

1 **Denali Borough Assembly**
2 **Minutes of the Regular Meeting**
3 **November 10, 2021**

4
5 **PUBLIC HEARING**

6 **ORDINANCE 21-16: MTA BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT**

7 There were no public comments.
8

9 **REGULAR MEETING**

10 **CALL TO ORDER**

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

13 **ROLL CALL**

14 Assembly members present: Joe CHATFIELD, Jeff STENGER, Jared ZIMMERMAN,
15 Dominic CANALE, Lisa MINER, Krista ZAPPONE and Tallon SHREEVE. Mayor Clay
16 Walker was also present.
17

18 Assembly members absent: Eileen HOLMES
19

20 Jeff STENGER MOVED to excuse Assembly Member HOLMES. The motion was seconded.
21

22 The VOTE TO EXCUSE PASSED by unanimous consent.
23

24 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

25 There were no public comments.
26

27 **CERTIFY THE NOVEMBER 2, 2021 REGULAR ELECTION**

28 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to certify the November 2, 2021 Regular Election results. The
29 motion was seconded.
30

31 The VOTE TO CERTIFY THE NOVEMBER 2, 2021 REGULAR ELECTION RESULTS
32 PASSED by unanimous consent.
33

34 **NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS OATH OF OFFICE**

35 Denali Borough Clerk Amber Renshaw led newly elected Assembly Members Jared
36 ZIMMERMAN, Krista ZAPPONE and David ALEXANDER in the Oath of Office.

1
2 **ELECTION OF ASSEMBLY OFFICERS**
3 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to nominate Jared ZIMMERMAN as Presiding Officer and Krista
4 ZAPPONE as Deputy Presiding Officer. The motion was seconded.

5
6 There were no additional nominations.

7
8 The VOTE TO APPROVE JARED ZIMMERMAN AS PRESIDING OFFICER AND KRISTA
9 ZAPPONE AS DEPUTY PRESIDING OFFICER PASSED by unanimous consent.

10
11 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

13
14 The VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA PASSED by unanimous consent.

15
16 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

17 **OCTOBER 13, 2021 ASSEMBLY REGULAR MEETING**

18 Dominic CANALE MOVED to approve the minutes from the October 13 2021 Assembly
19 Meeting. The motion was seconded.

20
21 The VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES PASSED by unanimous consent.

22
23 **REPORTS**

24 **PARTNER REPORTS**

25 Seamus Siddall with Horizon Medical reported the following:

- 26 • COVID-19 vaccination and testing services will continue to be provided by Horizon
27 Medical through the winter at the Tri-Valley Community Center.
- 28 • Horizon Medical, the State of Alaska Public Health, and the Denali Borough are
29 working to coordinate a combination Flu and COVID-19 vaccine clinic in November
30 which will include Pfizer vaccine for ages 5 to 11.

31
32 Vanessa Juszczak with the Denali Chamber of Commerce and Discover Denali thanked
33 Assembly Member CANALE for sponsoring a Resolution in support of the Travel Alaska
34 program and reported that Trunk or Treat was successful with positive participation.

35
36 **FINANCE REPORT**

37 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to receive the June 2021 and July 2021 Finance Reports. The
38 motion was seconded.

1
2 The VOTE TO RECEIVE THE JUNE AND JULY 2021 FINANCE REPORTS PASSED by
3 unanimous consent.

4
5 **PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

6 Planning Commissioner Baxter Mercer reported that the Commission completed the street
7 naming process for streets in the Denali Borough that had no changes to the name or suffix.
8 For streets that are proposed to change in name or suffix, the naming process will continue
9 in January.

10
11 **SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT**

12 Superintendent Dan Polta reported on the following:

- 13 • Congratulated all re-elected and newly elected officials.
- 14 • The school district will continue the Strategic Planning process.
- 15 • The school district has been successfully nominated to receive a donation from
16 Solarize Denali to install solar electric panels at the school.
- 17 • Encouraged the community to get vaccinated both for COVID and the Flu. The
18 school is working to offer the COVID vaccine for the school population prior to the
19 holiday break.
- 20 • The October school count report has been submitted and will be reviewed by the
21 State to determine the final funding level for the district. The report reflects the lower
22 than projected student count and will result in revenue reduction.

23
24 **MAYOR REPORT**

25 Mayor Clay Walker verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written report
26 (see Attachment A).

27
28 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

29 Assembly members expressed appreciation for all the reports, thanked those that helped
30 with the election, thanked everyone willing to serve and volunteer in our communities,
31 and welcomed David Alexander to the Assembly.

32
33 **COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUEST**

34 **DENALI NATIONAL PARK, DENALI PARK ROAD PLAN**

35 David Schirokauer and Brooke Merrell provided a presentation on the Pretty Rocks
36 landslide area along the Denali Park Road and the proposed mitigation plan and timeline.

37
38 **MTA BROADBAND GRANT REPRESENTATIVE**

1 Ryan Ponder and Ryan Leaders with Matanuska Telephone Association provided an
2 overview of the National Telecommunications Information Administration Broadband grant
3 project that the Denali Borough and MTA has partnered and submitted an application to
4 receive.

5

6 **DRAFT ORDINANCES**

7 There were no draft ordinances to consider.

8

9 **PENDING ORDINANCES**

10 **ORDINANCE 21-16: MTA BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT**

11 Jeff STENGER MOVED to approve Ordinance 21-16. The motion was seconded.

12

13 The roll call VOTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 21-16 passed unanimously.

14

15 **RESOLUTIONS**

16 **RESOLUTION 21-15: SUPPORT ALASKA TRAVEL INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION AND
17 THEIR MARKETING EFFORTS THROUGH THE TRAVEL ALASKA PROGRAM**

18 Dominic CANALE MOVED to approve Resolution 21-15. The motion was seconded.

19

20 The roll call VOTE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 21-15 passed unanimously.

21

22 **RESOLUTION 21-16: SUPPORT THE DENALI NATIONAL PARK, NENANA RIVER
23 CORRIDOR TRAIL DEVELOPMENT**

24 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN recused himself from discussion and turned the gavel
25 over to Deputy Presiding Officer Krista ZAPPONE noting a conflict of interest.

26

27 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to approve Resolution 21-16. The motion was seconded.

28

29 The roll call VOTE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 21-16 passed unanimously with
30 ZIMMERMAN recused.

31

32 Deputy Presiding Officer Krista ZAPPONE returned the gavel to Presiding Officer Jared
33 ZIMMERMAN.

34

35 **OTHER BUSINESS**

36 **LIQUOR LICENSE #475: DENALI GRIZZLY BEAR LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION**

1 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to not-protest the license renewal for Liquor License #475;
2 Denali Grizzly Bear. The motion was seconded.

3
4 The VOTE TO NOT-PROTEST PASSED by unanimous consent.
5

6 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

7 Cantwell resident Gordon Carlson encouraged the Mayor and Assembly to work with the
8 State of Alaska, Department of Transportation, to develop some transport truck driver rest
9 areas in the borough.

10
11 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

12 Assembly members offered the following comments:

- 13 • Expressed appreciation for a productive and cordial meeting.
- 14 • Encouraged anyone impacted financially by COVID-19 to apply for the Lions Club
15 COVID Cost Reimbursement Program.
- 16 • Neighbor to Neighbor will be assembling and delivering food boxes to families in
17 need on December 16th.
- 18 • Expressed appreciation for the Newly Elected Officials training offered by the Alaska
19 Municipal League.
- 20 • Expressed appreciation for all our veterans.

21
22 **TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

23 The Assembly discussed the need for a Special Meeting to consider a Resolution to
24 accompany the application to receive Local Government Relief funding.

25 The Assembly scheduled a Special Meeting for Wednesday, December 1st at 6:00 PM.

26
27 The next regular Assembly meeting will be Wednesday, December 8, 2021 at 6:00 PM
28

29 **ADJOURN**

30 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The MEETING WAS
31 ADJOURNED at 8:35 PM by unanimous consent.

32
33 APPROVED: _____
34 Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer
35

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

DENALI BOROUGH

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Clay Walker, Mayor

November 2021 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly

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

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Grants Through the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA)

- The borough is a partner in a statewide tourism recovery grant application under the Build Back Better Regional Challenge, which was submitted by the Oct. 16 deadline. We expect to hear if this grant application made the first round of cuts nationally in mid-December.
- The borough is considering other grant applications under different ARPA programs – specifically the Economic Adjustment Assistance program and the Travel, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation program. We are working with partner agencies and the EDA in developing our potential applications. For these two programs, applications are due March 15.

Assistance to Net Revenue-Loss Municipalities

- The 2021 State Legislature approved the allocation of \$50 million in State of Alaska ARPA funds to help support municipalities who lost revenue and did not receive equivalent federal aid. Many thanks to our Senator, Senator Click Bishop, for championing this funding, which the Denali Borough and the Alaska Municipal League strongly supported. The state, through their Division of Community and Regional Affairs, has now formulated an application process to implement this program.
- The Denali Borough, based upon our steep revenue losses and scant aid, easily qualifies to participate in this program. We plan to apply and are hopeful that replacement of lost revenue can help support our declining fiscal position.

First Quarter (Q1) Tax Returns

- The end of October marks the due date for the July-September tax remittances. This is the largest quarter of our fiscal year. Returns for Overnight Accommodations taxes showed a 50% increase over 2020, but still 45% below 2019 levels.
- With alcohol and marijuana tax collections beginning Jan.1, 2021, this is the first Q1 of this new revenue source. Returns exceeded estimates.

Meetings of Note since October Assembly meeting:

- October 15 and 16: Denali Borough School District Core Planning Team Strategic Planning Session
 - This Saturday and Sunday meeting of the Core Planning Team, which was made up of about 30 community members including district personnel, resulted in a refreshed framework of the district's Strategic Plan.

- October 21: Denali Borough All Staff Meeting
 - Office staff and solid waste staff convened for this full day meeting. We had a presentation from a State of Alaska benefits program representative who addressed benefit programs and options available to employees. Throughout the afternoon, we reviewed draft changes to the borough's Personnel and Procedure Manual.
- October 27: Met with Tri-Valley Fire Chief Brad Randall and EMS Director Sam Kimmel to discuss potential Summer Medic Program staffing levels and changes to the state's EMS program. We also toured the new ambulance procured through a federal grant and the new/used tender procured through both department and borough (ERA grant program) funds.
- October 28: Met with representatives from Railbelt Mental Health and Addictions to learn more about their service offerings and consider ways in which to partner or include RMHA in health care conversations.
- November 1: National Assn. of Counties Public Lands Steering Committee meeting. Infrastructure Bill was discussed. Senate Bill 3011 passed which directs ARPA funding to the state, who then shall pass along to the boroughs. We were not pleased with that (these appropriations should come to us directly) but understand that it is a byproduct of the issues around the Unorganized Borough – wherein a majority of land in Alaska is in a single unorganized borough administered by the state.
- November 2: Met with Sen. Murkowski's Chief of Staff Kaleb Froehlich to discuss PILT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes), the Small Population Counties PILT Parity Act, and the Infrastructure Bill.

Otto Lake Municipal Land Entitlement Boundary Survey

- The recording of this boundary survey plat enables the borough to next apply for the patent to these 633 acres. The contractor, GPS, produced this survey in a timely manner.

Alaska Liquefied Natural Gas (AKLNG) Project Study Results

- The Alaska Gasline Development Corporation (AGDC) commissioned a Greenhouse Gas Lifecycle Assessment for its' AKLNG Project. The assessment was developed to compare the AKLNG project to other global energy options. It found that exporting Alaskan LNG to Asian markets results in a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to using Chinese coal.
- To see the report, go to: http://agdc.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Greenhouse-Gas-Lifecycle-Assessment_Alaska-LNG-Project.pdf

Annual Local Government Conference

- The Alaska Municipal League is hosting this annual conference in person in Anchorage. I will be attending in person and participating in two board meetings. Portions of the conference will also be available for online viewing, including the session on training for newly elected officials. This valuable training takes place Nov. 9 and 10. It is free to register this year.

Happy November; even through difficult times, we have so much to be thankful for. As always, feel free to contact me or staff with questions.

-Clay