

1 **Denali Borough Assembly**
2 **Minutes of the Regular Meeting**
3 **April 13, 2022**

4
5 **PUBLIC HEARING**

6 **ORDINANCE 22-01: Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Amendment**

7 There were no comments.
8

9 **REGULAR MEETING**

10 **CALL TO ORDER**

11 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the regular meeting to order at 6:05 PM.
12

13 **ROLL CALL**

14 Assembly members present: Dominic CANALE, Joe CHATFIELD, Jeff STENGER, Krista
15 ZAPPONE, David ALEXANDER, Lisa MINER, Tallon SHREEVE, Mark JOHNSON and
16 Jared ZIMMERMAN.

17 Mayor Clay Walker was also present.
18

19 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

20 Seamus Siddall with Horizon Medical reported that the Canyon Clinic will open on May 7th
21 and they are hoping to provide x-ray services this summer in addition to their regular
22 services, including COVID testing.
23

24 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

25 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. The motion was seconded.
26

27 Dominic CANALE MOVED to AMEND the agenda by moving items H. ORDINANCES, and
28 item I. RESOLUTIONS before Item F. REPORTS with the exception of the Finance
29 Committee Report. The motion was seconded.
30

31 The VOTE TO AMEND THE AGENA PASSED by unanimous consent.
32

33 The VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED PASSED by unanimous consent.
34

35 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

36 **MARCH 9, 2022 ASSEMBLY MEETING AND**

37 **MARCH 30, 2022 ASSEMBLY SPECIAL GRANT REVIEW MEETING**

38 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to approve the minutes from the March 9, 2022 Assembly
39 Meeting and the March 30, 2022 Assembly Grant Review Meeting. The motion was
40 seconded.
41

42 The VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES PASSED by unanimous consent.
43

1 **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

2 Krista ZAPPONE reported the following from the Finance Committee meeting:

- 3 • The committee reviewed the Capital Improvement Program list with an updated
- 4 format.
- 5 • Reviewed and discussed infrastructure projects that may have potential for
- 6 infrastructure grant funding.
- 7 • Reviewed the permanent investment fund asset allocation strategy and identified
- 8 some statements in our Code that should get clarified.

9
10 **DRAFT ORDINANCES**

11 **ORDINANCE 22-02: FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET**

12 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to introduce Ordinance 22-02. The motion was seconded.

13 Mayor Walker provided a presentation of the Fiscal Year 2023 budget and budget process.

14
15 The VOTE TO INTRODUCED PASSED by unanimous roll call vote.

16
17 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to Postpone. The motion was seconded.

18
19 The VOTE TO POSTPONE PASSED by unanimous consent.

20
21 **ORDINANCE 22-03: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM LIST**

22 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to introduce Ordinance 22-03. The motion was seconded.

23 Mayor Walker reviewed the Capital Improvement Program List and highlighted the updated

24 format.

25
26 The VOTE TO INTRODUCED PASSED by unanimous roll call vote.

27
28 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to Postpone. The motion was seconded.

29
30 The VOTE TO POSTPONE PASSED by unanimous consent.

31
32 **ORDINANCE 22-04: ALLOCATION OF PARK & RECREATION FUNDS TO**
33 **PROVIDE AN ADA (AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT) COMPLIANT SWING**
34 **AT THE MOUNTAINS OF FUN PLAYGROUND**

35 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to introduce Ordinance 22-04. The motion was seconded.

36 Mayor Walker reviewed Ordinance 22-04.

37
38 The VOTE TO INTRODUCED PASSED by unanimous roll call vote.

39
40 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to Postpone. The motion was seconded.

41
42 The VOTE TO POSTPONE PASSED by unanimous consent.

1 **PENDING ORDINANCES**

2 **ORDINANCE 22-01: FISCAL YEAR 2022 BUDGET AMENDMENT**

3 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to APPROVE Ordinance 22-01. The motion was seconded.

4
5 The VOTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 22-01 PASSED by unanimous roll call vote.

6
7 **RESOLUTIONS**

8 **RESOLUTION 22-17: PERMANENT INVESTMENT FUND ASSET ALLOCATION**

9 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to approve Resolution 22-17. The motion was seconded.

10
11 The roll call VOTE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 22-17 PASSED by unanimous roll call
12 vote.

13
14 **RESOLUTION 22-18: ACCEPT LOCAL GOVERNMENT LOST REVENUE RELIEF
15 PROGRAM FUNDS**

16 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to approve Resolution 22-18. The motion was seconded.

17
18 The roll call VOTE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 22-18 PASSED by unanimous roll call
19 vote.

20
21 **REPORTS**

22 **PARTNER REPORTS**

23 Vanessa Juszczak with the Denali Chamber of Commerce and the Discover Denali reported
24 the following:

- 25 • Attended the Infrastructure Grant Symposium in Anchorage and made some great
26 connections and gained valuable insight into the federal infrastructure package.
- 27 • Participating in the Business Accelerator Program.
- 28 • The Discover Denali Vacation Planner is at the printer.
- 29 • The Discover Denali Visitor Center will have an office location along the boardwalk in
30 the Canyon area near the park entrance.
- 31 • Canyon area wayside kiosks, signage and brush cutting are being scheduled and
32 printed.
- 33 • The Denali Chamber annual meeting will be held on May 6, 2022.

34
35 **FINANCE REPORT: JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2022**

36 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to receive the January and February 2022 Finance Reports. The
37 motion was seconded.

38
39 The VOTE TO RECEIVE THE JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2022 FINANCE REPORTS
40 PASSED by unanimous consent.

41
42 **SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT**

1 Superintendent Dan Polta verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written
2 report (see Attachment A).

3
4 **MAYOR REPORT**

5 Mayor Clay Walker verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written report
6 (see Attachment B).

7
8 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

9 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to skip this agenda item and reserve Assembly Comments for
10 the end of the meeting. The motion was seconded.

11
12 The VOTE TO SKIP THIS AGENDA ITEM PASSED by unanimous consent.

13
14 **COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUEST**

15 There were no communication and appearance requests.

16
17 **OTHER BUSINESS**

18
19 **LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS:**

- 20 • **License #3036: Bears Den Liquor Renewal Application**
- 21 • **License #4099: Grande Denali Alpenglow Transfer Application**
- 22 • **License #4280: Denali Bluffs Mountaineer Grill Transfer Application**
- 23 • **License #6044: Denali Bluffs Perky Moose New Application**
- 24 • **License #671: 49th State Brewing Transfer Application**
- 25 • **License #2633: Lync Creek Pizza Renewal Application**
- 26 • **License #3660: King Salmon Renewal Application**
- 27 • **License #4592: Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge Rapids Renewal Application**
- 28 • **License #4938: Prospectors Pizza Transfer Application**
- 29 • **License #5297: The Overlook Transfer Application**
- 30 • **License #5457: McKinley Chalet Karstens Public House Renewal Application**
- 31 • **License #5470: Cantwell Lodge Renewal Application**

32
33 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to not-protest the following applications:

- 34 • License #3036: Bears Den Liquor Renewal Application
- 35 • License #4099: Grande Denali Alpenglow Transfer Application
- 36 • License #4280: Denali Bluffs Mountaineer Grill Transfer Application
- 37 • License #6044: Denali Bluffs Perky Moose New Application
- 38 • License #671: 49th State Brewing Transfer Application
- 39 • License #2633: Lync Creek Pizza Renewal Application
- 40 • License #3660: King Salmon Renewal Application
- 41 • License #4592: Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge Rapids Renewal
- 42 Application
- 43 • License #4938: Prospectors Pizza Transfer Application

- License #5297: The Overlook Transfer Application
- License #5457: McKinley Chalet Karstens Public House Renewal Application
- License #5470: Cantwell Lodge Renewal Application

The motion was seconded.

The VOTE TO NOT-PROTEST THE LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS PASSED by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Assembly members offered the following comments:

- Expressed appreciation for a productive and cordial meeting.
- Expressed appreciation for the reports.
- Expressed excitement for the infrastructure opportunities.
- Expressed appreciation for Emergency Manger Chris Noel and offered best wishes for his future endeavors.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be a Regular Meeting on May 11, 2022 at 6:00 PM at the Anderson City Hall.

ADJOURN

Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to adjourn. The motion was seconded.

The MEETING WAS ADJOURNED at 8:47 PM by unanimous consent.

APPROVED: _____
Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer

ATTEST: _____ Date Approved: _____
Amber Renshaw, Borough Clerk



Denali Borough School District

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**Superintendent's Report
Denali Borough Assembly
Wednesday, April 13th, 2022**

Dear Denali Borough Assembly and Mayor Walker,

1. Appreciation/Congratulations

- a. Thank you to Austin Wells, Savannah Wolf, Kayla Mayo, Halina Hanna, and Melanie Randall. These Tri-Valley students provided pieces of art for the Heart for Student Art, art show and auction on March 29th during the ASCA Legislative Fly-In. This annual event is an opportunity to showcase student talent with state legislators and raise money for student scholarships. Austin Wells piece offered his piece for the silent auction. I'm not sure who won the bidding, but congratulations to Austin.
- b. Congratulations to Jeni Mason, District Principal. Jeni was named the Region II Principal of the Year by the Alaska Association of Secondary School Principals.
- c. Thank you to our students, parents and teachers for great student led conferences on Wednesday the 30th of March.
- d. Thank you to Stephanie Stickle, DBSD Counselor, and Vanesa Juszczak, Chair of the Denali Chamber of Commerce. They coordinate a virtual job fair for students on Friday the 25th of March. This event connected students will eight different local employers.
- e. Thank you to First Student. When I was in Juneau recently for an ASA legislative advocacy trip, my name was drawn at random for \$1,000 scholarship provided by First Student for a graduating senior in our district.
- f. Thank you to Usibelli Coal Mine for their recent donation. Usibelli gave the district \$10,000 to provide their annual scholarships to graduates and to support the district's general fund. Their support to our students and their education is greatly appreciate.

2. Strategic Planning

- a. Core Planning Team Meeting - We've scheduled a meeting of the Core Planning Team for Saturday April 30th. At this meeting we'll review the draft action plans put together by each respective action team. The Core Planning Team will confirm the plans or offer further guidance for the teams to complete this work. Confirming the plans will move the district into the implementation phase with our strategic plan.

Mission Statement

Working together to nurture, empower and inspire today's student to positively shape tomorrow's world.

3. 2021-22 Smart Start -

- a. Vaccines - This week the FDA approved a second booster shot for the coronavirus. This additional vaccine is specifically recommended for adults over 50 and people above 12 who are immunocompromised.
- b. Status of the State - COVID-19 infections continue to be reported across the state and in our borough. The percentage of patients hospitalized as a result are low, at around 3%. On the CDC risk level guidelines, the Denali Borough is in "Low Risk". The State updated their case rate metrics. On their new case rate scale Denali is in the second lowest of five categories. This new state scale is designed to augment the information from the CDC.

4. Finances

- a. FY23 Budget - We continue to watch the legislative session to see if there will be any changes to school funding for next year. Currently no bills increasing funding have moved on for the Governor's signature. Active bills to watch and provide testimony on are HB 272, increasing the base student allocation (BSA), HB 273, inflation proofing the BSA, and the State Operating Budget, which includes additional funding for education in line with HB 272. The Denali Borough Assembly will begin considering their FY23 and our request for funding in their April meeting.

5. Facilities

- a. Tri-Valley Roof - We held an opening of responses to our RFP for the design phase of this project. We had only one responder. The price offered for the services was significantly higher than we estimated and more than the work for the Anderson Roof. The Anderson Roof Project was a much more complex design problem. By a vote of 3-0 we rejected all offers and will reissue the RFP at a later time and hope to receive a broader response, more in line with cost estimates. As the temperatures have increased, we continue to monitor the melt on the roof. To date, the pumps are keeping up with the slow melt and it is not raining inside the building.
- b. Tri-Valley Solar - We continued to work with DEED to determine if and how this project can fit in the major maintenance grant program. We investigated three different grant opportunities which could also support the project. Unfortunately, none of these have panned out. Unless DEED finds a way to include this project in the Major Maintenance Grant list, we will pursue a smaller project, doubling the size of the donation and with a payback time frame to make the investment worthwhile. The system will be expandable in the future.
- c. Anderson Water Pump - This week the fibers returned to the water system in Anderson. Further inspection of the fibers indicate that they are plastic, which leads us to the presumption that the fibers are coming off the plastic

impellers on the pump. Therefore, we will move forward with plans to replace the pump.

- d. Anderson Roof - Our engineers have done site visits to understand the issue with the leaks around the two large window areas that face the entrance to the gymnasium. Also, A recent snow fall is allowing us to monitor the roof and look for spots that are melting quickly, indicating a hot spot where more insulation is needed.
- e. Anderson Bus Route - Our Anderson bus rider withdrew from Anderson School over spring break. We informed First Student of this and have suspended this bus route.
- f. Cantwell Sprinkler Tank - No update.

6. Legislative Update

- a. Advocacy - I traveled to Juneau March 26th-30th and participated in the ASCA Legislative Fly-In. While there, I participated in several presentations from legislators and panels on different bills under consideration. I met with the following legislators: Senator Begich, Representative Drummond, Senator Holland, Senator Wilson, Representative Story, Senator Bishop, Representative Hopkins, Senator Hushes, and Representative Cronk. I also was able to drop in unscheduled and introduce myself and our district to our new Senator and Representative under the new redistricting map. These were Senator Shower and Representative McCabe. In my advocacy I promoted the district's interest in HB 272 and HB 272, increasing and inflation proofing the base student allocation for public education, SB111 increase reading interventions and support and bring preschool into state funded public education, a Capitol Budget that includes funds for major school maintenance, and increases to the per student allocation for school transportation services. I encourage others to similarly advocate in support of these measures to improve the educational outcomes of our students to legislators, committees and the Senate and House as a whole.

7. Personnel

- a. Certified Staff
 - i. On Friday, March 25th, Shera Pahuwayan, withdrew from her contract to work for DBSD next year. We are recruiting for two special education positions for our district. I am not able to travel to job fairs in Minnesota on April 12 and 13th but will plan to attend fairs in Utah in May. I also contacted a second agency that assists districts in hiring international teacher candidates through the J1 Cultural Exchange Visa Program and have three interviews scheduled through this agency.
- b. Classified Staff
 - i. We accepted the resignation of Hollie Bye, PEAK Secretary in Wasilla and are recruiting for this position.
 - ii. We hired Yuka Honda for the part-time custodial position at Tri-Valley.

- iii. I accepted the resignation of Martha Tomeo, TVS Librarian, effective April 22nd. We are recruiting for this position.
- c. Exempt Staff
 - i. No update

Dan Polta
Superintendent
Denali Borough School District

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Clay Walker, Mayor

April 2022 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly

This report speaks primarily to non-agenda items. Agenda items will be discussed in meeting.

NTIA MTA Broadband Grant Request Update

- Unfortunately, our grant submission, filed with the support of Matanuska Telephone Association, was not selected for funding by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration. This grant was very competitive, and a minority of submissions were funded. We will continue to seek opportunities, in partnership with MTA, to increase broadband service throughout the Denali Borough.

State of Alaska Legislative Redistricting Update

- The proposed state legislative redistricting map contained “The Cantwell Appendage”, a long finger reaching westward from the Richardson Highway and touching Cantwell. This “appendage” kept all Ahtna villages under one House seat and effectively maintained a direct Denali Borough connection to legislative districts currently served by Rep. Cronk and Sen. Bishop. The Alaska Supreme Court recently ruled this “appendage” unjustifiable, and therefore in need of remedy. It is expected that the final redistricting map will merge the entire Denali Borough with our neighbors to the south – the northern Mat-Su Borough. By the by, Wasilla Mayor Ledford and I met over Zoom recently to discuss working together and communicating with area legislators.

Denali Borough Redistricting

- Thanks to School Board member Dawn Adams, At-large public member Vernon Carlson, Planning Commissioner Susan Braun, and Assembly Members Jeff Stenger, Tallon Shreeve, and Dominic Canale for stepping up to serve on the new Redistricting Committee. The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27. The committee will review census data and consider proposals to bring our borough representation districts into proper apportionment; as well as considering the most effective structures for the bodies going forward. Recommendations will go to the Assembly, which will forward a ballot question for the November election. Our districts are in Charter and can only be adjusted through a Charter change, which requires a vote. The Assembly recently reviewed the 2020 census data and declared our current districts mal-apportioned.

Legislative Update

- This past month, I provided testimony to the Senate Finance Committee in support of fully recapitalizing the Community Assistance Program, funding the Major School Maintenance Grant Program, our Capital Budget request (one half cost share of the Tri-Valley School back-up power generator replacement project), and for funding in support of the Alaska Long Trail.

- I also provided invited testimony to a House Committee considering potential changes to the current Alaska Public Offices Commission's Financial Disclosure Forms. I shared history on the topic and shared the form through which the Denali Borough conducts our own substitute disclosures.

Local Government Lost Revenue Relief Grant Program

- Working with the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development, we have completed our grant agreement and expect the relief funding of \$3.18 million to hit our account any day now. For municipalities who suffered severe revenue losses, this allocation is intended to help maintain the provision of governmental services. The agreement did state that we intend to use these funds to meet our obligations to the Denali Borough School District and to maintain levels of support to emergency service providers and non-profit organizations within the borough. The FY 23 budget proposes to utilize these funds in that manner.

Changes, Changes

- Chris Noel, after 7.5 years of excellent service to the borough as our Emergency Planner and Projects Coordinator, is moving on and taking a new job in the area. He was instrumental in advancing projects such as Healy Transfer Station and Street Addressing, led coordination with emergency services and pursued grants, and did an amazing job coordinating the borough's response to the COVID pandemic. He will be greatly missed at the borough. We wish him the best in his next chapter here. After a review of duties and title, the job opening will be posted.
- Marsha Lambert has done a great job balancing the many duties of the Land Planner position which are in addition to the Street Addressing Project. Those duties include: planning (comprehensive, transportation, trails, etc.), plat and subdivision reviews, coordination with and support of the Planning Commission, managing 49,000 acres of borough land, map production, helping the public with land inquiries, land use permits, gravel sales, borough IT lead, coordinator of borough land surveying, managing leases and potential sales of borough lands, and more. Collectively, and with Street Addressing demands in mind, we decided to distribute some of those duties. Teresa Floberg has done a great job as the part-time Community Development Aide. She has demonstrated abilities to coordinate and move projects forward and has expressed a desire to play a larger role. The budgets for Assembly consideration include moving this position to full time, with a title of Community Development Director. This position will retain the grant pursuit focus while adding development-related roles such as planning, permitting, and land leases and sales. Her background in non-profit development, sales and marketing, and as a General Manager, are a good fit for the position. Additionally, the Land Planner role is redefined to incorporate the technical focus - Land Planner/GIS Technician.
- We have considered the effectiveness our open office space with seven people working together upstairs in light of the changing work place which involves many Zoom calls and meetings. We are considering, pending funding approval, of moving out of the Land Planning and moving into the "old bank space", where offices with doors will be able to support the necessary focus and coordination needed to continue to move our priorities forward.

Infrastructure Grant Symposium (Dena'ina Center Anchorage, April 11 and 12)

- Senator Murkowski is hosting the April 11 session, which includes numerous federal agencies presenting their roles within the \$1.2 trillion Act. The Alaska Municipal League is hosting the second day focusing on how municipalities can participate and coordinate. Teresa Floberg and I are attending for the borough and taking in the different educational sessions. We received a \$750 travel scholarship from AML to defray the costs of attending.

Happy April, Happy Easter. As always, feel free to contact me or staff with any questions. -Clay