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**Minutes of the Regular Meeting  
Denali Borough Planning Commission  
Denali Borough Office  
June 21, 2023**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Presiding Officer Kesslyn TENCH called the regular meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

**ROLL CALL**

Planning Commissioners present were: James WARD, Kesslyn TENCH, Mark MENKE, Steve JONES, Susan BRAUN, Baxter MERCER, and Erik HAUGEN (arrived at 6:22 PM).

Mayor Clay Walker was present.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mark MENKE MOVED to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded.

The VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA PASSED by unanimous consent.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mark MENKE MOVED to approve the May 17, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. The MOTION was seconded.

The VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES PASSED by unanimous consent.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

**PLATS AND CONDITIONAL USES**

**PC RESOLUTION 23-07: PLAT 23-07**

**A SUBDIVISION OF THE SE ¼ OF THE SE ¼ OF SECTION 31 AND S ½ OF THE SW ¼ OF SECTION 32 BOTH WITHIN T17S, R7W, F.M. ALASKA. CREATING THE DENALI VIEW SUBDIVISION WITH 36 LOTS.**

Baxter MERCER MOVED to approve PC Resolution 23-07. The motion was seconded.

The Commissioners reviewed the Plat and accompanying documents.

The VOTE TO APPROVE PC RESOLUTION 23-07 PASSED by unanimous roll call vote.

1  
2 **REPORTS**

3 **MAYOR**

4 Mayor Clay Walker verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written  
5 report and stated that the Governor vetoed some of the school funding discussed in  
6 the written report and the ramifications of the reduced funding for the Denali  
7 Borough School District is yet to be determined (SEE ATTACHMENT A).

8  
9 **BOROUGH PLANNER**

10 There was no report.

11  
12 **PLANNING COMMISSIONER REPORT FROM THE ASSEMBLY MEETING**

13 Commissioner TENCH reported that the Assembly passed the Fiscal Year 2024  
14 budget and watched a documentary of a case of municipal fraud and the fiscal  
15 responsibility lessons learned from the experience.

16  
17 **COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUEST**

18 There were no communication or appearance requests.

19  
20 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

21 There was no unfinished business to consider.

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23 **NEW BUSINESS**

24 **PC RESOLUTION 23-08: ADOPTING STREET NAMES FOR SIX (6) UNNAMED**  
25 **STREETS**

26 Baxter MERCER MOVED to approve Resolution 23-08. The motion was seconded.

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28 The VOTE TO APPROVE PC RESOLUTION 23-08 PASSED by unanimous roll call  
29 vote.

30  
31 **PC RESOLUTION 23-09: ADOPTED STREET SUFFIX FOR SHERIFF WILSON**  
32 **ROAD AND CRESCENT IN CANTWELL.**

33 Susan BRAUN MOVED to approve Resolution 23-09. The motion was seconded.

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35 The VOTE TO APPROVE PC RESOLUTION 23-09 PASSED by unanimous roll call  
36 vote.

37  
38 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

39 Denali Borough resident Cyrus Cooper provided the following comments:

- 40
- 41 • Suggested that the Planning Commission consider establishing road  
42 construction standards similar to those described in the Alaska Administrative  
43 Code.
  - 44 • Expressed concern, specifically environmental concerns, about the proposal  
of a large facility being constructed on borough property and encourages the

1 Commission to provide the public an opportunity to be heard before this  
2 proposal moves forward.

3  
4 **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

5 Planning Commissioners expressed the following:

- 6 • Expressed appreciation for the ability to receive an official address.
- 7 • Expressed appreciation for the work and effort developing the McKinley  
8 Village Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

9  
10 **PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT TO THE ASSEMBLY**

11 Commissioner Baxter MERCER will provide the Planning Commission report at the  
12 Wednesday, July 12, 2023 Denali Borough Assembly meeting at the Cantwell  
13 School.

14  
15 **TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

16 The next meeting will be on July 19, 2023 at 6:00 PM: Walking exploration of the Yanert  
17 parcel of Denali Borough land in the McKinley Village area.

18  
19 **ADJOURNMENT**

20 Presiding Officer Kesslyn TENCH adjourned the meeting at 6:41 PM.

21  
22 **WORK SESSION**

23 The Planning Commission embarked on a walking exploration of the Stampede  
24 Ridge of the Panguingue Parcel of Denali Borough lands.

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29 APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_  
30 Kesslyn TENCH, Presiding Officer

31  
32  
33 ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
34 Amber Renshaw, Clerk Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DENALI BOROUGH**

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*Clay Walker, Mayor*

### **June 2023 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly**

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

#### **State Budget Review**

- In many ways, the legislature's approved budget met many of the borough's legislative priorities. At this June 9 writing, the budget is not yet fully executed.
- The Community Assistance Program was re-capitalized. The PERS retirement system does not impose additional burden on municipalities. The Major School Maintenance Fund was capitalized to the tune of \$30 million. While that doesn't quite fund our next project, it does move the list forward.
- K-12 Education funding received a one-time increase equivalent to a \$680 Base Student Allocation increase. While this was not the statutory BSA increase sought, it is very helpful to the district this year.
- Our modest capital requests were not funded, but every other priority was addressed to a degree.

#### **Borough Staff Update**

- Please join me in thanking Finance Clerk Sherry Shorey for her service to the borough and wishing her well in her new Colorado home. Her last day with the borough is June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Administrative Clerk Nicole Dalton has been training in the duties of the Finance Clerk and is ready to step in and train her replacement.
- The borough received many great applications for the Administrative Clerk position. Following a team review and interview process, Salena Mirasole accepted the offer of the position. Welcome Salena to the team! She starts June 26<sup>th</sup>.
- I want to thank the applicants and interviewees for their interest in the position. We are blessed to have strong interest from qualified individuals.

#### **Healy Transfer Station Hours of Operation**

- Following consideration and input from staff and the public, we have decided to adjust the operating days of Healy Transfer Station from Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat to Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat. This adjustment will benefit the operation and will be effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. Operating hours remain the same: 3 pm -7pm on weekdays and 10 am -4 pm on Saturdays.

### **Landslide Disaster Tabletop Training Exercise**

- State of Alaska Dept. of Homeland Security and Emergency Management facilitated an emergency management tabletop training at the borough office on June 6<sup>th</sup>. The scenario used was increased ground fracturing and sliding at the existing slump near Denali Education Center.
- Participants included DHS&EM, the Denali Borough, the National Weather Service, Denali Education Center, and McKinley Volunteer Fire Department.
- Trainings like these are always valuable in building organizational understanding of structures, roles, and resources available. A sub-group, including borough representatives, will conduct a follow-up site visit next week.

### **City of Anderson Support and Meetings**

- Following the May 12 call from the City of Anderson Mayor Thompson informing me that the city is in financial distress and that allegations of fraud are pending, the borough has taken several steps to support the city in their time of need.
- We committed many staff hours of Borough Emergency Manager Forest Shreeve, who previously served as clerk and treasurer for the City of Nenana. While his other projects were delayed, the city has appreciated his professionalism and knowledge in assisting their recovery.
- Attending a City Council meeting, I recommended additional internal financial control measures. The council formed a committee to work on that issue and Forest and I attended that committee meeting.
- With the City of Anderson emergency services department non-operational, the borough participated in a joint meeting with responding departments (including Tri-Valley and Nenana VFDs) and approved an agreed upon temporary change to dispatching protocols.
- With debt and professional bookkeeping needs and bills, Mayor Thompson requested the Denali Borough support by directly paying an invoice for about 100 hours of bookkeeping services totaling \$7,675. In the borough's FY23 budget, I've approved an intradepartmental transfer in accordance with Denali Borough Code 3.10.100 to pay this expense on behalf of the City of Anderson out of line item 4310 Contingency.

### **Updated re: Pretty Rock Bridge in Denali National Park**

- Changes in the project schedule due to updated design work, excavation discoveries, and delays, result in new completion date for the project of July 2026.

Happy June, happy peak of the light cycle!

As always, feel free to contact me or staff with any questions.

- Clay