

1 **Denali Borough Assembly**
2 **Minutes of the Regular Meeting**
3 **Virtual Meeting**
4 **November 11, 2020**
5

6 **WORK SESSION**

7 **ORDINANCE 20-15: LOCAL OPTION ZONING**

8 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the work session to order at 6:05 PM.

9
10 The following concerns regarding Ordinance 20-15 were discussed during the work session:

- 11 • Providing flexibility for local option zoning districts to select more than one zoning
- 12 category.
- 13 • Ensure that due process for landowners is protected during any local option zoning
- 14 district formation process.
- 15 • Clarify protection for existing land uses after local option zoning district formation.
- 16

17 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN adjourned the work session at 7:11 PM.
18

19 **PUBLIC HEARING**

20 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the public hearing to order at 7:11 PM.
21

22 **ORDINANCE 20-03: BASELINE ADDRESSING SYSTEM**

23 McKinley Village area resident Steve Jones encouraged the assembly to make a decision
24 on a system of addressing expressing that any system of addressing is better than having
25 no addressing in our borough.

26
27 Panguingue Creek area resident Susan Braun expressed support for the Baseline
28 Addressing system stating that the baseline system will be easier for future generations to
29 maintain.
30

31 **ORDINANCE 20-15: LOCAL OPTION ZONING**

32 There were no comments.
33

34 **ORDINANCE 20-18: BISON GULCH/ANTLER CREEK EASEMENT REQUEST**

35 There were no comments.
36

37 **ORDINANCE 20-19: CENTER FOR TECH AND CIVIC LIFE COVID RESPONSE FOR**
38 **ELECTIONS GRANT**

1 There were no comments.

2

3 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN adjourned the public hearing at 7:14 PM.

4

5 **REGULAR MEETING**

6 **CALL TO ORDER**

7 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the regular meeting to order at 7:14 PM.

8

9 **ROLL CALL**

10 Assembly members present: Jake HILL, Lisa MINER, Jared ZIMMERMAN, Tallon
11 SHREEVE, Joe CHATFIELD, Jeff STENGER, Eileen HOLMES and Krista ZAPPONE.
12 Mayor Clay Walker was also present.

13

14 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

15 There were no public comments.

16

17 **CERTIFY THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 REGULAR ELECTION**

18 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to certify the November 3, 2020 Regular Election. The motion
19 was seconded. The MOTION PASSED by unanimous consent.

20

21 Jake HILL thanked all the election workers for their time and attention during a busy and
22 unique election day.

23

24 **NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS OATH OF OFFICE**

25 Denali Borough Clerk Amber Renshaw led Clay Walker, Joe CHATFIELD, Dominic
26 CANALE, and Eileen HOMES in the Oath of Office.

27

28 Assembly members welcomed newly elected member Dominic CANALE

29

30 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

31 Jake HILL MOVED to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded.

32

33 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to amend the agenda by moving "Communication and
34 Appearance Request" to the next agenda item. The motion was seconded.

35 The MOTION TO AMEND PASSED by unanimous consent.

36

1 The MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED PASSED by unanimous
2 consent.

3

4 **COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUEST**

5 Jennifer LeMay with LeMay Engineering provided a presentation highlighting the draft update
6 to the Denali Borough Emergency Operations Plan.

7

8 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

9 **OCTOBER 14, 2020 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

10 Jake HILL MOVED to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2020 meeting. The motion
11 was seconded. The MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED by unanimous consent.

12

13 **REPORTS**

14 **SEPTEMBER 2020 FINANCE REPORT**

15 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to receive the September 2020 Finance Reports. The motion was
16 seconded. The MOTION TO RECEIVE PASSED by unanimous consent.

17

18 **PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT**

19 Planning Commissioner Susan Braun reported that the commission approved an easement
20 request in the Slate Creek area, an easement request for the Bison Gulch/Antler Creek
21 area, and reschedule the November meeting to December 2, 2020 at 6:00 PM as a work
22 session to work through a mock conditional use permit process.

23

24 **EMERGENCY MANAGER REPORT**

25 Emergency Manager Chris Noel verbally highlighted information provided in the attached
26 written report (Attachment A)

27

28 **SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT**

29 Superintendent Dan Polta verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written
30 report (Attachment B).

31

32 **MAYOR REPORT**

33 Mayor Clay Walker verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written report
34 (Attachment C).

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36 **CARES ACT PROGRAMS REPORT**

37 Mayor Clay Walker verbally highlighted information provided in the attached written Mayor
38 Report (Attachment C).

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ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Assembly members offered the following comments:

- Thanked all those that provided a report.
- Expressed appreciation for all our veterans.
- Welcomed newly elected assembly member Dominic CANALE.
- Congratulated Angel Hayes for being nominated for the Recognizing Inspirational School Employees (RISE) Award.

DRAFT ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 20-20: UNIFORM ADDRESSING SYSTEM

Joe CHATFIELD MOVED to introduce Ordinance 20-20. The motion was seconded.

Assembly member Lisa MINER reviewed Ordinance 20-20 and explained that she had discussed this ordinance with a number of emergency responders and considered different addressing scenarios throughout the borough and believes this addressing system will be an easier system for emergency responders to understand and utilize than the baseline system.

The MOTION TO INTRODUCE ORDINANCE 20-20 PASSED with Jake HILL opposed.

Joe CHATFIELD MOVED to amend Ordinance 20-20 section 9.14.060 item E with the additional language provided by Sergeant Joel Miner. The motion was seconded. The MOTION TO AMEND PASSED by unanimous consent.

Healy area Angel Hayes offered her support for Ordinance 20-20.

Joe CHATFIELD MOVED to postpone Ordinance 20-20. The motion was seconded. The MOTION TO POSTPONE PASSED by unanimous consent.

PENDING ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 20-03: BASELINE ADDRESSING SYSTEM

Jake HILL MOVED to approve Ordinance 20-03. There was no second. The MOTION FAILED for lack of a second.

Jake HILL MOVED to postpone Ordinance 20-03. The motion was seconded. The MOTION TO POSTPONE PASSED by unanimous consent.

1 **ORDINANCE 20-15: LOCAL OPTION ZONING**

2 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to AMEND Ordinance 20-15 by adding the words “one or more”
3 to section 9.15.160 item C. The motion was seconded. The MOTION TO AMEND PASSED
4 by unanimous consent.

5
6 Jake HILL MOVED to postpone Ordinance 20-15. The motion was seconded. The MOTION
7 TO POSTPONE PASSED by unanimous consent.

8
9 **ORDINANCE 20-18: BISON GULCH/ANTLER CREEK EASEMENT REQUEST**

10 Jake HILL MOVED to approve Ordinance 20-18. The motion was seconded.

11
12 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED TO AMEND the easement acreage amount to 2.1 acres. The
13 motion was seconded. The MOTION TO AMEND PASSED by unanimous consent.

14
15 The roll call VOTE TO APPROVE Ordinance 20-18 was unanimous.

16
17 **ORDINANCE 20-19: CENTER FOR TECH AND CIVIC LIFE COVID RESPONSE FOR**
18 **ELECTIONS GRANT**

19 Dominic CANALE MOVED TO APPROVE Ordinance 20-19. The motion was seconded.

20
21 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED TO AMEND Ordinance 20-19 to increase the grant amount from
22 \$12,000 to \$25,000. The motion to was seconded. The MOTION TO AMEND PASSED by
23 unanimous consent.

24
25 The roll call VOTE TO APPROVE Ordinance 20-19 as amended was unanimous.

26
27 **RESOLUTIONS**

28 There were no Resolutions to consider.

29
30 **OTHER BUSINESS**

31 **ORDINANCE 20-07: EMERGENCY DECLARATION**

32 Jake HILL MOVED to renew and extend Ordinance 20-07 to February 28, 2020. The motion
33 was seconded. The MOTION TO RENEW AND EXTEND PASSED by unanimous consent.

34
35 **LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL #5763; MOOSE-AKA’S**

36 Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to not protest the renewal of Liquor License #5763; Moose-Aka’s.
37 The motion was seconded. The MOTION TO NOT PROTEST PASSED by unanimous
38 consent.

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LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL #1850; WHITE RAVEN LIQUOR

Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to not protest the renewal of Liquor License #1850; White Raven Liquor. The motion was seconded. The MOTION TO NOT PROTEST PASSED by unanimous consent.

LIQUOR LICENSE RENEWAL #5155; SKYLINE LODGE

Krista ZAPPONE MOVED to not protest the renewal of Liquor License #5155; Skyline Lodge. The motion was seconded. The MOTION TO NOT PROTEST PASSED by unanimous consent.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Assembly members commented on the following:

- Expressed appreciation for the civil discourse during Assembly meeting discussion.
- Expressed appreciation for Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN for efficiently managing assembly meetings.
- Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Assembly meeting will be on Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 6:00 PM with a virtual Public Hearing and Regular Meeting.

ADJOURN

Jake HILL MOVED to adjourn. The motion was seconded. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 10:41 PM.

APPROVED: _____
Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer

ATTEST: _____
Amber Renshaw, Borough Clerk

Date Approved: _____

MEMO

To: Denali Borough Assembly Members

From: Chris Noel, Emergency Manager

Date: November 11, 2020

Re: November Assembly Meeting Update

Happy Veterans Day, I am grateful for family, friends, and community members across the country who have served in our Armed Forces. During the month of October, I had the opportunity to respond to California in support of the wildfire response. I served as a Public Information Officer and worked with two different Type 1 incident management teams including our very own Alaska team. The experience was incredibly valuable, and I brought back a number of lessons-learned.

An official street address is a fundamental need in emergencies. Not only to quickly direct responders but to track damage, coordinate evacuations if necessary, and secure recovery assistance. Our response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the very real needs of individuals throughout the borough are challenged by this- making an individual assistance program more difficult for the Borough to implement, as an example. I remain in support of the uniform system of addressing outlined in Ordinance 20-03. The system is rooted in the best practices and standards gleaned from research and collaboration, including discussions with other municipalities in Alaska and across the country. The goal is simple- adopt a uniform system that can be easily utilized by emergency services.

Denali area healthcare providers, including the community testing program completed 616 tests borough wide in October. There are 4 positive cases listed in the Borough in the last 7 days, and we believe these are a portion of the cases reported in the October 5th weekly update. The 7-day test positivity rate for the region that includes the Denali Borough, at 40 cases per 100,000 residents. The Community Testing Program will continue in 2021, and we will discuss the details during the Emergency Declaration ordinance. Community testing will be closed for periods during the holiday season. Look for closure hours on our website and Facebook page. The surge in cases statewide has overwhelmed our capacity to perform timely contact tracing. IF you test positive, you should immediately notify your close contacts. More information can be found on our website, or by emailing covidtesting@denaliborough.com. Mitigation works, the virus needs us to spread and we have the power to reduce the spread.

The State has submitted a plan to the CDC outlining the distribution of an eventual COVID-19 vaccine in the State of Alaska. Public Health has provided regular outreach and is a willing partner to support local vaccine distribution efforts. Vaccine distribution will be done in three phases. Phase 1 will focus on closed points of dispensing in critical healthcare facilities. Phase 2 will focus on remaining personnel in Phase 1 and additional critical infrastructure employees, those in congregate settings and other high risk individuals. Phase 3 will open distribution up widely to all who want one.

The holidays are coming up, the following CDC guidance provides important information and tips for staying safe over the holidays.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/holidays.html>

Discussions continue about hosting a local flu shot clinic. In the meantime, flu shots are available by appointment at both the Copper River Native Association Clinic in Cantwell, and Interior Community Health Clinic in Healy, and several locations around Fairbanks and Anchorage. Don't forget your mask.

We will cover the Emergency Operations Plan update during that portion of the meeting. The draft plan is available on the website at www.denaliborough.org/emergency. Comments may be directed to me via email. We are hoping to have comments by November 24th and to have a final plan in front of the Assembly for ratification at your December meeting.

Thank you to Jennifer LeMay for joining us on this Marathon Virtual Assembly meeting.



**Superintendent's Report
Denali Borough Assembly
Wednesday, November 11th, 2020**

Dear Denali Borough Assembly and Mayor Walker,

1. Appreciation/Congratulations

- a. This month I nominated teaching assistant, Angel Hayes, teaching assistant at Tri-Valley, to be the state nominee for the Recognizing Inspirational School Employees (RISE) Award. The purpose of the Rise award is to honor and promote inspirational classified employees who provide exemplary service to students in pre-kindergarten through high school.
- b. Congratulations to Garin Martin, Denali PEAK Assistant Principal. Garin was named Region II, Assistant Principal of the Year by AASSP. Garin has received this honor before and the repeat is a testament to the dedication and attention to her work with our staff and students. We're fortunate to have her among our team of excellent educators.

2. Smart Start 2020 -

- a. Health Level Advisory Committee - We continue operating at our current risk levels with Anderson and Cantwell at High Risk and Tri-Valley at Medium Risk.
- b. Winter Break Travel and Return to School - Governor Dunleavy recently issued and update to the travel mandate for residents returning from out of state travel. The updated mandate requires, at minimum, a resident who is returning to Alaska to self-isolate for five (5) days. Based on this information, I am directing our sites to operate via distance for the first week after break, January 4th - 11th. No telework agreements for locations outside of the state of Alaska shall be approved for this week. All families who travel are likewise encouraged to return to Alaska no later than January 4th in order to participate in distance learning and complete the 5 days of isolation before we return to in-person learning on January 11th.
- c. On October 22nd the School Board held a special meeting and updated the DBSD Smart Start Framework. The updates provide improved clarity on the criteria for the different risk levels of the school district.
- d. School Activities - The Board will consider an amendment to the DBSD Smart Start Framework to include conducting in-person school activities in line with the operational status of in-person learning at each risk level.

Mission Statement

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

- e. At-Risk Students In-Person at High Risk - We have been able to initial very limited in-person support for a small number of at-risk students in our sites at High Risk. These sessions are extremely limited in number of students and not for full instructional days.
- f. Review of District Mitigation Plans - This week I reviewed information on mitigation plans from six (6) other road system school districts, Large and Small. I was looking to identify additional steps we could take in Medium (Yellow) to strengthen those protocols. We already ordered, and should soon receive, plexiglass shields that we can use during snack and mealtimes. From the other districts, I gleaned that we are in a unique position. We have very rigorous mitigation practices, have fairly conservative risk level determinations, and are trying to operate in-person learning. My impression was that our low risk plans are more generally more protective than other districts' plans at medium.
- g. Optional Testing - Nurse Keith is preparing to offer optional testing to staff at our sites, starting next Friday the 13th of November.
- h. DHSS Recommendation Regarding Consideration of Health System Capacity - On October 30th in a meeting DHSS recommended that schools and municipalities should not consider hospitalization rates or bed capacity in determining risk levels. They stated that those indicators are trailing indicators. These trailing indicators are not indicative of new transmissions or risk levels as the window of significant infectious period for those individuals has passed.

3. Finances

- a. FY20 Audit - We received the electronic version of the audit report and Letter to the Board. Physical copies will arrive soon. As indicated earlier. It is a clean audit.
- b. FY21 Budget - The Finance Committee met this week and reviewed the updated financial information from October. This includes the preliminary enrollment figures and known changes in expenses. More information will be available in the committee's report to the Board. Overall the budget for FY21 has a small, ~\$30,000 surplus at this time.
- c. Unrestricted Carryover - The unrestricted carry over we anticipate from the FY20 Audit is ~\$1.5 million. If our overall budget projects continue to hold, we will need to monitor our carry over this year and take actions to bring it under the 10% limit in state statute. As you recall, this limitation was waived last year to help districts prepare for possible short falls in revenue over expenses this year. Approximately half of the districts are experiencing drops in enrollment and revenue and the other half are seeing increases.
- d. FY22 Budget Assumptions - This month the School Board will consider adopting formal assumptions for the administration to use to building initial draft, FY22 Budget.

4. Facilities

- a. DEED CIP List - DEED completed its review of district applications to the CIP grant program. Denali has three projects submitted for consideration. DEED presents this list to the Legislature. The Legislature then adds a total amount of money for school major maintenance to the Capitol Budget. This money funds projects in priority order down the list. The Anderson Roof Project is ranked number 6 and needs a total funding of \$20.6 million to be included. The District Wide Generator Upgrade is ranked number 41 and needs a total funding of \$75.6 million to be included. The Tri-Valley Roof Renovation is ranked number 47 and needs a total funding of \$81.1 million to be included.
- b. Hydrolyzing Machine - We received an updated quote for this machine. It's price, delivered to Anchorage is ~\$25,000. Using agricultural vinegar (30% acetic acid) and salt, it produces hypochlorous acid. This product is EPA approved for use on the coronavirus. No decision had been made whether to pursue this or not.
- c. Siemens Control Panel Upgrade - We received a quote of ~\$100,000 for this possible upgrade. The software for the panels is no longer being updated. We considered an upgrade last spring and deferred it given the fiscal uncertainty at the time.
- d. Tri-Valley Generator - We purchased an aftermarket reset switch and are installing it on the generator. A plus of this is that we are able to relocate the switch to an area on the generator that is more accessible should additional work on it be needed.
- e. Door Locks - The engineering walk through has been completed. The contractor is drawing the installation plans to indicate the location for the base stations and relay points needed in Anderson and Tri-Valley. We also confirmed that we would be able to determine ourselves the locations for these backbone infrastructural items if we chose to eventually expand this project to include Cantwell School. We are likely to include the main door at Cantwell in order to remove that entire locking system from the District.

5. Legal Notices

- a. Trademark Dispute - We confirmed to the holders of the trademark for the Viking logo, that we will discontinue the electronic use of that logo by October 15th and will remove the images on the mats in the TVS gym by July 1, 2020. We will now try to secure permission to continue using the remaining logo from the holders of the trademark for that image. We will continue to reach out to the trademark owner of our other logo and provide them an opportunity to ask us to restrict its use.
- b. Cantwell Property Access - We consulted with our attorney on a simple agreement we can sign with a neighboring property own in Cantwell who would like to access their property across school property. Access is being granted via a utility easement, until such time as access is provided through other means (such as the planned road on the other side of the

string of properties). We provided the property owner with the agreement. We are waiting for a response.

6. Personnel

a. Certified Staff

- i. We confirmed with Christy Eli-Piercy, that she will continue for the remainder of this year full-time with the District. She will continue her support for students in PEAK with supports to local correspondence and remote learners.

b. Classified Staff

- i. We are still seeking a full-time remote learning TA.

c. Exempt Staff

- i. No updates

Sincerely,
Dan Polta
Denali Borough School District

DENALI BOROUGH

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Website: www.denaliborough.org



Clay Walker, Mayor

November 9, 2020 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly

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

COVID Response and Emergency Declaration

- On November 6, Governor Dunleavy extended the State of Alaska Emergency Declaration for 30 days, which extends the declaration from November 16 until December 16. The declaration allows for regulation waivers, receipt authority of federal funds, and emergency related actions.
- The borough continues to coordinate its' COVID response with local health care providers and the Division of Public Health.
- In response to changes from the State, we shifted our reporting practice from immediate press releases reporting positive case(s) to a Weekly Update posted each Thursday. These updates are available on our website.
- We remain hopeful that federal support of local COVID response and testing will continue past December 30. At the same time, we are submitting requests for PPE and testing supplies to carry our testing program into the New Year. We have heard from other providers that this service is important and cannot be filled within the existing clinic capacity.
- We are tracking state planning efforts for vaccine distribution and considering manners in which we can support the national effort.

Missile Defense Agency (MDA) Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Long Range Discrimination Radar Operations (LRDR), Clear Air Force Station

- The agency released this comprehensive draft statement in October. Public comments are being accepted through December 21, 2020.
- The statement analyses potential impacts associated with the proposed LRDR operational changes.
- Along the way, the borough's comments have related to the availability of aviation infrastructure – Healy River Airport, Nenana Municipal Airport and, most significantly, Clear Airport.
- The architecture of airspace restrictions and the associated impacts upon aviation and flight routes are addressed in the statement. The proposed action would limit access to Clear Airport for six hours a week: 2 am to 4 am each Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. During these times “MDA would allow access by emergency and medical evacuation flights into and out of Clear Airport.”
- This document is available at the borough office and at his website:
<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/10/28/2020-23889/notice-of-availability-of-draft-environmental-impact-statement-for-the-long-range-discrimination>
- I am meeting with MDA on this next week.

Solid Waste Update

- The 2020 Annual Groundwater Monitoring Report has been submitted to the Department of Environmental Conservation, as has the 2020 Annual Survey showing the development of the facility.
- The level reduced of acceptance and revenue has prompted a review of hours of service at all facilities. We have decided to reduce hours of service at Healy Transfer Station (HTS), from five days a week to four days a week, contracting the Thursday hours. We are posting the new HTS hours: Tues, Wed, and Fri 3 pm to 7 pm and Sat 10 am to 4 pm. This change will be effective Dec. 3rd.

Financials and Annual Audit

- The FY2020 Financial Statements are near completion, with the audit to follow. Expect these documents on your December agenda.
- On the Overnight Accommodations revenue front, the first quarter of FY2021, which concluded September 30, saw year of year reduction of about 90% in revenue.

Alaska Municipal League (AML) Events

- In October, I attended an AML hosted two-day Dialogue on the Unorganized Borough. Current and former state and local government officials participated, including the last living member of the State Constitutional Convention – and author of the Local Government Section – Mr. Vic Fischer. By chance, a member of our Borough Charter Committee visited that same day. Access to the crafters of our founding documents is remarkable and valuable.
- The AML Annual Conference spans two weeks November 9-20 and is all hosted virtually.

Local Elections

- Throughout our nation, elections are conducted on the state and local level. I applaud our local election officials for conducting a safe and secure election in an environment challenged by the pandemic.
- Borough Clerk Amber Renshaw serves as the local Election Clerk and her high level of preparation and execution is commended, as is the work of the election chairpersons and judges.
- The steps previously taken by the Borough Assembly, such as amending code to allow for mail ballots, made the adjustment appear seamless.

Happy November, Happy Thanksgiving. As always, feel free to contact me or staff if you have any questions.

-Clay