.**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to strike April 7, 2026, and insert June 2, 2026.**

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

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**No:** 3 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, and Assemblymember McKee

**The motion to postpone to June 2, 2026, passed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 4 - Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**No:** 3 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, and Assemblymember McKee

**OR 26-018** An Ordinance To Issue Areawide General Obligation Bonds In An Amount Not To Exceed \$80,013,700, In One Or More Series To Finance The (A) The Acquisition, Design, Construction, Major Renovation And Renewal Of Educational And Related Capital Improvement Projects In The Matanuska-Susitna Borough, (B) The Construction, Additions, Improvements, Betterments, Repair, Reconstruction, Or Acquisition Of Public Roads And Pathways And Facilities Related Thereto In The Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Together With All Necessary Equipment And Transportation Facilities Including Improving School Access, And The Acquisition Of Lands Or Rights In Lands In Connection Therewith, And (C) The Refunding Of Certain Outstanding General Obligation Bonds Of The Matanuska-Susitna Borough; Fixing Certain Details Of Such Bonds; And Authorizing Their Sale.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

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

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 26-018.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**OR 26-019** An Ordinance Repealing MSB 1.10.265, Animal Control In Its Entirety; And Adopting MSB 1.10.141, Animal Control, To Establish Areawide Authority For Animal Control Services Within The Borough, To Include The Cities Of Palmer, Wasilla, And Houston.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

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

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 26-019.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**OR 26-020** An Ordinance Establishing An Exemption To Weight Restrictions On Borough Roads.  
RS 26-010: A Resolution Establishing A Fee For Processing Requests For An Exemption To Weight Restrictions On Borough Roads.

**Sponsors:** McKee and Fonov

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke to postponing to let the Local Road Service Area Advisory Board to review the legislation: Terry Gorlick.

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

**Assemblymember Fonov moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 26-020 and Resolution Serial No. 26-010.**

**Assemblymember Fonov moved a primary amendment to Ordinance Serial No. 26-020 as follows:**

**\* In subsection (B) strike the words, "one time per day" and insert "one round trip per day" to read "the manager may authorize a vehicle operator to exceed weight limit restrictions one round trip per day upon payment of as fee";**

**\*inserting section 11.08.025 to read as follows, "11.08.025 Road Weight Restrictions (A) This section establishes a process to allow limited exemptions from road weight restrictions for the transportation of non-divisible equipment. (B) An application for exemption from the weight restrictions shall be filed on a form provided by the Borough. The application shall include: (1) appropriate filing fee as established by the assembly; (2) date of travel; (3) information identifying the subject vehicle, including the make, model, color, and license plate number; and (4) information identifying the vehicle, load, or equipment which is non-divisible."; and**

**\*inserting section 11.08.040 to read as follows, "11.08.040 Definitions (A) For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.**

**\*'Non-divisible equipment' means a vehicle, load, or piece of machinery that cannot be readily dismantled, reduced, or separated into smaller components to comply with applicable**

**road weight limits without: 1. compromising the structural integrity or intended operation of the load of equipment; or 2. requiring more than eight work hours to dismantle using appropriate tools and equipment."**

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to suspend the rules and to extend the meeting past 10 p.m. and not to exceed 11:00 p.m.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Assemblymember Nowers moved a secondary amendment to subsection 11.08.025(B)(2) to insert the words, "and route of travel" to read "(2) date of travel and route of travel".**

**The secondary amendment failed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 3 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, and Assemblymember Gamble

**No:** 4 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Assemblymember Fonov moved a secondary amendment to subsection 11.08.025 (B)(2) to insert the words, "and starting point and where traveling to," to read as follows, "(2) date of travel and starting point and where traveling to".**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Assemblymember Nowers moved a primary amendment to subsection 11.08.025(B) by inserting the following words, "(5) if the weight requested exceeds State road limits and the route requires using State roads proof needs to be provided of State approval."**

**Assemblymember Gamble moved to postpone Ordinance Serial No. 26-020 and Resolution Serial No. 26-010 to March 3, 2026.**

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

**Yes:** 2 - Assemblymember Nowers and Assemblymember Gamble

**No:** 5 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Assemblymember Sumner called for the question (to stop debate)**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

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

**Yes:** 1 - Assemblymember Nowers

**No:** 6 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Assemblymember Bowles called for the question (to stop debate)**

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

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember McKee,  
Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble,  
Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**No:** 1 - Assemblymember Nowers

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

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember McKee,  
Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble,  
Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**No:** 1 - Assemblymember Nowers

**RS 26-009** A Resolution Supporting A Payment In Lieu Of Taxes For The Pipeline Infrastructure Of The Alaska Natural Gas (AKLNG) Project.  
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

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

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 26-009.**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 26-009 as follows:**

**\*Inserting the following additional WHEREAS clauses,  
"WHEREAS, under current law, the physical value of the pipeline within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough will be counted in the determination of the full and true value of all taxable property within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; and  
WHEREAS, this total value number has a large impact on the Matanuska-Susitna Borough because the Required Local Contribution ("RLC") to the School District is 2.65 mills multiplied by the full and true value of all taxable property in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; and  
WHEREAS, while a PILT provides certainty for all, if the value of the pipeline is included in the full and true value of all property, it will dramatically raise the RCL without a corresponding increase in revenue sufficient to pay the increase in the RLC while also providing funding to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to address other impacts of the pipeline; and  
WHEREAS, if a PILT is enacted, it must also specify that the value of the pipeline is not to be included in the property to be calculated by AS 14.17.410(b)(2) and AS 14.17.510; and"**

**\*inserting another BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED clause as follows, "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the support for a PILT is conditional upon also enacting a provision of law that the value of the pipeline is not to be included in the property to be calculated by AS 14.17.410(b)(2) and AS 14.17.510; and".**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Assemblymember Bernier moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 26-009 as follows:**

**\*Inserting the following additional WHEREAS clauses, "WHEREAS, the intent of establishing a threshold for a PILT is intended to avoid taxing in-state gas, if and until gas exports begin; and**

**WHEREAS, Southcentral Alaska consumes approximately 60 billion cubic feet (BCF) annually and the State has discussed a 1 BCF per day threshold for payments; and**

**WHEREAS, the current proposal assumes that payments in lieu of taxes are split with the State of Alaska and the State is seeking tax reform to lower project costs."**

**\*inserting another BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED clause as follows, "BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a PILT should apply once throughput exceeds 250 million cubic feet (MMCF) per day and, regardless of throughput, payments should apply to all throughput volume after 10 years following completion of the pipeline; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Assembly supports eliminating all payment in lieu of tax costs shared with the State of Alaska, leaving the full payment in organized Boroughs to the local municipality."**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (You can speak under one of the audience participations on the agenda, but not both; Three Minutes Per Person.)**

There being no one present who wished to testify audience participation closed.

**D. CONSENT AGENDA**

**1. RESOLUTIONS**

**RS 26-014** A Resolution Amending The Title And Scope Of Work For A Project To Construct A North-Eastern Borough Communications Tower.

**2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS**

**AM 26-012** Award Of Bid No. 26-099B To Big Dipper Construction, Inc. For The Contract Amount Of \$1,956,942 To Construct Station 6-2 Training Complex Improvements For Confined Space & Structural Simulation.

**AM 26-013** Approval Of Contract Extension For Orion Construction, Inc., Contract No. 25-050B, For Solid Waste Facility Entrance Improvements; And Extending The Contract Completion Date From March 31, 2026, To June 30, 2026.

**AM 26-014** Approval Of Contract Extension For Wolf Architecture, Inc., Contract No. 24-071P, For Gateway Visitor Center Professional Services; And Extending The Contract Completion Date From March 31, 2026, To June 30, 2026.

**AM 26-015** Award Of Proposal No. 26-093P To Nvision Architecture, Inc. For The Contract Amount Of \$115,380 To Design The Iditarod Elementary School Cladding Repair.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to approve the consent agenda as read into the record by the Clerk.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**OR 25-102** An Ordinance Amending MSB 43.20, Subdivision Development Standards To Allow Lots To Be Reduced To 30,000 Square Feet Within Single-Family Residential Land Use Districts.

**Sponsors:** Sumner

**MOTION PENDING: Assemblymember Sumner moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 25-102.**

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

**Yes:** 1 - Assemblymember Fonov

**No:** 6 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

## **X. VETO**

There were no vetoes.

## **XI. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 03/03/26 Assembly Chambers)**

**OR 26-022** An Ordinance Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into A Memorandum Of Agreement With The Talkeetna Community Council, Inc. For The Talkeetna Library Pathway Project And Accepting And Appropriating A Grant For Project Implementation.  
RS 26-013: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Talkeetna Library Pathway Project.

**OR 26-024** An Ordinance Amending MSB 3.15.225 Board Of Equalization; Hearing, Related To Limiting The Board's Authority To Raise Assessments And Making Findings.

**Sponsors:** Sumner, Bowles and Gamble

**OR 26-025** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$258,328.07 From The United States Geological Survey And \$265,852.19 From The Natural Resources Conservation Service; And Extending The Date Of Completion For Match Funding Through June 30, 2029, For The Collection Of LiDAR Elevation Data.  
RS 26-015: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Collection Of LiDAR Elevation Data.

**OR 26-027** An Ordinance Amending MSB 3.28 To Increase The Property Owner Ballot Threshold For Contiguous Local Improvement Districts From 54 Percent To 75 Percent, And Remove The Provisions That Only Returned Ballots Are Considered In Tabulation.

**Sponsors:** Nowers and Bowles

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and set the public hearing for March 3, 2026, respectively.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

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

### **1. VACANCY REPORT**

**26-041** Mayoral Requests for Confirmation  
Agriculture Advisory Board  
James Hazlett  
Board of Adjustment and Appeals  
Claudia Roberts, resignation  
Platting Board  
Steve Kevan  
Alpine RSA # 31  
Frank Buzby  
Caswell Lakes RSA #15  
Michael "Hunter" Leach

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to confirm the resignations and appointments requested by the Mayor.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

### 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)

**OR 26-021** An Ordinance Repealing A General Standard Of MSB 17.30, Conditional Use Permit (CUP) For Earth Materials Extraction Activities.

**Sponsors:** Sumner

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Sumner moved to refer Ordinance Serial No. 26-021 to the Planning Commission for 90 days.**

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

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**No:** 1 - Assemblymember Nowers

### XII. RECONSIDERATION

There was no reconsiderations.

### XIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Bernier said a prayer.

Assemblymember Nowers requested the Manager provide information about comments regarding North Engstrom Road that the North Lakes Community Council mentioned during audience participation. Spoke to data centers and road weight limit exemptions.

Assemblymember Bowles thanked Assemblymember Bernier and noted his support for additional shooting ranges. Spoke to growth in the Borough and staying autonomous.

Assemblymember Gamble spoke to road weight restrictions.

### XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

### XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:36 p.m.

# MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

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

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## MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS  
350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2026

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m. by Mayor Edna DeVries.

### II. ROLL CALL

**Present:** 6 - Assemblymember Michael Bowles, Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Maxwell Sumner, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

**Telephonic:** 1 - Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov

### III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor DeVries queried if there were any changes to the agenda.

**Assemblymember Nowers moved a primary amendment to pull Ordinance Serial No. 25-047 from introduction and to take no action.**

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

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

**No:** 2 - Assemblymember McKee and Assemblymember Fonov

Mayor DeVries queried if there were any additional changes to the agenda.  
**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to change the first audience participation from three minutes to two minutes.**

**Assemblymember Bowles moved a secondary amendment to change both audience participations to two minutes.**

**The secondary amendment failed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 1 - Assemblymember Bowles

**No:** 6 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

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

**Yes:** 1 - Assemblymember Sumner

**No:** 6 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

Mayor DeVries queried if there were any additional changes to the agenda.

The agenda was approved as amended without objection.

#### **IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The pledge of allegiance was led by Assemblymember McKee.

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

There were no minutes of preceding meetings.

#### **VI. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE**

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

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

There were no reports provided.

## **2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District**

Dr. Randy Traini, School District Superintendent, reported on the School District's budget shortfall.

## **3. State of Alaska**

There was no report provided.

## **B. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committees**

There were no reports provided.

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

There was no report provided.

## **C. MANAGER COMMENTS**

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

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

There was no report provided.

## **D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS**

There was no report provided.

## **E. CLERK COMMENTS**

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule.

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

**26-043**

1. Agriculture Advisory Board: 01/21/26
2. Big Lake Community Council: 01/13/26
3. Big Lake RSA Board of Supervisors: 06/09/25, 12/08/25
4. Board of Adjustment and Appeals: 04/30/25, Final Decisions 24-01 and 25-01
5. Butte Community Council: 01/14/26
6. Butte FSA Board of Supervisors: 12/11/25
7. Central Mat-Su Board of Supervisors: 01/12/26
8. Enhanced 911 Advisory Board: 12/09/25
9. Greater Talkeetna RSA Board of Supervisors: 01/08/26
10. North Lakes Community Council: Resolution Nos. 24-002, 25-001, 25-002, 25-003, 26-001, 26-002
11. Platting Board: 01/15/26
12. Transportation Advisory Board: 10/24/25

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

**G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS**

**IM 26-032** Informing The Assembly Of The Managers Signature On Five Grant Applications For Submission To The Alaska State Library For The Alaska Public Library Assistance Grants For The Big Lake, Sutton, Talkeetna, Trapper Creek, and Willow Libraries.

**IM 26-040** Reporting Conclusion Of Contract No. 24-088B with Granite Construction Company For a Total Contract Amount Of \$4,268,545.40 For The Hidden Hills And Caswell Lakes Road Improvements Project.

**IM 26-042** Reporting The Conclusion Of Contract For Bid No. 23-118B With F-E Contracting, Inc. For A Final Contract Amount Of \$23,915,805.90 To Construct The Mat-Su Central School Project.

The informational memorandums were presented, and no comments were noted.

**VII. SPECIAL ORDERS**

**A. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (You can speak under one of the audience participations on the agenda, but not both; Three Minutes Per Person.)**

The following persons spoke to concerns with the School District's proposed budget cuts and in support of full funding: Chris Tyree, Katrina Miller, Lidda Tobin, Heather Bowman, Mark Beck, Sarah Phillips, Chris Angell, Fred Merrill, Carrie Johnson, Taft Johnson, Rebecca Emerson, John Miller, Mayerly Fischer, Alexa Backmen, Travis Friesen, Thom Ohls, Amber Allen, Melissa Brauneis, Mariah Clifford, Carrie Dunphy, Violet Rainbow Brooks, Gary Wolske, Anna Daniel, Stephanie Mellott, Dave Johnson, Tara Lee, and Riley Laws.

The following person spoke in opposition to a sales tax, to lifting weight restrictions on Borough roads, to changing the voting threshold for approval of gas local improvement districts, to leasing land for data centers, and to increases to the salaries of the Assembly and Mayor: Mary Robinson.

The following persons spoke to concerns with pornographic books in Borough libraries: Jackie Goforth and Linda Spohn.

The following persons spoke in opposition to locating data centers in the Borough and to concerns with the noise and water pollution that they cause: Mary Claire McCarthy, Beth Aiken, Shyan Horner, Danielle Benbo, Sheryl McGee, Julianna Pruitt, Caroline Elm, Karina Pettit, and Serena Beck.

The following persons spoke in opposition to any new taxes: Louis Calandri and Mike Alexander.

The following person spoke in support of the Assembly revisiting lifting weight restrictions and noted that the State is unaware of the change that the Borough is making, to concerns with the damage to roads that lifting spring weight restrictions will cause: Joel Stefanski

The following person spoke in support of full funding for the School District and in opposition to the Borough partnering with Terra for a marketing campaign: John Perry.

The following persons spoke in support of reconsideration of Ordinance Serial No. 26-020: Tery Gorlick and Jackie Gorlick.

The following person opined that the Borough needs to establish a natural gas advisory committee: Tom Roberson.

The following person spoke in opposition to locating data centers in the Borough and in support of full funding for the Scholl District: Marika Hintz.

The following person noted that the Tanaina Community Council is seeking a location within their council boundaries to develop into a park: Mary Revetta.

The following person spoke to concerns with how assessments in the Borough are conducted: Dawson White.

The following person spoke in opposition to waiving seasonal weight restrictions on roads, to an increase to the Assembly and Mayor salaries, to any new taxes, to banning books, and in support of full funding for schools: Helen Vincent.

The following persons spoke to the need to audit the School District Administration for waste, in opposition to the cuts that the School District is proposing: Skyler DeBoer and Mary DeBoer.

The following person spoke to the need to fully fund schools and in opposition to data centers and coal mines: Riley Blakenship.

The following person spoke to concerns with the proposed voting threshold for gas local improvement districts: Jesse Sumner.

The meeting recessed at 8:42 p.m. and reconvened at 9 p.m.

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

**OR 26-022** An Ordinance Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into A Memorandum Of Agreement With The Talkeetna Community Council, Inc. For The Talkeetna Library Pathway Project And Accepting And Appropriating A Grant For Project Implementation.

RS 26-013: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Talkeetna Library Pathway Project.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

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

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 26-022 and Resolution Serial No. 26-013.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**OR 26-024** An Ordinance Amending MSB 3.15.225 Board Of Equalization; Hearing, Related To Limiting The Board's Authority To Raise Assessments And Making Findings.

**Sponsors:** Sumner, Bowles and Gamble

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

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

**Assemblymember Sumner moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 26-024.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**OR 26-025** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$258,328.07 From The United States Geological Survey And \$265,852.19 From The Natural Resources Conservation Service; And Extending The Date Of Completion For Match Funding Through June 30, 2029, For The Collection Of LiDAR Elevation Data.  
RS 26-015: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Collection Of LiDAR Elevation Data.  
Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

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

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 26-025 and Resolution Serial No. 26-015.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**OR 26-027** An Ordinance Amending MSB 3.28 To Increase The Property Owner Ballot Threshold For Contiguous Local Improvement Districts From 54 Percent To 75 Percent, And Remove The Provisions That Only Returned Ballots Are Considered In Tabulation.

**Sponsors:** Nowers and Bowles

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke to concerns with the threshold for approving gas local improvement districts: Dave Johnson, Andrew Traxler, and Duane Yung.

**Assemblymember Nowers moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 26-027.**

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to suspend the rules and extend the meeting past 10 p.m. and not to exceed 11:30 p.m.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers,  
Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner,  
Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and  
Assemblymember Bernier

**Assemblymember Bowles moved a primary amendment as follows:**

**\* by striking current Section 4, on page 3 of the ordinance in its entirety;**

**\* by inserting in its place: “(d) a ballot with a return envelope addressed to the borough finance department. The ballot shall request the property owner to indicate approval or disapproval of the local improvement district by marking a vote of “yes” or “no” on the ballot, and shall state that the assembly will not proceed with the improvement unless, within 30 days after mailing notice of the public hearing, the borough receives ballots marked “yes” from owners of property bearing 100 percent of the estimated cost of a natural gas distribution line improvement; or more than 75 percent of the estimated cost of any other improvement, except that for noncontiguous improvement districts, the borough must receive ballots marked “yes” from 100 percent of property owners bearing 100 percent of the estimated cost of the improvement.”**

**\* by striking current Section 5, on page 4 of the ordinance in its entirety; and**

**\* inserting in its place: "(B) The assembly may not proceed with the improvement unless ballots approving a contiguous local improvement district are timely filed by owners of property bearing more than 100 percent of the estimated cost of a natural gas distribution line improvement; or more than 75 percent of the estimated cost of any other improvement; or for a noncontiguous local improvement district, by owners of property bearing 100 percent of the estimated cost of the improvement. If sufficient ballots are not timely filed, the assembly may not proceed with the improvement unless it revises the plan, and a new balloting of owners of property in the local improvement district results in the timely filing of ballots approving the local improvement district by owners of property bearing 100 percent of the estimated cost of a natural gas distribution line improvement; more than 75 percent of the estimated cost of any other improvement; or for a noncontiguous local improvement district, of owners of property bearing 100 percent of the estimated cost of the improvement. A revised plan shall be approved and adopted as an original plan as provided in MSB 3.28.050."**

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

**Yes:** 1 - Assemblymember Bowles

**No:** 6 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment, to Section 5, page 4 of the ordinance, to reinsert the following language: "For contiguous local improvement district proposals, the percentage calculation will be calculated based upon the total number of ballots returned. Unreturned ballots will not affect the calculation."**

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

**Yes:** 6 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**No:** 1 - Assemblymember Nowers

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment by striking "75" and inserting "67" in its place throughout the ordinance.**

**Assemblymember Fonov moved a secondary amendment by striking "67" and inserting "60" in its place throughout the ordinance.**

**Assemblymember Sumner called for the question (to stop debate).**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**The secondary amendment failed by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 1 - Assemblymember Fonov

**No:** 6 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Assemblymember Sumner called for the question (to stop debate).**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

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

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**No:** 2 - Assemblymember Bowles and Assemblymember Nowers

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

**Yes:** 3 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Gamble

**No:** 4 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**C. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (You can speak under one of the audience participations on the agenda, but not both; Three Minutes Per Person.)**

The following person spoke to concerns with the marketing partnership outlined in Resolution Serial No. 26-019: Scott Lapine.

**D. CONSENT AGENDA**

**1. RESOLUTIONS**

**RS 26-016** A Resolution Approving The Amended Budgets For Birch Creek Tributary At Mastodon Road Fish Passage Project And Neklason Lake At Homebuilt Circle Fish Passage Project.

**RS 26-017** A Resolution Amending The Scope Of Work And Budget To Reallocate Funds From 2025 Jolly Creek Drainage And Cherrywood Drive, To The 2025 South Horseshoe Lake Road Repairs And Upgrade Project In Big Lake Road Service Area.

**RS 26-018** A Resolution Waiving The Fee For A Conditional Use Permit For An Alcoholic Beverage Dispensary.

**Sponsors:** Gamble

**2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS**

**AM 26-016** Award Of Bid No. 26-098B To Nodak Electric & Construction Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$148,061 To Design And Build A Roof Structure At Port MacKenzie.

**AM 26-017** Award Of Bid No. 26-081P To New Horizons Telecom, Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$555,941.21 To Design And Build A New Telecommunication Tower In Eureka.

**AM 26-018** Award Of Bid No. 26-117B To Swickard Auto Group In The Amount Of \$114,534 To Purchase Two Emergency Services 4x4 Sport Utility Vehicles.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to approve the consent agenda as read into the record by the Clerk.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**RS 26-019** A Resolution Supporting A Joint Marketing Effort Between The Borough And Terra Energy Center Corporation For The Promotion And Development Of Designated Borough Lands To Solicit Expressions Of Interest From Large Power Consumers For Data Center, Energy Infrastructure, Advanced Manufacturing, And Industrial Development Opportunities.

**Sponsors:** Bernier and Fonov

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Bowles moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 26-019.**

**Assemblymember Bowles called for the question (to stop debate).**

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

**Yes:** 2 - Assemblymember Bowles and Assemblymember Gamble

**No:** 5 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Assemblymember Gamble moved to postpone Resolution Serial No. 26-019 to June 2, 2026.**

**Assemblymember Bernier called for the question (to stop debate).**

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

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

**No:** 2 - Assemblymember Nowers and Assemblymember Fonov

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

**Yes:** 3 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, and Assemblymember Gamble

**No:** 4 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**Assemblymember Sumner called for the question (to stop debate).**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

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

**Yes:** 5 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**No:** 2 - Assemblymember Bowles and Assemblymember Nowers

## **VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

## **IX. VETO**

There were no vetoes.

## **X. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 03/17/26, Assembly Chambers)**

**OR 25-047** An Ordinance Amending MSB 2.08.060 And MSB 2.12.060, Compensation For The Mayor And Assembly.

**Sponsors:** Fonov

[Clerk's Note: Ordinance Serial No. 25-047 was removed from the agenda at approval of the agenda and not introduced.]

**OR 26-023** An Ordinance Approving The Sale Of Certain Borough-Owned Real Property Acquired Through Tax Foreclosure For Delinquent Real Property Tax Years 2019, 2018, And Prior; And Not Needed For A Public Purpose.

**OR 26-029** An Ordinance Approving The Purchase Of A One-Acre Parcel Adjacent To The New Gateway Visitor Center In The Amount Of \$172,000 And Classifying The Property As Reserved Use Lands.

**OR 26-032** An Ordinance Adopting MSB 1.10.170 And MSB 3.35, 6.5 Percent Areawide Sales Tax, Repealing Areawide Property Tax, And Submitting The Proposition To The Voters At The November 3, 2026, Regular Borough Election.

**Sponsors:** Bowles

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public Hearings for March 17, 2026.**

**Assemblymember Bowles moved to divide the question to take up introduction of Ordinance Serial No. 26-032, Separately.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**FIRST SEGMENT: Assemblymember Bernier moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearings for March 17, 2026, with the exception of Ordinance Serial No. 26-032**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**SECOND SEGMENT: Assemblymember Bernier moved to introduce Ordinance Serial No. 26-032 and set the public hearing for March 17, 2026.**

**Assemblymember Bowles moved a primary amendment by striking “March 17, 2026” and inserting “May 19, 2026” in its place.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**The second segment passed as amended by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

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

### **1. VACANCY REPORT**

**26-044**      Mayoral Requests for Confirmation

Transportation Advisory Board  
Pierce Schwalb

**Assemblymember Bernier moved to confirm the appointment requested by the Mayor.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

## **C. OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

none.

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

**OR 26-028** An Ordinance Amending MSB 17.80, Nonconforming Structures, To Repeal The Notification Process And Fee Section.

**Sponsors:** Sumner

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**OR 26-030** An Ordinance Repealing MSB 8.25, Water Pollution Control; And MSB 17.55.020(E), Under Setbacks For Shorelands, In Their Entirety.

**Sponsors:** Sumner

**Assemblymember Sumner moved to refer Ordinance Serial Nos. 26-028 and 26-030 to the Planning Commission for 90 days.**

**Assemblymember Nowers moved divide the question to take up the referral of Ordinance Serial No. 26-030, separately.**

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

**FIRST SEGMENT: Assemblymember Sumner moved to refer Ordinance Serial No. 26-028 to the Planning Commission for 90 days.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**SECOND SEGMENT: Assemblymember Nowers moved to refer Ordinance Serial No. 26-032 to the Planning Commission for 90 days.**

**Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to include referral to the Wastewater Advisory Board for 90 days.**

**Assemblymember Nowers moved a secondary amendment to strike the referral of 90 days and for the legislation not to come back to the Assembly until June 16, 2026.**

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

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

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

**SECOND SEGMENT: The second segment passed as amended by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

## **XI. RECONSIDERATION**

**OR 26-020** An Ordinance Establishing An Exemption To Weight Restrictions On Borough Roads.  
RS 26-010: A Resolution Establishing A Fee For Processing Requests For An Exemption To Weight Restrictions On Borough Roads.

**Sponsors:** McKee and Fonov

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

**Assemblymember Gamble moved to reconsider Ordinance Serial No. 26-020.**

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

**Yes:** 3 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, and Assemblymember Gamble

**No:** 4 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

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

Assemblymember McKee opined that Ordinance Serial No. 25-047 should be brought back for discussion regarding potential increases to the Assembly and Mayor's salaries.

Assemblymember Sumner stated that he listened intently to all testimony provided. Noted that people generally dislike taxes and that budget decisions can be difficult. Spoke to the need for the Assembly to be good stewards of others' money.

Assemblymember Bernier thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Said a prayer.

Assemblymember Nowers spoke to concerns with possible damage to roads with the lifting of seasonal weight restrictions. Stated that repairs to the roads will be at the expense of taxpayers. Noted that she read all the public opinion comments that were provided regarding school district funding concerns. Opined that teachers are doing a great job on behalf of students. Stated that funding the School District is a tough situation that cannot be minimized. Noted that if the Assembly were to fund the school district to the cap that it would be an additional \$600 per year burden on property taxpayers. Commented that she does not want to see any school closed as she can envision the long-term impacts of doing so. Opined that now is not the time for the body to discuss giving themselves a pay increase when there are more important funding concerns.

Assemblymember Fonov thanked the body for their patience while he attended the meeting telephonically. Stated that he does not want to see any schools closed but acknowledged that the discussion may be unavoidable. Spoke in support of lifting seasonal weight restrictions. Stated that he is disappointed that Ordinance Serial No. 25-047 was removed from the agenda. Opined that it is time for the Assembly to have a pay increase.

**Assemblymember Bowles moved reconsider the removal of Ordinance Serial No. 25-047 from the agenda.**

**Assemblymember Bowles moved to withdraw his motion.**

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

**Yes:** 2 - Assemblymember McKee and Assemblymember Fonov

**No: 5 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers,  
Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and  
Assemblymember Bernier**

Assemblymember Bowles spoke in opposition to data centers. Spoke to the need for the body to focus on industry that will not pollute the environment or infringe on private property rights.

Assemblymember Gamble noted that the State still has seasonal road weight restrictions and that the Borough only has the authority to lift them on roads under its purview. Commented that it could be a problem for contractors who have paid the Borough fee to travel unrestricted on Borough roads, but noted that those same contractors will still have to travel on weight-restricted roads under the purview of the State and could be fined. Commented that he has always been in opposition to the Borough assisting with funding gas line extensions for Enstar. Opined that the company should extend main lines at its own expense and not at the expense of residents. Stated that he is not opposed to data centers as long as they are appropriately located. Spoke in support of job growth and attracting business to the Borough.

### **XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

### **XIV. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting recessed at 11:24 p.m.