

1 **Denali Borough Assembly**
2 **Minutes of the Regular Meeting**
3 **August 11, 2021**

4 **PUBLIC HEARING**

5 **ORDINANCE 21-08: EMPG ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION**

6 There were no public comments.
7

8 **ORDINANCE 21-09: MOVE AND AMEND DENALI BOROUGH CODE 6.05 TO DENALI**
9 **BOROUGH CODE 3.50**

10 There were no public comments.
11

12 **ORDINANCE 21-10: AMEND DENALI BOROUGH CODE 9.12 TITLED STREET NAMING**
13 **METHODS**

14 There were no public comments.
15

16 **REGULAR MEETING**

17 **CALL TO ORDER**

18 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the regular meeting to order at 6:09 PM.
19

20 **ROLL CALL**

21 Assembly members present: Lisa MINER, Jared ZIMMERMAN, Dominic CANALE, Eileen
22 HOLMES and Tallon SHREEVE. Mayor Clay Walker was also present.
23

24 Assembly members Jake HILL, Krista ZAPPONE, Joe CHATFIELD and Jeff STENGER
25 were absent.
26

27 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to excuse Assembly Members ZAPPONE, CHATFIELD,
28 STENGER and HILL. The motion was seconded.
29

30 The VOTE TO EXCUSE PASSED by unanimous consent.
31

32 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

33 Otto Lake area resident James Gauvin stated the following:

- 34
 - the old cabin along the road to Dry Creek was removed last year and the area was
35 cleaned up nicely

- A commercial operator in the Otto Lake area is renting all-terrain vehicles to visitors for unguided use which is resulting in trespassing issues and unsafe driving conditions for residents and other operators in the area.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded.

The VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA PASSED by unanimous consent.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

July 14, 2021 ASSEMBLY REGULAR MEETING

Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to approve the minutes from the July 14, 2021 Assembly Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded.

The VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES PASSED by unanimous consent.

REPORTS

PARTNER REPORTS

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

- Encouraged everyone to attend the upcoming Blueberry Festival.
- Area businesses remain challenged to find employees.
- Progress is being made towards the production of a Denali Borough Vacation Planner.

Seamus Siddall with Horizon Medical reported the following:

- COVID-19 vaccination is available at the Canyon Clinic with times and locations posted on the Horizon Medical AK website.
- COVID-19 testing is available at the Canyon Clinic with times and locations posted on the Horizon Medical AK website.
- Positive cases of COVID-19 and the Delta variant are beginning to increase locally and across the State which has increased the COVID testing participation.
- Horizon Medical will be available at the Blueberry Festival to offer COVID-19 Vaccines to anyone interested.

RECEIVE THE MAY 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT

Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to receive the May 2021 Financial Report. The motion was seconded.

1
2 The VOTE TO RECEIVE THE MAY 2021 FINANCIAL REPORT PASSED by unanimous
3 consent.

4
5 **PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

6 Planning Commissioner James Ward reported the following:

- 7 • The commission reviewed and approved two plats.
- 8 • Reviewed code language for an encroachment permit process.
- 9 • Reviewed the updated Denali Borough Fee Schedule.

10
11 **SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT**

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

14
15 **MAYOR REPORT**

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

18
19 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

20 Assembly members offered the following comments:

- 21 • Thanked those that provided reports and the public for their participation.
- 22 • Expressed appreciation for the Planning Commission.
- 23 • Expressed appreciation for the Denali Chamber of Commerce and Discover Denali.
- 24 • Expressed appreciation for the school board and the difficult decisions leading up to
25 the start of school.

26
27 **COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUEST**

28 There were no communication and appearance requests.

29
30 **DRAFT ORDINANCES**

31 **ORDINANCE 21-11: CONVEYANCE OF BOROUGH LAND FOR THE PUBLIC PURPOSE**
32 **OF A HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT NEAR MILE 231**

33 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to introduce Ordinance 21-11. The motion was seconded.

34 Carl Heim and Brian Roberts with the State of Alaska, Department of Transportation
35 reviewed the project.

36
37 The roll call VOTE TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 21-11 passed unanimously.

1
2 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to postpone Ordinance 21-11. The motion was seconded.

3
4 The VOTE TO POSTPONE PASSED by unanimous consent.

5
6 **ORDINANCE 21-12: DENALI BOROUGH CODE 4.12 TITLED ENCROACHMENT PERMIT**

7 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to introduce Ordinance 21-12. The motion was seconded.
8 Mayor Walker reviewed Ordinance 21-12.

9
10 The roll call VOTE TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 21-12 passed unanimously.

11
12 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to postpone Ordinance 21-12. The motion was seconded.

13
14 The VOTE TO POSTPONE PASSED by unanimous consent.

15
16 **ORDINANCE 21-13: ALLOW ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION FOR BOROUGH**
17 **MEETINGS**

18 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to introduce Ordinance 21-13. The motion was seconded.
19 Assembly member SHREEVE reviewed Ordinance 21-13.

20
21 The roll call VOTE TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 21-13 passed unanimously.

22
23 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to postpone Ordinance 21-13. The motion was seconded.

24
25 The VOTE TO POSTPONE PASSED by unanimous consent.

26
27 **ORDINANCE 21-14: ALLOCATING FUNDS FROM THE LAND MANAGEMENT CAPITAL**
28 **FUND FOR THE HEALY PARCEL BOUNDARY SURVEY**

29 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to introduce Ordinance 21-14. The motion was seconded.
30 Mayor Walker reviewed Ordinance 21-14.

31
32 The roll call VOTE TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 21-14 passed unanimously.

33

1 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to postpone Ordinance 21-14. The motion was seconded.

2

3 The VOTE TO POSTPONE PASSED by unanimous consent.

4

5 **PENDING ORDINANCES**

6 **ORDINANCE 21-08: EMPG ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION**

7 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to approve Ordinance 21-08. The motion was seconded.

8

9 The roll call VOTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 21-08 passed unanimously.

10

11 **ORDINANCE 21-09: MOVE AND AMEND DENALI BOROUGH CODE 6.05 TO DENALI**
12 **BOROUGH CODE 3.50**

13 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to approve Ordinance 21-09. The motion was seconded.

14

15 The roll call VOTE TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 21-09 passed unanimously.

16

17 **ORDINANCE 21-10: AMEND DENALI BOROUGH CODE 9.12 TITLED STREET NAMING**
18 **METHODS**

19 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to approve Ordinance 21-10. The motion was seconded.

20

21 The roll call VOTE TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 21-10 passed unanimously.

22

23 **RESOLUTIONS**

24 There were no Resolutions to consider.

25

26 **OTHER BUSINESS**

27 **MARIJUANA LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATIONS**

28 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to not-protest the marijuana license renewal application for
29 license #20221: Denali Grass Co. The motion was seconded.

30

31 The VOTE TO NOT-PROTEST PASSED by unanimous consent.

32

33 **CONFIRM THE HIRE OF CONNIE MACMASTER AS BOROUGH TREASURER**

1 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to approve the hire of Connie MacMaster as Denali Borough
2 Treasurer. The motion was seconded.

3
4 The VOTE TO CONFIRM CONNIE MACMASTER AS BOROUGH TREASURER PASSED
5 by unanimous consent.

6
7 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

8 There were no public comments.

9
10 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

11 Assembly members expressed appreciation for a productive and cordial meeting, and for
12 the public participation. Assembly members wished everyone a happy, healthy, safe
13 and productive remainder of the summer and encouraged the public to attend the
14 Blueberry Festival.

15
16 **TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

17 The next Assembly meeting will be Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 6:00 PM

18
19 **ADJOURN**

20 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The MEETING WAS
21 ADJOURNED by unanimous consent at 7:37 PM.

22
23
24
25 APPROVED: _____
26 Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer

27
28 ATTEST: _____
29 Amber Renshaw, Borough Clerk Date Approved: _____



**Superintendent's Report
Denali Borough Assembly
Wednesday, August 11th, 2021**

Dear Denali Borough Assembly and Mayor Walker,

1. Appreciation/Congratulations

- a. Our deepest apologies to Zoé Graham and her family. At the Tri-Valley graduation ceremony this spring Zoé's school of graduation was misidentified. She was dual enrolled and elected to graduate from Tri-Valley. The District re-issued her diploma and updated her transcript to reflect that she is a Tri-Valley graduate. We apologize for this incredible mistake on our part.
- b. Thank you to the Denali Borough Assembly for supporting the students of our community by approving a FY22 budget that includes the full request from DBSD.
- c. We appreciate everyone who completed the survey regarding the start of the 2021-22 school year. By the time of the recent board meeting over 240 people had responded. That is by far the largest number of responses we've had to any survey. We also appreciate the vast majority of comments that were respectful when conveying their thoughts and feelings on this important community concern.

2. 2021-22 Smart Start -

- a. DBSD Smart Start Framework - On August 3rd the DBSD School Board met to consider revisions to the Smart Start Framework. The Board received results from a community survey, letters to the Board, and heard several public comments during the meeting. Following deep discussion, the Board updated the Framework with some key changes for the coming school year. The Board is prioritizing in-person learning and recommending masks for all students, staff, and visitors, though not requiring these face coverings. I encourage everyone to continue to important mitigation effort to help keep our kids learning in our classrooms with their classmates. The Board is also meeting in special session again on Thursday the 11th to consider refinements to the Framework regarding visitors to school buildings and to conditions providing for a temporary shift away from in-person learning to distance learning.
- b. Screening Testing - All schools will be offering regular screening tests for the coronavirus this school year. Regular, wide-spread screening is an

Mission Statement

Nurturing, empowering and inspiring today's student to positively shape tomorrow's world.

effective way to identify individual cases and to prevent a wide-spread outbreak.

- c. ARPA and ESSER III Funding - We will be updating and finalizing the initial application and paperwork for this grant by the August 23rd deadline.
3. Strategic Planning - During my summer meeting in Jueanu, John Holst and I discussed the upcoming Strategic Plan retreat and general plan to approach this review. Once school has started, I will begin confirming the dates with the members of the Core Planning Team.
4. Finances
 - a. FY21 Budget - Our audit “visit” will be conducted virtually and is scheduled for August 16-20th.
 - b. FY22 Budget - We will be monitoring the FY22 Budget once school opens in order to predict variances based on actual student enrollment across our schools.
 - c. State Funding for Major School Maintenance - Funding for this important statewide program was vetoed out of the capital budget by Governor Dunleavy. Therefore, the District will not receive the state’s portion of expenses for the Anderson Roof Project this fiscal year. We will continue to apply for these funds.
5. Facilities
 - a. Anderson Roof Project - Curtis held the substantial completion meeting for this project on July 27th. It identified some small items for correction. The contractors are completing these issues. Overall, we are very pleased with the work that was completed. This included the planned work, the corrective measures taken to repair the damage from last year and additional work to mitigate the risk of a similar experience. Our one-year warranty on the construction work will begin at the final closeout.
 - b. Transportation - First Student has undergone several changes. Their parent company has changed though this has no direct impact on our local operations. They are still “First Student” to us. Changes in other district led First Student to assign a location manager to DBSD rather than a Lead Driver. Susan Reeves, who lives in Anderson and has worked with First Student in Fairbanks for many years, is our new Location Manager.
 - c. Door Locks - This project is almost complete. All locks are installed. We are doing the final programming of the main entrance doors at Tri-Valley. As staff begin reporting we will issue the new “keys”.
6. Personnel
 - a. Certified Staff
 - i. We hired Hannah Filardi for the open teaching position at Tri-Valley.

- ii. We are transitioning the position of District Nurse to a certified position requiring a Type C certificate. Nurse Keith is completing this application with DEED.
- b. Classified Staff
 - i. We accepted the resignation of Jennifer Hancock, TA at Tri-Valley
 - ii. We accepted the resignation of Jeremy Wolf, maintenance worker at Tri-Valley.
- c. Exempt Staff
 - i. No updates

Dan Polta
Superintendent
Denali Borough School District

DENALI BOROUGH

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Clay Walker, Mayor

August 2021 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly

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

Invitation to Bid on Healy Municipal Land Entitlement Land Boundary Survey Posted

- The Borough issued an Invitation to Bid for the above project on July 28, with bids due by August 16th. Moving forward with our lands program means investing in boundary surveys in order to take full title of the land. The borough estimates the cost of this survey project, which encompasses just over 1,000 acres, to be under \$100,000. Per code, the Borough Assembly will approve all contracts over \$50,000 via ordinance.

Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program Application with MTA

- The borough is partnering with Matanuska Telephone Association on an application to the Broadband Infrastructure Program offered by the US Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The proposed project will expand broadband availability and speeds in underserved areas of the borough from Cantwell through Healy. The borough will provide grant compliance support while MTA will lead the construction and deliver the enhanced service to residents. More on this later, hopefully, as the Assembly, via ordinance, approves and accepts grants.

Alaska Municipal League Summer Legislative Conference (Aug 3-6, Fairbanks' Westmark Hotel)

- There were actually five different conferences all together in this full week in Fairbanks. I participated, in ways, in all five. They were:
 - The Alaska Defense Forum. I attended the first ADF in October 2019 and this second forum was equally top notch. In the session I attended, we heard from and engaged with Maj. General Torrey Saxe, Alaska National Guard, and Lt. General Crum, Alaska Commander, as well as the Congressional Delegation. Also, a very interesting roundtable on the "New Geopolitical Landscape" highlighted the growing importance of the Arctic.
 - The Conference of Young Alaskans (COYA). AML facilitated this Conference of 42 emergent leaders from around the state. They drafted and presented to the Conference of Mayors their Resolutions relating to:
 - Sustainability of Communities
 - Diversity, Social Justice and Equity
 - Education
 - Economic Development
 - Infrastructure and Public Utilities
 - Climate Resilience

- **Quality of Life**

Their energy motivated the mayors group to consider ways to better involve youth. I am happy to share their resolutions with anyone interested.

- The Conference of Mayors. Most of this session related to State Budget Decisions and the upcoming Fiscal Policy Special Session. Senate President Pete Micciche joined us and offered a sobering view on the legislature's prospects of coming together on a fiscal plan. More on that below.
- The Municipal Mangers Association meeting. I joined this group for a tour of the Army Corps of Engineers Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory station located in Fox, also known as "The Permafrost Tunnel" – a fascinating facility with an interesting past and relevant future.
- Alaska Municipal League Conference. Topics of these sessions included: engagement with DOT on projects, economic recovery and the role economic development organizations, legislation impacting municipalities, and anticipated cost and responsibility shifting from the state to municipalities.

Alaska State Legislature Special Session beginning August 16th

- As the state continues its efforts toward a sustainable fiscal policy, many components are in play and will likely be interconnected in order to secure a path forward. Those components include the draw on the Earnings Reserve, the Permanent Fund Dividend, Oil Taxes, a potential Statewide Sales Tax, potential veto overrides, the Spending Cap and Constitutional Amendments.
- We heard from Sen. Kawasaki, a member of the Fiscal Policy Working Group, who said talks include: extending the moratorium on school bond debt reimbursement, the future of the Community Assistance Program, a Sales Tax, and the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) Program.

Alaska Municipal League Health Trust

- With a goal of offering competitive health care plans through the efficiency of pooling, AML recently stood up a new Health Trust. The borough compared our long-held coverage plan with the new offerings and found that the level of coverage was comparable while the cost savings were considerable. The Denali Borough, with the engagement and concurrence of staff, transitioned to a new health care provider on August 1. The expected cost savings are around \$100,000 this first year. As the Trust grows in membership, a governing body of municipal representatives will guide the future plans and offerings.

Final FEMA Approval of Public Assistance Reimbursement Request

- Our project of past COVID Testing and Transportation has achieved full approval. Over \$80,000 will be provided from FEMA to our CARES account.

Public Visit from Congressman Young's Staff Friday August 13

- Congressman Young's staff, including Chief of Staff Alex Ortiz, will "post up" a mobile office this Friday in front of the Healy Napa Store from roughly 10:30 to 12:30. Stop by to meet, greet, and engage.

Antler Ridge Trailhead Construction Update

- Construction of the new trailhead has begun and is scheduled to be completed within 30 days.

Resignation of Lee Lightfoot from Planning Commission

- With regrets, I accepted the resignation of Planning Commissioner Lee Lightfoot of Cantwell. Lee answered the call of service with grace and served with dignity. He will be miss by the Commission, among many. We wish Lee the best in the future. This creates an opening on the Commission from the southern district.

Vaccination Clinic at Blueberry Festival August 14

- The Denali Chamber of Commerce is hosting the Blueberry Festival at Otto Lake Park on Saturday the 14th. Among the activities is a free vaccination clinic offered by local health care providers.

Other Meetings and such of note attended since last meeting:

- July 22 Denali Borough Planning Commission meeting
- July 30 Alaska Municipal League Joint Insurance Assn. (AMLJIA) Board of Trustees meeting
- August 2 USFS Public Outreach Regarding Spruce Bark Beetles at McKinley Community Center
- August 3 Joint meeting of AMLIP (AML Investment Pool) and AML Boards of Directors
- August 3 Denali Borough School District Board meeting
- August 6 AML Board of Directors meeting

Happy August, happy late summer. As always, feel free to contact me or staff with questions.

-Clay