

By: Alex Strawn
Introduced: January 17, 2022
Public Hearing: February 7, 2022
Action: **FAILED**

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION NO. PC 22-03**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF AN ORDINANCE EXEMPTING THE BOROUGH LANDFILL FROM EARTH MATERIALS EXTRACTION PERMIT CODE REQUIREMENTS TO ALLOW GRAVEL MINING ON THE PROPERTY, WHICH HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS RESERVE USE LANDS - SANITARY LANDFILL.

WHEREAS, exempting the landfill from permitting requirements for gravel extraction will provide authority to execute efficient cell construction and gravel disposal necessary for the operation of the landfill and will save an average of approximately one million dollars every two years or more than \$50 million over the useful life of the facility; and

WHEREAS, the ability to economically construct cells and manage gravel within the Palmer Central Landfill has a Borough-wide impact; and

WHEREAS, granting the Solid Waste Division the authority to manage excess gravel through material sales significantly reduces the capital infrastructure and operating costs of the landfill, which helps keep waste disposal fees low; and

WHEREAS, mining one cell at a time with separate permits and contracts is inefficient and more costly than systematically excavating and disposing of excess material; and

WHEREAS, authority to continuously dispose of the excess gravel allows a value-producing alternative to the landfill development process; and

WHEREAS, savings from gravel sales generate a \$2 to \$3 million reduction in the construction cost of each landfill cell. These sales help the Assembly slow the growth of disposal fees and provide cost savings to every resident, business, government and non-government organization in the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the MSB would retain the authority to oversee cell construction and gravel disposal at the landfill through the contract award process; and

WHEREAS, the Solid Waste Division will continue to develop the landfill property with cost efficiency, low impact on our neighbors and trail protection as top priorities; and

WHEREAS, costs continue to rise in the waste disposal business as regulatory requirements increase and as population growth results in more demand for waste disposal. Authorizing cost-efficient cell construction with excess gravel disposal will help reduce costs and keep rates low.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission hereby recommends approval of ordinance 22-003 an ordinance of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly exempting the borough landfill from earth materials extraction permit code requirements to allow gravel mining on the property, which has been designated as reserve use lands - sanitary landfill.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission this 7th day of February, 2022.



Stafford Glashan, Chair

ATTEST



KAROL RIESE, Planning Clerk

(SEAL)

YES: Commissioner Glashan

NO: Commissioner Rubeo, Commissioner Chesbro, Commissioner Glenn, Commissioner Scoggin, Commissioner Allen