

Matanuska-Susitna Borough

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



Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

6:00 PM

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
350 EAST DAHLIA AVENUE, PALMER

ASSEMBLY REGULAR MEETING

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



I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly was held on Tuesday, August 4, 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

Mr. Spiropoulos advised that Ordinance Serial No. 26-081 is dependent upon a State Law that has not yet been signed by the Governor and therefore should be moved to the next meeting's agenda.

Mayor DeVries queried if there was any objection.

There was no objection noted.

Assemblymember Bowles moved to take up the motion to rescind for Ordinance Serial No. 26-072, immediately before the first public hearing.

Mayor DeVries queried if there was any objection and if there were any additional changes.

There was no objection noted and the agenda was approved as amended.

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Assemblymember Bernier.

V. MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETINGS

[26-111](#)

A. Assembly Special Meeting Minutes: 06/16/26

B. Assembly Regular Meeting Minutes: 06/16/26

The minutes were approved as presented without objection.

VI. REPORTS/CORRESPONDENCE

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

1. Reports From Cities

There were no reports provided.

2. Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District

There were no reports provided.

3. State of Alaska

There were no reports provided.

B. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Joint Assembly/School Board Committees

There was no report provided.

2. Assembly Public Relations

There were no reports 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 and pertinent election dates.

F. CITIZEN AND OTHER CORRESPONDENCE

[26-112](#)

1. Big Lake Community Council: 04/14/26, 05/12/26, 06/09/26

2. Greater Talkeetna Community Council: 06/11/26

3. Local Road Service Area Advisory Board: 05/21/26

4. Midway RSA Board of Supervisors: 04/08/26

5. South Colony RSA Board of Supervisors: 04/08/26

6. West Lakes FSA Board of Supervisors: 06/08/26

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

G. INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUMS

- [IM 26-142](#) Reporting The Conclusion Of The 2026 Lake Level Analysis Report.
- [IM 26-143](#) Reporting Conclusion Of Contract No. 26-073B with Tutka, LLC. For A Total Contract Amount Of \$959,226.54 For The Circle View Dikes Repair Project.
- [IM 26-146](#) Reporting Conclusion Of Contract No. 25-177B with QAP For a Total Contract Amount Of \$1,249,897.03 For The Meadow Lakes Loop Improvements Project.
- [IM 26-147](#) Notifying The Assembly That The Manager Intends To Enter Into A Five-Year Lease Agreement With The Alaska State Department Of Transportation And Public Facilities, For Continued Operation Of The Willow Elementary School Site Described As Parcel A, Section 17, Township 19 North, Range 4 West, Seward Meridian, Situated On Willow Airport Property, Consisting Of Approximately 882,874 Square Feet, For An Annual Lease Payment Of \$65,332.68.
- [IM 26-155](#) Reporting The Conclusion Of Contract For Bid No. 23-055P With Heartland Water Technology, Inc. For A Final Contract Amount Of \$5,995,000 For The Design And Build Of A Leachate Reduction System.
- 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 person spoke to the need for an additional driveway for the proposed fire station near Marsh Road: Tom Roberson.

The following person spoke regarding sovereignty, including the United States' independence from Great Britain, concerns regarding a code compliance officer being in her neighborhood, stating that the officer's presence there is unconstitutional, and in opposition to data centers: Chris Tyree.

The following person spoke to concerns with malicious compliance when addressing challenged library books: Jackie Goforth.

The following persons spoke in opposition to Ordinance Serial No. 26-071: Nicholas Brown, Esther Huddleston, and Bill Elliott.

The following person spoke in support of Edna DeVries for Governor, spoke to the need to protect children, and opined that there needs to be an ordinance that prohibits obscene materials in libraries: Linda Spohn.

The following person spoke in opposition to rescinding Ordinance Serial No. 26-072, noting that a majority of the Assembly had already voted to place the question before the voters: Jolleen Coleman.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 26-080: Jim Sykes.

The following persons spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 26-082: Sarah Lorimer and Bailey Stuart.

The following persons spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 26-071: Gabe Kitter; Chennery Fife; Andrew Traxler; and Daniel Schilling, Alaska Outdoor Alliance President.

The following person spoke in opposition to Ordinance Serial No. 26-071 and in opposition to the Alaska Long Trail Gateway Installation: Michelle Stevens, Alaska Snowmachine Alliance.

1. Motion to Rescind - Assemblymember Bowles

[OR 26-072](#) An Ordinance Adopting MSB 3.15.036 \$75,000, Owner-Occupied Residential Real Property Exemption And MSB 1.10.170, 1 Percent Areawide Sales Tax; 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 Bowles moved to rescind Ordinance Serial No. 26-072.

The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Gamble

No: 4 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Fonov, and Assemblymember Bernier

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS (Three Minutes Per Person.)

[OR 26-080](#) An Ordinance Adopting The Areawide Power To Acquire Public Rights-Of-Way, Design And Construct Roads, Streets, Sidewalks, And Related Drainage Facilities; And To Submit The Question To The Qualified Areawide Voters At The November 3, 2026, Regular Election. Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in support of the Ordinance Serial No. 26-080: Andrew Traxler, Sam Gilliland, and Michelle Huen.

Assemblymember Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance serial No. 26-080.

Assemblymember Bowles moved a primary amendment by striking "'rights-of-way" and inserting "easements" in its place, throughout the legislation.

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

The main motion passed by the following vote:

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

No: 1 - Assemblymember Sumner

[OR 26-081](#) An Ordinance Changing School Board Terms From 3 Year Terms To 4 Year Terms, Providing For Transitory Terms To Align School Board And Assembly District Terms, And To Submit The Question To The Qualified Areawide Voters At The November 3, 2026, Regular Election.

Sponsors: Fonov, McKee and Bernier

[Clerk's Note: Ordinance Serial No. 26-081 was postponed to 08/18/26 at approval of the agenda.]

[OR 26-083](#) An Ordinance Adopting MSB 1.10.170 And MSB 3.35, 3 Percent Areawide Sales Tax, Enacting An Areawide Real Property Tax Cap Of 4 Mills, And Submitting The Proposition To The 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 to concerns with large increases to property tax assessments if the legislation is adopted: Mike Alexander, Fred Maestes, and Jillian Combs.

Assemblymember Bernier moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 26-083.

The motion failed by the following vote:

Yes: 3 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

No: 4 - Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Fonov

[OR 26-085](#) An Ordinance Defining A Newspaper Of General Circulation And The Words Publish Or Publication.

Sponsors: Gamble

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in support of a third party website to post notices: Amy Bushatz and Bailey Stuart.

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

Assemblymember Gamble moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 26-085.

Assemblymember Gamble moved a primary amendment to IM 26-085, page two, to insert a fourth bullet that reads: "Place notices on a third party publication website."

The primary amendment passed by the following vote:

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

No: 1 - Assemblymember Fonov

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

[OR 26-073](#) An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$5,000 From The Scotty Gomez Foundation For Any Improvements To Big Lake Lions Recreation Center.

RS 26-058: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Any Improvements To The Big Lake Lions Recreation Center.

The meeting recessed at 7:59 p.m. and reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

Assemblymember Gamble exited the meeting physically at the beginning of the recess and attended telephonically once the meeting reconvened.

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. 26-073 and Resolution Serial No. 26-058.

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 26-074](#) An Ordinance Reappropriating \$400,000 From Central Mat-Su Fire Service Area Fund Balance To The Central Mat-Su FSA Facilities And Vehicles Project For Perfluoroalkyl Substances Mitigation And Remediation Activities.

RS 26-059: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Perfluoroalkyl Substances Mitigation And Remediation Activities.

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. 26-074 and Resolution Serial No. 26-059.

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 26-075](#)

An Ordinance Approving An Appropriation Of \$275,000 From The West Lakes Fire Service Area Fund Balance To A Project To Upgrade Radios.

RS 26-060: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For A Project To Upgrade Radios For The West Lakes Fire Service Area.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 26-075 and Resolution Serial No. 26-060: Cindy Michaelson, West Lakes Fire Service Area Board Member.

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. 26-075 and Resolution Serial No. 26-060.

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 26-076](#)

An Ordinance Approving An Appropriation Of \$25,000 From The West Lakes Fire Service Area Fund Balance To A Project To Purchase A New Brush Skid Unit.

RS 26-061: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For A Project To Purchase A New Brush Skid Unit For The West Lakes Fire Service Area.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 26-076 and Resolution Serial No. 26-061: Cindy Michaelson, West Lakes Fire Service Area Board Member.

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. 26-076 and Resolution Serial No. 26-061.

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 26-077](#)

An Ordinance Amending The Composition Of The Borough Fish And Wildlife Commission To Reduce The Membership From 8 Voting Members To 7 Voting Members.

Sponsors: DeVries

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person noted that he supports the legislation, suggested that it be changed to a five member board, eliminate the nonvoting member, and make the effective date January 1, 2027.

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. 26-077.

Assemblymember Bowles moved a primary amendment as follows:

- * MSB 4.75.005(A), by striking “eight” and inserting “seven” in its place; and**
- * MSB 4.75.005(A)(5), by striking it in its entirety.**

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 Bowles moved a primary amendment to make the effective date of the ordinance January 1, 2027.

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 as amended by the following vote:

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

[OR 26-078](#) An Ordinance Amending MSB 15.39.190(D) And MSB 24.30.030(B) (10) To Require Deliberations To Be Held In Open Session.

Sponsors: DeVries

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. 26-078.

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 26-079](#) An Ordinance Amending MSB 2.12.112(F) To Clarify The Effective Date Of Assembly Action When A Motion To Reconsider Is Withdrawn Or Fails.

Sponsors: DeVries

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. 26-079.

The motion passed by the following vote:

Yes: 5 - Assemblymember Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Bernier

No: 2 - Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Fonov

[OR 26-082](#) An Ordinance To Decrease The Marijuana Sales Tax Levy From 5 Percent To 3 Percent.

Sponsors: Bowles

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following persons spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 26-082: Bailey Stuart and Sarah Lorimer.

The following person spoke in opposition to Ordinance Serial No. 26-082: Esther Huddleston.

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. 26-082.

Assemblymember Bernier moved a primary amendment to strike "5 percent" and insert "7 percent" in its place and to put the question before the voters using the ballot language from a previous ordinance.

The primary amendment failed by the following vote:

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

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

Assemblymember Bowles 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 failed by the following vote:

Yes: 1 - Assemblymember Bowles

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

[OR 26-084](#) An Ordinance Reappropriating \$110,000 From The Land Management Permanent Fund To The Big Lake Lions Recreation Center Project For The Purchase Of The Adjacent Lot. (MSB008202)
RS 26-063: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Purchase Of The Lot Adjacent To The Big Lake Lions Recreation Center.

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

Mayor DeVries opened the public hearing.

The following person spoke in support of Ordinance Serial No. 26-084 and Serial No. 26-063: Esther Huddleston.

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. 26-084 and Resolution Serial No. 26-063.

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 Bowles, Assemblymember Nowers, Assemblymember McKee, Assemblymember Sumner, and Assemblymember Bernier

No: 2 - Assemblymember Gamble, and Assemblymember Fonov

OR 26-086

An Ordinance Approving Time Extension Of The Areawide Budget Appropriations For The Bradley Road Bridge Replacement Over Trapper Creek Project, The 2024 Shirley Towne Bridge Maintenance Project, And The 2024 Montana Creek Bridge Maintenance And Armoring Project To June 30, 2029.

RS 26-067: A Resolution Approving The Scopes Of Work And Budgets For Six Bridge Projects.

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. 26-086 and Resolution Serial No. 26-067.

Assemblymember Bernier moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 26-067 and IM No. 26-137 as follows:

- * by striking "six bridge projects" and inserting "five bridge projects" throughout the legislation;**
- * by striking "Oilwell bridge over Moose Creek throughout the legislation; and**
- * by amending the budget for Bradley Road Bridge Replacement over Trapper Creek to \$1,531,540.18."**

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

[OR 26-087](#)

An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$323,298.14 From The Alaska State Department Of Health And Social Services, Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For Human Services Community Matching Grant Program.

RS 26-069: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Human Services Community Matching Grant Program.

RS 26-070: A Resolution Allocating Fiscal Year 2027 Human Services Community Matching Grant Program Funding To Non-Profit Agencies For The Provision Of Critically Needed Essential Health And Social Services To The Citizens Of The Borough.

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. 26-087 and Resolution Serial Nos. 26-069 and 26-070.

Assemblymember Bowles moved a primary amendment to Resolution Serial No. 26-070, as follows:

- * by striking "\$50,000 - Alaska Legal Services" in its entirety;**
- and**
- * by increasing the award to Mat-Su Food Bank by \$50,000, for a new award of \$93,642.59.**

Assemblymember Sumner moved a secondary amendment by exchanging the awards of Mat-Su Food Bank - \$45,642.59 and Alaska Legal Services - \$50,000, to be, Mat-Su Food Bank - \$50,000 and Alaska Legal Services - \$43,642.59.

The secondary amendment passed by the following vote:

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

No: 2 - Assemblymember Nowers, and Assemblymember McKee

The primary amendment passed as amended by the following vote:

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

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

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 following person spoke in support of adequate infrastructure for residents and opined that property taxes effectively require homeowners to rent their own homes from the government: Garrett Nelson.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

1. RESOLUTIONS

[RS 26-077](#) A Resolution Amending The Budget For The Dorothy Swanda Jones Building Environmental Systems Maintenance And Repair Project; And Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Animal Care Facility Drainfield Replacement Project.

2. ACTION MEMORANDUMS

[AM 26-100](#) Award Of Bid No. 27-003B To Northern Asphalt Construction, Inc. In The Contract Amount Of \$327,234 To Construct And Improve South Adele Circle And South August Circle.

[AM 26-101](#) Approval Of Change Order No. 2 For Contract No. 25-114P With Strong Data, Inc. To Add \$61,000 To The Current Contract For Providing Enterprise Waste Management Software.

[AM 26-102](#) Authorizing The Manager To Enter Into A Memorandum Of Agreement With The Alaska State Department Of Transportation And Public Facilities Regarding The Reconstruction And Transfer Of Roads In Connection With The Big Lake Road Milepost 3.6 To 9.1 Rehabilitation Project.

Ms. McKechnie 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

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

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

[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

Ms. McKechnie read the legislation into the record.

MOTION PENDING: Assemblymember Gamble moved to adopt Ordinance Serial No. 26-071.

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 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

IX. VETO

There were no vetoes.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. INTRODUCTIONS (For Public Hearing 08/18/26, Assembly Chambers)

[OR 26-031](#) An Ordinance Amending MSB 17.73, Multifamily Development Design Standards, To Align Permitting And Design Standards With The Scale And Complexity Of Development Projects.

Sponsors: Sumner

[OR 26-067](#) An Ordinance Conveying And Merging The Borough's Development Rights Interest With The Agricultural Rights Title For Fee Simple Title With Agricultural Covenants For Tax Id Nos. 8537000L002 And 8537000L003, To Paul And Margaret Cook, And Cook Raevsky Ezra LK, LLC., Respectively.

[OR 26-088](#) An Ordinance To Retain For Public Purpose Three Parcels Which Were Acquired By The Borough Through Tax Foreclosure.

[OR 26-089](#) An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$300,000 From The Rasmuson Foundation For The Matanuska River Park And Campground Upgrades; And The Alaska Long Trail Gateway Installation.
RS 26-072: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The \$300,000 Grant From The Rasmuson Foundation For The Matanuska River Park And Campground Upgrades; And The Alaska Long Trail Gateway Installation.

[OR 26-090](#) An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating \$1,537.50 From The Alaska State Department Of Fish And Game, Passed Through The Palmer Soil And Water Conservation District.
RS 26-073: A Resolution Approving The Amended Budget Of The Caswell Creek/Caswell Lake Rehabilitation Project.

[OR 26-091](#) An Ordinance Approving The Land Classification Of A Borough-Owned Property (Tax Id No. 27N05W18A001) Near Milepost 123 Of The Parks Highway, As Reserved Use Land For The Purpose Of A Shooting Range.

Sponsors: Bernier

[OR 26-092](#) An Ordinance Approving The Land Classification Of A Borough-Owned Property (Tax Id No. 20N04W08A001) Near Milepost 77 Of The Parks Highway, As Reserved Use Land For The Purpose Of A Shooting Range.

Sponsors: Bernier

[OR 26-093](#) An Ordinance Accepting And Appropriating A Grant In The Amount Of \$100,000 From The Alaska State Department Of Natural Resources, Division Of Forestry And Fire Protection, For A Project For Disposal Of Debris From Firewise Clearing Projects.

RS 26-075: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For An Alaska State Department Of Natural Resources, Division Of Forestry And Fire Protection Grant, For A Project For Disposal Of Debris From Firewise Clearing Projects.

[OR 26-094](#) An Ordinance Approving A Reappropriation Of \$125,000 From Solid Waste Project Fund No. 25048-2400-2429; And \$158,000 From Solid Waste Project Fund No. 25020-2400-2414; And \$978,320 From The Solid Waste Enterprise Fund To Solid Waste Project Fund No. 25007 For The Design And Build Of The Central Landfill Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

RS 26-076: A Resolution Approving The Amended Scopes Of Work And Budgets For The Solid Waste Project Fund No. 25048-2400-2429; The Solid Waste Project Fund No. 25020-2400-2414; And The Solid Waste Enterprise Fund To Solid Waste Project Fund No. 25007 For The Design And Build Of The Central Landfill Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

[OR 26-095](#) An Ordinance Amending MSB 3.04.077(A) To Lower The Areawide Real Property Tax Cap From 9.5 Mills To 7 Mills.

Sponsors: Bowles

[OR 26-097](#) An Ordinance Reappropriating \$26,376.35 From The Pioneer Peak Trailhead Project Fund And \$23,589 From The Big Lake Lions Recreation Center Project Fund, To A Wasilla Pool Repair Project Fund.

RS 26-079: A Resolution Approving The Scope Of Work And Budget For The Wasilla Pool Repair Project.

Ms. McKechnie 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 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

B. MAYORAL NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. VACANCY REPORT

[26-114](#)

Mayoral Requests for Confirmation
MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission
Kendra Zamzow, resignation

Assemblymember Bernier moved to confirm the resignation 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)

There were no referrals.

XI. RECONSIDERATION

There were no reconsiderations.

XII. MAYOR, ASSEMBLY, AND STAFF COMMENTS

Assemblymember Fonov thanked the body for their patience with him attending telephonically.

Assemblymember Bowles stated that he appreciated the discussion this evening. Noted that while he did not agree with all of it, he believes it is a good process. Stated that he hopes residents will carefully consider all of the ballot questions.

Assemblymember Nowers spoke to her appreciation of Kenda Zamzow's service on the MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission. Noted her appreciation for the Commission's hard work and the importance of healthy fish returns to the Borough. Commented that a two-degree change in water temperature can have a significant impact on fish populations. Stated that she hopes everyone has been able to enjoy the sunny days of summer.

Assemblymember Bernier thanked the public for their attendance and said a prayer.

Mayor DeVries advised that she intends to make appointments to the BARKS Committee at the next meeting. Stated that she waited until she could appoint a full board at the same time so the committee would be fully seated and ready to begin working on its recommendations.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:04 p.m.