

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



BOROUGH ASSEMBLY
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

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, May 19, 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

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

Assemblymember Bowles moved to remove Ordinance Serial No. 26-065 from introduction.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Fonov

No: 3 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Gamble, 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 Carter Fickes, a member of the Northern Knights Robotic Team.

V. SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

26-076 Mayoral Proclamation Honoring the Northern Knights Robotic Team

Mayor DeVries presented a proclamation in recognition of the achievements of the Northern Knights Robotics Team.

Carter Fickes and the Northern Knights Robotics Team presented on their participation in the first robotics competition in Alaska.

Mayor DeVries noted that it is also Emergency Services Week and spoke to the hard work of the Borough's first responders.

VI. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

- 26-079** A. Assembly Regular Meeting Minutes: 04/07/26
 B. Assembly Departmental Budget Presentation Minutes: 04/09/26
 C. Assembly Regular Meeting Minutes: 04/21/26
 D. Assembly Budget Public Hearing Minutes: 04/23/26
 E. Assembly Budget Public Hearing Minutes: 04/28/26
 F. Assembly Budget Public Hearing Minutes: 04/30/26
 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

Palmer City Mayor, Jim Cooper, noted that the city is in opposition to the proposed sales tax legislation.

2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

There was no report provided.

3. State of Alaska

There was no report provided.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committees

There was no report provided.

2. Assembly Public Relations

Assemblymember Fonov reported on his attendance at the World Fair at Academy Charter School. Noted that it is Public Works Week and thanked the Borough's Public Works Department for their hard work.

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. Henry spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

26-080

1. Caswell Lakes RSA Board of Supervisors: 04/09/25, 06/09/25
2. Fishhook Community Council: 10/23/25, Resolution No. 26-01
3. Glacier View Community Council: 03/26/26
4. Knik RSA Board of Supervisors: 04/07/26
5. Lazy Mountain RSA Board of Supervisors: 02/05/26, 05/07/26
6. Parks, Recreation, and Trails Advisory Board: 03/23/26
7. Planning Commission: 04/20/26
8. Talkeetna Community Council: 03/02/26, 04/06/26
9. Tanaina Community Council: 03/23/26

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

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

IM 26-098 Reporting The Conclusion Of Contract For Bid No. 24-144B With Nodak Electric And Construction, Inc. For A Final Contract Amount Of \$344,200 For The Supply And Install Of Generators For Emergency Services.

IM 26-104 Reporting The Conclusion Of Contract For Bid No. 24-157B With Orion Construction, Inc. For A Final Contract Amount Of \$1,072,202.93 For The Animal Care And Regulation 2023 Upgrades To The Animal Care Facility.

The informational memorandums were 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 in opposition to Ordinance Serial No. 26-021: Patricia Fisher.

The following person spoke to concerns with the lack of road maintenance in Meadow Lakes Road Service Area: Esther Huddleston, Meadow Lakes RSA Board Member.

The following persons spoke to concerns with pornographic books in Borough Libraries: Jackie Goforth and Karen Lewis.

The following persons spoke to concerns with Ordinance Serial No. 26-041: Joshua Shepherd, George Fougerson, and Colleen Vague.

The following person opined that the United States is a constitutional republic and not a democratic society and to concerns with books in libraries: Linda Spohn.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)

OR 26-041 An Ordinance Creating Republican Way Natural Gas Local Improvement District No. 672, Approving The Improvement Plan For The District, Authorizing The Manager To Proceed With The Improvement, And Assessing Equally Among The Properties Within The District The Costs Of The Improvement.

Ms. Henry read the legislation into the record.

Cheyenne Heindel, Finance Director, provided a staff report.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 26-041: Cheryl Fougeron, Tom Chipman, and George Fougeron.

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

Assemblymember Bowles moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 26-041.

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 26-050 An Ordinance Approving A Less Than Fair Market Value Sale Of Nine Borough-Owned Properties To The Alaska State Department Of Transportation And Public Facilities For A Public Purpose.

Ms. Henry read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 26-050: James Sowerwine, Alaska State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities.

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

Assemblymember Bowles moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 26-050.

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 26-051 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$338,000 From The United States Department Of Military And Veterans' Affairs, Division Of Homeland Security And Emergency Management, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

RS 26-038: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget And Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into An Agreement For The Sushana Drive Drainage Improvement Phase 1.

Ms. Henry read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke to concerns with Ordinance Serial No. 26-051 and Resolution Serial No. 26-038: Scott Lindbloom.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 26-051 and Resolution Serial No. 26-038: Dixie Banner.

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. 26-051 and Resolution Serial No. 26-038.

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 26-052 An Ordinance Approving Land Classification Of Three Borough-Owned Properties In The Big Lake Area As Reserved Use Lands, Resource Management Lands, And General Purpose Lands.
Ms. Henry 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 adopt Ordinance Serial No. 26-052.

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 26-053 An Ordinance Extending The Date Of Completion Of The Brett Ice Arena Digital Sign Display Project Through June 30, 2027.
RS 26-040: A Resolution Amending The Scope Of Work And Retitling The Brett Ice Arena Digital Sign Display Project.
Ms. Henry 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. 26-053 and Resolution Serial No. 26-040.

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 26-056 An Ordinance Establishing The Board For Advisory Review Of Kennel Standards (“BARKS”) As An Advisory Board To Review And Make Recommendations Regarding Kennel Licensing And Enforcement.

Sponsors: Sumner, Fonov and Bernier

Ms. Henry 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. 26-056.

Assemblymember Nowers moved a primary amendment to Section 2. Membership, to insert a nonvoting Assembly member seat.

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

The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Assemblymember Bowles and Assemblymember McKee

No: 5 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

Assemblymember Bowles moved a secondary amendment to Section 2. Membership, by inserting the following language at the end of that section: "After the investigation report is received, the Mayor may choose to appoint a nonvoting Assembly member seat to BARKS."

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 passed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Fonov

No: 3 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Bernier

Assemblymember Sumner moved a secondary amendment, Section 2, Membership, to insert the following language at the end of the paragraph: "The BARKS committee may request that that a nonvoting Assembly seat be added."

The secondary 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

The primary amendment passed as amended by the following vote:

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

No: 1 - Assemblymember Bernier

The main motion passed as amended 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.)

The meeting recessed at 8:09 p.m. and reconvened at 8:25 p.m.

The following person spoke in opposition of Ordinance Serial No. 26-065 being removed from introduction: Dana Rafaniello.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

- RS 26-034** A Resolution To Waive The \$500 Application Fee For The Nonprofit Wasilla-Knik Historical Society And To Inform The Assembly Of The Borough's Intent To Enter Into A New Management Agreement For A Five-Year Term To Use And Manage Borough-Owned Land And Buildings, Including The Knik Museum And The Bjorn Cabin, Located Within Section 24, Township 16 North, Range 3 West.
- RS 26-041** A Resolution Waiving All Application And Land Use Permit Fees For The Alaska State Department Of Fish And Game's Use Of Borough Land For Resource Monitoring And Management Activities.

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

- AM 26-050** Approval Of An Extension Of The Final Completion Date To June 30, 2027, For Contract No. 22-090P(A) With CRW Engineering Group, LLC For The Tex-Al Drive Extension Upgrade And Pathway Project.
- AM 26-055** Approval Of Change Order No. 3 For Contract No. 22-055P With Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. For The Seldon Extension Phase II Right-Of-Way Acquisition Map Completion To Extend The Contract To June 30, 2027.
- AM 26-056** Approving The Fiscal Year 2027 Payment To The City Of Palmer In The Amount Of \$1,395,571.64 For The Fire Services Agreement.
- AM 26-057** Acceptance Of Late Filed And Retroactive Senior Citizen And Disabled Veteran Tax Exemption Applications For The Period Of March And April 2026.
- AM 26-058** Approval Of Contract Amendment No. 2 For Contract No. 26-017C With Wolf Architecture Inc. For American Charter Academy Construction Administration Services To Add \$25,541 For Additional Design Services Related To On-Site Traffic Improvements.
- AM 26-059** Award Of Bid No. 26-127B To Granite Construction Company In The Amount Of \$1,527,531.50 To Construct The Compost And Tire Area Improvements At The Central Landfill.

AM 26-060 Approval Of Contract Extension For Contract No. 24-060P With RESPEC, Inc. Adding \$9,920 For Continued Construction Administration Services To Design Central Landfill Entrance Improvements Phase I; And Extending The Contract Completion Date To June 30, 2026.

AM 26-061 Approval Of Change Order No. 3 For The E-911 And Dispatch Services Agreement No. 16-100P Increasing The Annual Cost By \$569,600 In Fiscal Year 2027 For Two Additional Dispatchers And Two Additional Call Takers.

AM 26-062 Authorizing A Purchase from FERNO In The Amount Of \$868,372.76 Of Power X-2 Ambulance Stretcher Platforms With Pro F1 Mounting Systems.

AM 26-063 Award Of Bid No 26-167C To Braun Northwest Inc. In The Anticipated Cost Not To Exceed \$506,000 To Remount And Refurbish Two Ambulances.

Ms. Henry read the consent agenda 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 26-050 A Resolution Amending The Budget For Birchtree Charter School And Approving The Budget For American Charter Academy To Address Unforeseen Conditions, Infrastructure Needs, And Resulting Cost Impacts During Construction.

Ms. Henry read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Nowers moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 26-050.

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 26-051 A Resolution Encouraging Property Maintenance, Community Cleanliness, And The Preservation Of Individual Freedom Of Choice Regarding The Use Of Outdoor Yard Power Tools, Including Leaf Blowers.

Sponsors: Sumner

Ms. Henry read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Bowles moved to adopt Resolution Serial No. 26-051.

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

There was no unfinished business.

X. VETO

A. Motion to Override Any Possible Mayoral Veto on Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Items (Ordinance Serial No. 26-026)

The Mayor did not present any budget vetoes.

Assemblymember McKee moved to reconsider the removal from introduction of Ordinance Serial No. 26-065.

The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

No: 3 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Fonov

[Clerk's Note: The Clerk announced that the motion passed with four affirmative votes. The Assembly disagreed and determined that five affirmative votes were required for passage; therefore, the motion is recorded in these minutes as failed.]

XI. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 06/02/26, Assembly Chambers)

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

Sponsors: Sumner

OR 26-054 An Ordinance Extending The Completion Date For The Steam Thaw Truck Project Funding To June 30, 2028.
RS 26-044: A Resolution Amending The Budget For The Thaw Truck, Cold Planer, Pickup Truck Purchase; And Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Road And Pathway Sustainment Project.

OR 26-055 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$37,700 Received From The Surplus Sale Of Road Service Area Equipment For The Road And Pathway Sustainment Project.
RS 26-045: A Resolution Amending The Budget For The Road And Pathway Sustainment Project.

OR 26-057 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$75,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Transportation And Public Facilities For West Susitna Parkway Improvements.
RS 26-046: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For West Susitna Parkway Improvements.

OR 26-060 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$523.73 From The United States Fish And Wildlife Service And \$583.74 From The Alaska State Department Of Fish And Game, Passed Through The Palmer Soil And Water Conservation District For A Total Of \$1,107.47.
RS 26-047: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget; And Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into An Agreement For The Caswell Creek/Caswell Lake Streambank Rehabilitation Project.

OR 26-061 An Ordinance Increasing The Marijuana Sales Tax Levy From 5 Percent To 10 Percent; And To Submit The Question To The Qualified Areawide Voters At The November 3, 2026, Regular Borough Election.

Sponsors: Bernier

OR 26-062 An Ordinance Levying A Tax Up To 10 Percent On The Sale Of Alcoholic Beverages; And To Submit The Question To The Qualified Areawide Voters At The November 3, 2026, Regular Borough Election.

Sponsors: Bernier

OR 26-063 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating A Grant In The Amount Of \$44,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Health And Social Services For A Project For The Continued Management Of Points Of Dispensing Sites That Will Be Used To Distribute Medicines Or Vaccines To Residents And Visitors In Our Area In The Event Of An Incident That Requires Large Numbers Of People To Receive Preventive Medicines And Medications.

RS 26-048: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For A Grant In The Amount Of \$44,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Health And Social Services, For The Continued Management Of Points Of Dispensing Sites Project.

OR 26-064 An Ordinance Reappropriating \$10,000 From The 2023 Fiscal Year Areawide Budget Appropriation To Fish Passage Improvements For The Cottonwood Creek Pike Barrier Project.

RS 26-049: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Cottonwood Creek Pike Barrier Project.

Ms. Henry read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Bernier moved to introduce the legislation as read into the record by the Clerk and to set the public hearings for June 2, 2026.

Assemblymember Gamble moved to divide the question, to take up introduction of Ordinance Serial No. 26-021, separately.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, and Assemblymember Gamble

No: 3 - Assemblymember Sumner, 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 June 2, 2026, with the exception of Ordinance Serial No. 26-021.

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. 26-021 and to set the public hearing for June 16, 2026.

Assemblymember Gamble moved a primary amendment by striking "June 16, 2026" and inserting "July 21, 2026" in its place.

The motion failed by the following vote:

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

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

Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment by striking "June 16, 2026" and inserting June 2, 2026"

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 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. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 06/16/26, Assembly Chambers)

OR 26-065 An Ordinance Adopting MSB 3.15.036 \$75,000, Owner-Occupied Residential Real Property Exemption And MSB 1.10.170, 1.5 Percent Areawide Sales Tax (With Exemptions For Sales Within The Cities); And Submitting The Proposition To The Voters At The November 3, 2026, Regular Borough Election.

Sponsors: Nowers

[Clerk's Note: Ordinance Serial No. 26-065 was pulled from introduction at approval of the agenda.]

C. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

26-081 Mayoral Requests for Confirmation
Lazy Mountain RSA No. 19
Pierre Stragier, removal
Assemblymember Bernier moved to confirm the removal 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

D. OTHER NEW BUSINESS

There was no other new business.

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

There were no referrals.

XII. RECONSIDERATION

There were no reconsiderations.

XIII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember McKee noted that each member of the Assembly works hard on behalf of their constituents and does their best to represent their interests.

Assemblymember Sumner agreed with Assemblymember McKee and stated that he is glad the Borough has unrestricted access to the use of leaf blowers.

Assemblymember Bernier thanked the public for attending. Said a prayer.

Assemblymember Nowers opined that legislation titles could be more descriptive so the public can more easily understand the matters under consideration. Expressed dismay that Ordinance Serial No. 26-065 was removed from introduction and noted her intent to bring the legislation back forward. Further opined that it was disrespectful to invite open discussion and alternative ideas regarding taxes, only to subsequently shut down that discussion. Spoke to her attendance at the Palmer Food Bank ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Assemblymember Bowles noted his disagreement with Assemblymember Nowers and stated that he intends to vote against her legislation should it be brought forward again. Further stated his opposition to government overreach and spoke in support of the earth materials extraction legislation. Noted that it is a privilege to serve his district.

Assemblymember Gamble commented that personal earth materials extraction is currently permitted. Expressed concern that the gravel legislation removes a key component of the public process, specifically the opportunity for residents to comment on matters that directly impact their homes. Spoke in opposition to the removal of Ordinance Serial No. 26-065 from introduction and emphasized the importance of hearing differing ideas and allowing them to be voted up or down.

Assemblymember Fonov spoke in opposition to removing items from the agenda and commented that it would require the collective agreement of the Assembly to discontinue the practice. Spoke in support of Assemblymember McKee serving in a nonvoting capacity on the BARKS Committee.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

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Ron Bernier, District 7

MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY SPECIAL MEETING

4:00 PM

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026

Annual Evaluation of the Borough Attorney

I. CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, at the Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Mayor Edna DeVries.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Assemblymember Michael Bowles, Assemblymember Dee McKee, Assemblymember Maxwell Sumner, Assemblymember Bill Gamble, Assemblymember Dmitri Fonov (telephonic and entered in person at 4:08 p.m.), and Assemblymember Ron Bernier

Telephonic: 1 - Assemblymember Stephanie Nowers

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney.

V. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Three Minutes Per Person.)

There was no one present who wished to testify.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Executive Session (For Subjects That Tend To Prejudice The Reputation And Character Of Any Person Provided The Person May Request A Public Discussion.)

1. Annual Evaluation of the Borough Attorney

Mayor DeVries queried if Mr. Spiropoulos would like his evaluation to be conducted in public or in executive session.

Mr. Spiropoulos stated he would like his evaluation to be conducted in executive session.

Assemblymember Bernier moved to enter into executive session for subjects that tend to prejudice the reputation and character of any person, provided the person may request a public discussion. In particular, to conduct the annual evaluation of the Attorney. Those present during the executive session were the Mayor, the Assembly, and the Attorney.

There was no objection noted and the Assembly entered into executive session at 4:05 p.m.

(Assemblymember Fonov entered in-person at 4:08 p.m.)

Assemblymember Bernier moved to exit executive session. There was no objection noted and the Assembly exited executive session at 5:12 p.m.

Assemblymember Bernier moved to provide the Attorney with a 3.3 percent for cost of living increase and 2 percent for a step increase.

The motion passed by the following vote:

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

VII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENT

There were no comments.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

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MEETING MINUTES

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY REGULAR MEETING

6:00 PM

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, June 2, 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

Assemblymember Bernier moved to remove Ordinance Serial No. 26-016 and come back to the August 18, 2026.

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 agenda was approved as amended without objection.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Spiropoulos, Borough Attorney.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

There were no minutes presented.

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

There was no report provided.

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

Assemblymember McKee spoke to a program for youth to learn about civics and the event she attended.

Assemblymember Sumner spoke to attending a Dan Sullivan campaign event last weekend and that three other Assembly members were present. No Borough business was discussed.

Assemblymember Bowles spoke to the Cleans Program and the event for Dan Sullivan last weekend. Thanked Borough staff. Noted he was also in attendance at a North Lakes Community Council meeting and other Assembly members were present.

Assemblymember Fonov spoke to attending a Dan Sullivan campaign event he last weekend three other members were present. No Borough business was discussed.

Assemblymember McKee spoke to attending a Dan Sullivan campaign event last weekend three other members were present. No Borough business was discussed.

Assemblymember Nowers noted she attended a North Lakes Community Council meeting and other Assembly members were present.

Mayor DeVries spoke to testifying on House Bill 381 and noted she will be testifying to the Senate on the LNG Project.

C. MANAGER COMMENTS

1. State/Federal Legislation

2. Strategic Planning Issues

D. ATTORNEY COMMENTS

E. CLERK COMMENTS

Ms. McKechnie spoke to the upcoming meeting schedule and important elections date.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

26-084

1. Agriculture Advisory Board: 02/18/26, 03/18/26, Resolution 26-01
2. Butte Community Council: 04/08/26
3. Butte FSA Board of Supervisors: 02/12/26
4. Chickaloon Community Council: 10/08/25, 11/12/25, 02/11/26
5. Greater Talkeetna RSA Board of Supervisors: 02/12/26
6. Library Board: 04/14/26
7. MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission: 02/26/26, 03/12/26, 03/26/26, 04/09/26
8. Meadow Lakes RSA Board of Supervisors: 04/15/26
9. Planning Commission: 05/04/26, Resolution Nos. 26-05, 26-07, 26-08
10. Platting Board: 04/02/26, 04/16/26
11. South Lakes Community Council: 05/04/26
12. Talkeetna Community Council: 02/02/26
13. Talkeetna Sewer and Water Board: 04/01/26
14. Water and Wastewater Advisory Board: 03/04/26, Resolution 26-03
15. West Lakes FSA Board of Supervisors: 04/13/26
16. Willow Area Community Organization: 12/03/25, 01/07/26, 02/04/26, 03/04/26, 04/01/26

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

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

There were no informational memorandums presented.

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 opposed to Ordinance Serial No. 26-016: Linda Oxley, past chair representing WACO; Sandy McDonald; Darcie Morgan; Ramey Smyth; Thomas Blair; Becca Moore; Robert Morgan; Kelton Hansley; Nila Morgan; Carl Sadloske; John McDonald; Kori Morgan; Jeff Morgan; Chris Chanbos; Sarah Eveningred; Darren Rad; Joseph Morgan; Kathleen Hunt; Carol Tyler; Hannah Hansley; Kristin Smyth; and Catherine (Last name was indiscernible).

The following person spoke to a junk property next to his home: Thomas Wisthoff.

The following person spoke to junk property next to her home and to taxes: Cecelia Wisthoff.

The following persons spoke in support of local libraries: Diane Shibe, Palmer Friends of the Library member; Irene Waggoner; Nancy Bertels; Jennie Goetsch; and Rachel Christiansen, Sutton Friends of the Library member.

The following person spoke to a letter he wrote to the governor and a work release program: Tom Roberson.

The following person spoke to there being no obscene material in libraries, Assembly meetings, potential taxes, separation of church and state, and in support of rank choice voting: Mary Robinson.

The following persons spoke in opposition of Ordinance Serial No. 26-021: Robert Coffin, Sammy Taylor, Troy Anthis, Dave Musgrave, John Butcher. Witney Crombie, Karen Zajchowski, Jennifer Prironis, Carol Lawalter, Cassie Elliot, Cara Walker, Melissa (Last name was indiscernible), Lynn Fuller, and James Christie.

The following person spoke to data centers and libraries: Jeanne Troshynski, President of the Wasilla Friends of the Library.

The following person spoke to the Willow Librarian Julie Mitchell and in support of the Willow Library: Melinda Dale.

The following person spoke to the grooming of children: Linda Spohn.

The following person spoke to a book challenge for "Let's Talk About It": Jackie Goforth.

The following persons spoke in opposition of Ordinance Serial No. 26-061: Sarah Lorimer, Noel Lowe, and Tleah Eichelberger.

The following person spoke to the MSB Library Board and a censorship happening to the libraries: Kathy Kysar.

The following person spoke to new marketing campaign and participating in the City of Wasilla parade, signage, new grant: Jennifer Busch, Valley Transit CEO.

The following person spoke in opposition of OR 26-021: Tara Walker, WACO.

The following person spoke in opposition of AM 26-075: Tatia Street, Red Valley Services.

The meeting recessed at 8:25 p.m. and reconvened at 8:38 p.m.

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)

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

Sponsors: Sumner

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in opposition of Ordinance Serial No. 26-021: Dave Oliver, Patty Fisher, Colleen Vague, Tishe Link, Jennifer Pironis, Sandy Belk, Jenny Troshynki, Jackie Goforth, and Eric (Last name was indiscernible).

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 26-021: Jay Laughlin, Central Gravel.

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

Assemblymember Sumner moved adopt Ordinance Serial No. 26-021.

Assemblymember Nowers moved a primary amendment to Ordinance Serial No. 26-021 by inserting "For the purposes of the subsection, "ceases" means the extraction or processing of less than 2,000 cubic yards of earth material during a calendar year," to MSB 17.30.025(F) to read as follows, "(F) Nonconforming status shall expire if material extraction or earth material process activity cease for long than five years. For the purposes of this subsection, "ceases" means the extraction or processing of less than 2,000 cubic yards of earth material during a calendar year."

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 Nowers moved a primary amendment to Ordinance Serial No. 26-021 by inserting language to repeal subsections MSB 17.30.020(C) and (D) to read as follows, "Repeal of subsections. MSB 17.30.020(C) and (D) are hereby repealed in their entirety.

Assemblymember Bernier moved to suspend the rules and 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

The primary amendment to Ordinance Serial No. 26-061 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 Fonov called for the question (to stop debate)

The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 2 - Assemblymember Bowles and Assemblymember Fonov

No: 5 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

The meeting recessed at 10:03 p.m. and reconvened at 10:12 p.m.

Assemblymember Sumner moved a primary amendment to Ordinance Serial No. 26-021 to insert a new Section (B) to MSB 17.30.060(B) to read as follows, "Section 3. Adoption of Section. (B) When making the determination under (A)(2), the Director or Commission shall give due consideration to the applicable comprehensive plan."

The primary amendment to Ordinance Serial No. 26-021 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 main motion passed as amendment by the following vote:

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

No: 1 - Assemblymember Nowers

OR 26-054 An Ordinance Extending The Completion Date For The Steam Thaw Truck Project Funding To June 30, 2028.
RS 26-044: A Resolution Amending The Budget For The Thaw Truck, Cold Planer, Pickup Truck Purchase; And Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Road And Pathway Sustainment 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. 26-054 and Resolution Serial No. 26-044.

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 26-055 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$37,700 Received From The Surplus Sale Of Road Service Area Equipment For The Road And Pathway Sustainment Project.
RS 26-045: A Resolution Amending The Budget For The Road And Pathway Sustainment 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. 25-055 and Resolution Serial No. 26-046.

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 26-057 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$75,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Transportation And Public Facilities For West Susitna Parkway Improvements.
RS 26-046: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For West Susitna Parkway Improvements.

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. 26-057 and Resolution Serial No. 26-046.

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 26-060 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$523.73 From The United States Fish And Wildlife Service And \$583.74 From The Alaska State Department Of Fish And Game, Passed Through The Palmer Soil And Water Conservation District For A Total Of \$1,107.47.

RS 26-047: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget; And Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into An Agreement For The Caswell Creek/Caswell Lake Streambank Rehabilitation 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. 26-060 and Resolution Serial No. 26-047.

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 26-061 An Ordinance Increasing The Marijuana Sales Tax Levy From 5 Percent To 10 Percent; And To Submit The Question To The Qualified Areawide Voters At The November 3, 2026, Regular Borough Election.

Sponsors: Bernier

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in opposition into the Ordinance Serial No. 26-061: Bailey Stuart, Randy Wells, Sarah Orimer, Darcie Morgan, and Noel Lowe.

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

Assemblymember Bernier moved adopt Ordinance Serial No. 26-061.

Assemblymember Bernier moved to suspend the rules and extend the meeting past 11 p.m. and not to exceed 11:59 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

The main motion failed by the following vote:

No: 7 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

OR 26-062 An Ordinance Levying A Tax Up To 10 Percent On The Sale Of Alcoholic Beverages; And To Submit The Question To The Qualified Areawide Voters At The November 3, 2026, Regular Borough Election.

Sponsors: Bernier

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in opposition of Ordinance Serial No. 26-062: Frank Bell and Wes Artz.

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

Assemblymember Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 26-062.

Assemblymember Bernier moved a primary amendment to Ordinance Serial No. 26-062 by striking, "up to 10 percent," and inserting, "of 5 percent," throughout the legislation.

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 as amended by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

No: 3 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, and Assemblymember Gamble

OR 26-063 An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating A Grant In The Amount Of \$44,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Health And Social Services For A Project For The Continued Management Of Points Of Dispensing Sites That Will Be Used To Distribute Medicines Or Vaccines To Residents And Visitors In Our Area In The Event Of An Incident That Requires Large Numbers Of People To Receive Preventive Medicines And Medications.

RS 26-048: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For A Grant In The Amount Of \$44,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Health And Social Services, For The Continued Management Of Points Of Dispensing Sites 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. 26-063 and Resolution Serial No. 26-048.

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: 6 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

No: 1 - Assemblymember Bowles

OR 26-064 An Ordinance Reappropriating \$10,000 From The 2023 Fiscal Year Areawide Budget Appropriation To Fish Passage Improvements For The Cottonwood Creek Pike Barrier Project.
RS 26-049: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Cottonwood Creek Pike Barrier 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 Fonov moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 26-064 and Resolution Serial No. 26-049.

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. 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 in support of AM 26-075: Mokie Tew.

The following person spoke to inflation for small businesses and to potential taxes: Wes Artz.

The following person spoke in opposition of AM 26-075: Vicky Cutler.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

RS 26-053 A Resolution Extending The Date Of Completion Of The Brett Ice Arena Storage Building Project Through June 30, 2027.

RS 26-056 A Resolution Requesting The State Of Alaska Designate The Old Glenn Highway As An Official Safety Corridor And Provide Funding For The Planning, Design, And Construction Of A Multi-Phased Improvement Project On The Old Glenn Highway To Address Traffic Safety Concerns And Ensure Adequate Alternate Access To Interior Alaska.

Sponsors: Bowles

RS 26-057 A Resolution Supporting A Free Disposal Of Earth Materials To The Alaska Railroad Corporation For Use As An In-Kind Match For Completion Of The Port Mackenzie Rail Extension.

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

AM 26-064 Approval Of Contract Amendment For Contract No. 13-025P With Harris Consulting To Extend The Contract To June 30, 2028, In An Amount Not To Exceed \$80,400 Per Year Subject To Annual Appropriation For State Lobbyist Services.

AM 26-065 Approval Of Additional Utility Relocation Costs In The Amount Of \$27,150 To Matanuska Electric Association, Inc. For The Jolly Creek Drainage Improvements Phase I And Phase II Project In Big Lake Road Service Area No. 21; And Approval To Extend The Completion Date To December 31, 2026.

AM 26-067 Approval Of Utility Relocation Costs In The Amount Of \$130,923 To Enstar Natural Gas Company For The Jolly Creek Drainage Improvements Project In Big Lake Road Service Area No. 21.

AM 26-068 Award Of Quote No. 26-155Q To PND Engineers, Inc. In The Contract Amount Not To Exceed \$123,550 To Provide Engineering Consulting Services And Construction Management For Upgrades To Lewis Loop Bridge Under Term Contract No. 26-096P.

AM 26-069 Approval Of Utility Relocation Costs In The Amount Of \$125,164.07 To MTA Communications, LLC. For The West Herkimer Drive And South Spring Drive Improvements Project In Meadow Lakes Road Service Area No. 27; And Approval To Extend The Project Completion Date To December 31, 2026.

AM 26-071 Approval Of Change Order No. Six For Contract No. 22-135B With Shannon And Wilson, Inc. For The Central Landfill Water Quality Services Contract To Add \$22,532 For Fiscal Year 2027.

AM 26-072 Award Of Bid No. 26-149B To Battleground, LLC. In The Contract Amount Of \$113,300 To Provide Right Of Way Debris Removal From The 2025 Winter Windstorm.

AM 26-073 Authorization To Vacate The Existing Section Line Easement From Lot 9 Enchanted Forest Subdivision, Plat No. 71-50, (Tax Id No. 6100B15L009) To Be Known As Lot 9, Block 15, Enchanted Forest Subdivision. The Property Is Located Directly North Of West King Arthur Drive, North Of North Parks Highway, And West Of Prator Lake, Located Within The SW ¼ Section 25, Township 18 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska.

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

AM 26-075 Award Of Bid No. 26-157B To Tew's Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$1,116,525.33 For Big Lake Road Service Area Annual Road Maintenance - Rebid.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Assemblymember Gamble moved to adopt AM 26-075.

The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

No: 4 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Gamble

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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.

MOTION PENDING: Assemblymember Gamble moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 26-015.

The main motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember Sumner, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Fonov

No: 2 - Assemblymember McKee and Assemblymember Bernier

- 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.
[Clerk's Note: Ordinance Serial No. 26-015 was removed from the agenda to be brought back on August 18, 2026, at approval of the agenda.]

IX. VETO

There were no vetoes.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 06/16/26, Assembly Chambers)

- OR 26-039** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$100,000 From The Mat-Su Trails And Parks Foundation For The Upgrades To The West Butte Trailhead.
RS 26-025: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Upgrades To The West Butte Trailhead.
- OR 26-066** An Ordinance Authorizing The Borough Manager To Convey Certain Borough-Owned Excess Land From The Point Mackenzie Rail Extension Project To The State Of Alaska For Economic Development (Tracts 10A And 13A, Point Mackenzie Terminal Reserve, Plat No. 2025-179, Palmer Recording District).
- OR 26-069** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$3,468 From The Alaska State Department Of Natural Resources, Office Of History And Archaeology, For The 2026 National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) Forum Travel Grant Project.
RS 26-054: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget And Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into The State Grant Agreement For The 2026 NAPC Travel Grant Project.
- OR 26-070** An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$21,595 Of Revenues From Fiscal Year 2026 Public Donations To The Animal Care And Regulation Capital Projects Budget For Animal Care Division Facility Programs.
RS 26-055: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Animal Care Division Facility Programs That Support Animal Care And Regulation Priorities And Objectives.

OR 26-071 An Ordinance Approving An Additional Land Classification For 16 Borough-Owned Properties Along Deshka River As Watershed Lands For The Purpose Of Fish Habitat.

Sponsors: Gamble

OR 26-072 An Ordinance Adopting MSB 3.15.036 \$75,000, Owner-Occupied Residential Real Property Exemption And MSB 1.10.170, 1.5 Percent Areawide Sales Tax (With Exemptions For Sales Within The Cities); And Submitting The Proposition To The Voters At The November 3, 2026, Regular Borough Election.

Sponsors: Nowers

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 June 16, 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

26-085 Mayoral Requests for Confirmation
MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission
Michael Bowles, resignation
Platting Board
Roman Fonov
Big Lake RSA # 21
Johnathan Tyler
Chase Trail SSA # 134
Christopher Boers

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

Assemblymember Nowers moved to divide the question to take the appointment of Roman Fonov separately.

The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 1 - Assemblymember Nowers

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

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

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)

There were no referrals.

XI. RECONSIDERATION

There were no reconsiderations.

XII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Spiropoulos thanked everyone.

Assemblymember McKee spoke to AM 26-075.

Assemblymember Bernier spoke to AM 26-075 and said a prayer.

Assemblymember Nowers opined the public is not feeling heard. Spoke to public input, gravel, and taxes.

Assemblymember Bowles thanked District 1 and spoke to it being a good meeting and to AM 26-075.

Assemblymember Fonov spoke to the need to reconsider AM 26-075.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:59 p.m.