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**Minutes of the Regular Meeting
Denali Borough Planning Commission
Denali Borough Office
May 15, 2024**

REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING

CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Presiding Officer James Ward called the regular meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

ROLL CALL

Planning Commissioners present were: Kesslyn Tench, Mark MENKE, James Ward, Steve JONES, Baxter MERCER, and Susan BRAUN.

Mayor Chris Noel was also present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Denali Borough resident Jeff Forsythe reported that the State of Alaska has provided preliminary approval for the easement request for the plat he hopes to bring before the Planning Commission and he asked if the Commission would consider a plat with preliminary approval or if he needs final approval before submitting.

The Commission encouraged final approval before reviewing the plat.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Kesslyn TENCH MOVED to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded.

The VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA PASSED by unanimous show of hands.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Susan BRAUN MOVED to approve the minutes from the April 17, 2024 Regular Meeting. The motion was seconded.

The VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES PASSED by unanimous show of hands.

COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUEST

There were no Communication and Appearance requests.

REPORTS

PLANNING COMMISSIONER REPORT FROM THE ASSEMBLY MEETING

Planning Commissioner James Ward reported the Assembly had a great tour of the Anderson School, expressed interest in the work the Commission is doing on road

1 construction standards, and postponed passage of the Fiscal Year 2025 budget to
2 the next Assembly meeting.

3 4 **BOROUGH PLANNER**

5 Denali Borough Planner Marsha Lambert reported the following:

- 6 • Maps are being created to assist with the Community Wildfire Protection Plan
7 and the Community & Outdoor Recreation Plan.
- 8 • Street sign inventory will be conducted in the next month.

9 10 **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR REPORT**

11 Community Development Director Teresa Floberg reported the following:

- 12 • The Bureau of Land Management continues to solicit public feedback
13 regarding the Alaska Long Trail National Scenic Trail feasibility study.
- 14 • The Denali Borough successfully assisted with the Denali Health and Safety
15 Fair on Friday, April 19th at the Tri-Valley School.
- 16 • The Community and Outdoor Recreation Committee will be hosting an event
17 at the Antler Ridge parking area for National Trails Day on June 1st.
- 18 • State of Alaska, Department of Transportation will host public meetings on
19 June 5th and 6th regarding the separated pathway projects awarded.
- 20 • The Denali Area Airport Study continues to seek public feedback.
- 21 • Announced that this would her last meeting as she will be leaving employment
22 with the Denali Borough.

23 24 **MAYOR**

25 Mayor Chris Noel highlighted information provided in the attached written report
26 (SEE ATTACHMENT A).

27 28 **PLATS AND CONDITIONAL USES**

29 There were no Plats and Conditional Uses to consider.

30 31 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

32 **DRAFT DENALI BOROUGH CODE 9.11 ROAD CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS**

33 Steve JONES MOVED TO APPROVE the recommended language discussed during
34 the April 17, 2024 work session. The motion was seconded.

35
36 The VOTE TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDED LANGUAGE FROM THE APRIL
37 17, 2024 WORK SESSION PASSED by unanimous show of hands.

38
39 The Commission discussed a variety road construction scenarios and the challenge
40 to address all the scenarios within a chapter of code.

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42 Baxter MERCER MOVED TO POSTPONE to the next meeting. The motion was
43 seconded.

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45 The VOTE TO POSTPONE PASSED by unanimous consent.

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NEW BUSINESS
PLANNING AND DISCUSSION OF A CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PROCESS FOR BOTH THE PANGUINGUE STAMPEDE AND YANERT PARCELS OF DENALI BOROUGH LAND.

The Planning Commission discussed the scope and parameters of the conceptual design for a potential residential subdivision in the Panguingue Stampede and Yanert areas of Denali Borough land.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Planning Commissioners expressed the following:

- Expressed appreciation for Community Development Director Teresa Floberg.
- Presiding Officer Kesslyn TENCH stated that this will be her last meeting as she will be relocating.
- Expressed appreciation for Presiding Officer Kesslyn Tench and wished her well.

PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT TO THE ASSEMBLY

Commissioner WARD offered to provide the Planning Commission report at the Wednesday, June 12, 2024 Denali Borough Assembly meeting at the Denali Borough Office.

TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, June 19, 2024 at the Denali Borough Office.

ADJOURNMENT

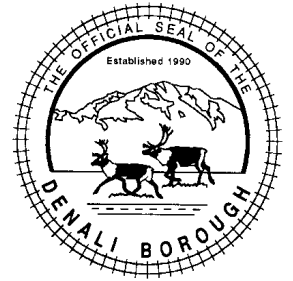
Deputy Presiding Officer James WARD adjourned the meeting at 9:00 PM.

APPROVED: _____
James WARD, Deputy Presiding Officer

ATTEST: _____
Amber Renshaw, Clerk Date Approved: _____

DENALI BOROUGH

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Chris Noel, Mayor

May 2024 Mayor's Report

Administrative

- Thanks to all the vendors who made the 2nd Annual Health and Safety Fair a grand success. A special thanks to the borough staff team led by Community Development Director Teresa Floberg and Emergency Manager Forest Shreeve who helped set up and tear down at the Tri-Valley School gym.
- We held an in-person kickoff meeting with Community Wildfire Protection Plan contractor Bintel Inc. and our volunteer fire departments, Denali National Park Fire Management, and Clear Space Force Station. The contractor will be back for on-site work in early June.
- The Local Emergency Planning Committee is back in action. The group of community partners committed to gathering quarterly to pressing emergency management topics. The next meeting is May 7th, 6 PM at the Borough office.

Solid Waste

- Backhaul Alaska and the Denali Borough entered a working partnership in 2022 to dispose of end-of-life electronics. This led to the successful collection, transportation, and disposal of 2,165 lbs in 2022 and 3,758 lbs in 2023. We will renew the partnership this season, and we look forward to continuing efforts to safely segregate and dispose of this ever-growing waste stream.
- Community Cleanup: In an annual tradition, all borough solid waste facilities will again accept the yellow Alaskans for Litter Prevention and Recycling (ALPAR) cleanup bags at no charge. Thanks to the numerous volunteers who take time picking up litter along our roads and trails.
- The recycling Trailers will be back at the Cantwell and Healy transfer stations for the summer season, on or around May 15th. This service is again supported by the Zero Landfill Initiative, and Carlisle Transportation.

Land Planning and Community Development

- I attended the Alaska Long Trail National Scenic Trail hosted feasibility study public meeting in Cantwell, hosted by Bureau of Land Management (BLM). BLM is soliciting public comments [here](#), and the comment period is open until June 28th. Comments are welcome on the alignment of the Alaska Long Trail, and its suitability for inclusion as a National Scenic Trail. Comments are georeferenced and are available to the public.
- June 1st National Trails Day Celebration— The Denali Borough, in partnership with the National Park Service, and the Alaska Division of Parks and Recreation, will celebrate the borough's first municipal trailhead on June 1st, in honor of National Trails Day. Please join us.
- The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) was nominated for a national Presidential Partnership Award through the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. The nomination highlights the strong partnership that began in earnest with the finalization of the Planning and Environmental Linkage Study in 2022, leading to a funded separated nonmotorized pathway from the Antler Ridge trailhead to the Healy core, with more on the horizon. Kudos to the

borough staff team and our DOT partners for the ongoing work towards improving transportation opportunities in Denali.

- We have an open seat on the Planning Commission, Seat E. Planning commissioners serve “at-large,” and residents residing in Cantwell and Anderson are encouraged to consider participating. The Planning Commission performs planning, platting, and zoning in the borough, and has recently considered road standards for public rights of way, and the conceptual design of a residential subdivision on borough owned land. Anyone interested in serving may email me directly, cnoel@denaliborough.com.

Items of Interest

- GVEA Power Plant Tour – Borough employees Salena Mirasole, Nicole Dalton, Allison Johnson, and Marsha Lambert and I had the opportunity to tour the Golden Valley Power Plant here in Healy. Healy Operations Supervisor Allan Mortenson led a fantastic and eye-opening tour of both Healy Unit 1 and Unit 2. I left with a better understanding of the level of effort, skills, and expertise it takes to provide up to 88-megawatts of baseload power. Thanks goes out to the Healy Power Plant team of ~75, and the rest of the employees of our electric cooperative for their work to keep the lights on.
- Alaska Mining Day: Speaking of keeping the lights on, I look forward to participating in Alaska Mining Day, May 10th, put on by the Alaska Miners Association and hosted by Usibelli Coal Mine.
- Wishing warm congratulations to the Denali Borough School District and Denali PEAK Class of 2024. The future is bright and we are rooting for you.
- City of Anderson Sewer Report- The City of Anderson received a 95% Preliminary Engineering Report, drafted by KUNA engineering on behalf of the City and Village Safe Water. Mayor Hammond shared the report (posted to the city website under the “News” tab). While it is a technical report, the bottom line is that there are no inexpensive fixes to the problems that plague the Anderson sewer system. Kuna and Village Safewater will look for a Resolution from the City Council supporting one of the five alternative scenarios analyzed in the report. Kuna’s recommendation, following numerous meetings with the City, is Alternative 2: Private Septic Systems, including abandoning the sewer and providing every home with an on-site ADEC approved septic system.

Staffing

- The Community Development Director position is posted to the borough website, and we are accepting applications until May 15th.

Wishing you a safe summer.

- Chris