

Matanuska-Susitna Borough

Planning Commission Meeting Minutes



Meeting Date: July 20, 2026

Meeting Time: 6:00 PM

Meeting Location

Assembly Chambers – Dorothy Swanda Jones Building

350 E. Dahlia Avenue

Palmer, Alaska 99645

Planning Commission Members

Chairperson: Richard Allen

Vice-Chair: Doug Glenn

Commissioners:

- Brendan Carpenter
- Vacant
- Linn McCabe
- Ivan Fonov
- Curt Scoggin

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, and Determination of Quorum

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission's regular meeting was held on July 20, 2026, at the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly Chambers, 350 E. Dahlia Avenue, Palmer, Alaska. Chair Allen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Attendance:

(*) Next to a name indicates telephonic participation.

Present: Commissioner Allen
Commissioner McCabe
Commissioner Fonov
Commissioner Carpenter

Absent: Commissioner Scoggin
Commissioner Glenn

Staff Present: Mr. Alex Strawn, Planning and Land Use Director
Ms. Ashley Stick, Planning Division Admin
Ms. Denise Michalske, Assistant Borough Attorney
Mr. Peter Burton, Land Management Specialist
Mr. Wade Long, Development Services Manager

2. Approval of Agenda

Chair Allen inquired if there were any changes to the agenda.

Alex Strawn announced that Resolution 26-10 cannot be heard due to a lack of quorum. Two commissioners had to recuse themselves from the matter.

GENERAL CONSENT: The Agenda was approved as changed without objection.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Commissioner McCabe led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Consent Agenda

A. Meeting Minutes – June 15, 2026

B. Introduction for Public Hearing: Quasi-Judicial Matters

C. Introduction for Public Hearing: Legislative Matters

Resolution 26-11 A Resolution Of The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission Expressing Support For The Proposed Annexation Of The Chugiak, Eagle River, Peters Creek, Eklutna, And Associated Areas Into The Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

Staff: Alex Strawn, Planning and Land Use Director

Public Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Resolution 26-13 A Resolution Of The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission Supporting The Engstrom Road To Trunk Road Corridor Project And Recommending North Route 1 As The Preferred Alignment Identified In The October 2025 Draft Route Selection Report.

Staff: Alex Strawn, Planning and Land Use Director

Public Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Resolution 26-14 A Resolution Of The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission Recommending Approval Of The Areawide Power To Acquire Public Rights-Of-Way And 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.

Staff: Alex Strawn, Planning and Land Use Director

Public Hearing Date: August 3, 2026

Chair Allen read the Consent Agenda into the record.

GENERAL CONSENT: The Consent Agenda was approved without objection.

5. Committee Reports *(There were no Committee reports)*
6. Agency/Staff Reports *(There were no Agency/Staff reports)*
7. Land Use Classifications

Resolution 26-15

A Resolution Of The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission Recommending Approval Of An Ordinance Classifying A Portion Of 27N05W18A001 As Reserved Use Land For The Purpose Of A Shooting Range (MSB008307).

Staff: Peter Burton, Land Management Specialist

Chair Allen read the resolution title into the record.

Mr. Peter Burton presented his staff report.

Chair Allen asked a question of Mr. Burton

Chair Allen inquired if commissioners had any questions for staff.

Chair Allen opened the public hearing.

There being no persons to be heard, Chair Allen closed the public hearing, and the discussion moved to the Planning Commission.

MOTION: Commissioner McCabe moved to approve Planning Commission Resolution 26-15. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carpenter.

VOTE: The main motion passed without objection.

Resolution 26-16

A Resolution Of The Matanuska-Susitna Borough Planning Commission Recommending Approval Of An Ordinance

Classifying A Portion Of 20N04W08001 As Reserved Use
Land For The Purpose Of A Shooting Range (MSB008308).
Staff: Peter Burton, Land Management Specialist

Chair Allen read the resolution title into the record.

Mr. Peter Burton presented his staff report.

Chair Allen inquired if commissioners had any questions for staff.

Commissioner Fonov asked questions of Mr. Burton.

Chair Allen opened the public hearing.

There being no persons to be heard, Chair Allen closed the public hearing, and the discussion moved to the Planning Commission.

MOTION: Commissioner McCabe moved to approve Planning Commission Resolution 26-16. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Carpenter.

Discussion ensued.

VOTE: The main motion passed without objection.

8. Audience Participation

Rod Hanson, North Lakes Community Council, spoke in opposition to PC Resolution 26-13 to be heard on August 3rd.

There being no other persons to be heard, audience participation was closed without objection.

9. Public Hearing: Quasi-Judicial Matters *(There were no Quasi-Judicial public hearings)*

10. Public Hearing: Legislative Matters *(There were no Legislative public hearings)*

11. Correspondence and Information *(There was no Correspondence and information)*

12. Unfinished Business *(There was no unfinished business)*

13. New Business *(There was no new business)*

14. Commission Business

A. Upcoming Planning Commission Agenda Items

Chair Allen asked whether Commissioners had any questions about the list of upcoming agenda items in their folders.

15. Director and Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Fonov: no comment

Commissioner Carpenter: It is good to see the participation having people here. It's a good turnout. Especially north lakes, you guys are here quite a bit that's good. I am looking forward to august 3rd with the annex now I think that's an important issue, especially with what's going on recently in our state. Enjoy the weather and be safe.

Commissioner McCabe: I don't have any comments, thanks.

Alex Strawn: I just wanted to express the importance of attending the meetings and reading the packets so we can get the people's business done that needs to get done.

Commissioner Allen: I don't have any other comments other than I am told the rain is supposed to subside by the weekend, so fingers crossed for that.

16. Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.


For RICHARD ALLEN
Planning Commission Chair

ATTEST:


LACIE OLIVIERI
Planning Commission Clerk

Minutes approved: 8/3/26