

1 **Denali Borough Assembly**  
2 **Minutes of the Regular Meeting**  
3 **October 13, 2021**

4  
5 **SPECIAL MEETING**

6 **RENEW AND EXTEND ORDINANCE 21-03: DECLARATION OF CONTINUED PUBLIC**  
7 **HEALTH DISASTER EMERGENCY**

8 Jake HILL MOVED to renew and extend Ordinance 21-03 to March 31, 2022. The motion was  
9 seconded.

10  
11 The VOTE TO RENEW AND EXTEND ORDINANCE 21-03 PASSED by unanimous consent.  
12

13 **PUBLIC HEARING**

14 **ORDINANCE 21-15: AMEND DENALI BOROUGH CODE 9.12 STREET NAMING**  
15 **METHODS**

16 There were no public comments.  
17

18 **REGULAR MEETING**

19 **CALL TO ORDER**

20 Presiding Officer Jared ZIMMERMAN called the regular meeting to order at 6:12 PM.  
21

22 **ROLL CALL**

23 Assembly members present: Jake HILL, Joe CHATFIELD, Jeff STENGER, Jared  
24 ZIMMERMAN, Dominic CANALE, Eileen HOLMES, and Tallon SHREEVE. Mayor Clay  
25 Walker was also present.  
26

27 Assembly members absent: Lisa MINER and Krista ZAPPONE.  
28

29 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to excuse Assembly Member ZAPPONE and Assembly Member  
30 MINER. The motion was seconded.  
31

32 The VOTE TO EXCUSE PASSED by unanimous consent.  
33

34 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1 Healy area resident Dave Talerico expressed appreciation for Presiding Officer  
2 ZIMMERMAN for his contribution to our community through his service on the assembly and  
3 by stepping up to serve as Tri-Valley High School Soccer Coach.

4

5 **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

7

8 The VOTE TO APPROVE THE AGENDA PASSED by unanimous consent.

9

10 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

11 **SEPTEMBER 8, 2021 ASSEMBLY REGULAR MEETING**

12 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to approve the minutes from the September 8, 2021 Assembly  
13 Meeting. The motion was seconded.

14

15 The VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES PASSED by unanimous consent.

16

17 **REPORTS**

18 **PARTNER REPORTS**

19 Vanessa Jusczak with the Denali Chamber of Commerce and Discover Denali verbally  
20 highlighted information provided in the attached written report (see Attachment A).

21

22 Seamus Siddall with Horizon Medical reported the following:

- 23 • COVID-19 vaccination and testing services will continue to be provided by Horizon  
24 Medical through the winter at the Tri-Valley Community Center.
- 25 • Horizon Medical intends to offer COVID-19 vaccinations weekly.
- 26 • Horizon Medical, the State of Alaska Public Health, and the Denali Borough are  
27 working to coordinate a combination Flu and COVID-19 vaccine clinic in November.

28

29 **SCHOOL DISTRICT REPORT**

30 There was no school report.

31

32 **MAYOR REPORT**

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

35

36 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

1 Assembly members expressed appreciation for all the reports, thanked healthcare  
2 workers, thanked school district staff and administration, and encouraged the public to  
3 wear masks in public spaces.

4

5 **COMMUNICATION AND APPEARANCE REQUEST**

6 There were no communication and appearance requests.

7

8 **DRAFT ORDINANCES**

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

10 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to introduce Ordinance 21-16. The motion was seconded.  
11 Mayor Walker provided a brief overview of the project.

12

13 Jeff STENGER expressed concern that the project does not include the northern area of the  
14 borough.

15

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

17

18 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to postpone Ordinance 21-16. The motion was seconded.

19

20 The VOTE TO POSTPONE PASSED by unanimous consent.

21

22 **PENDING ORDINANCES**

23 **ORDINANCE 21-15: AMEND DENALI BOROUGH CODE 9.12 STREET NAMING**  
24 **METHODS**

25 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to approve Ordinance 21-15. The motion was seconded.

26

27 The roll call VOTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 21-15 passed unanimously.

28

29 **RESOLUTIONS**

30 There were no Resolutions to consider.

31

32 **OTHER BUSINESS**

33 **DENALI BOROUGH ELECTION BOARD**

34 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to approve the 2021 Election Board. The motion was seconded.

35

1 The VOTE TO APPROVE THE 2021 ELECTION BOARD PASSED by unanimous consent.

2  
3 **APPOINT CANVASS COMMITTEE AND SET CANVASS COMMITTEE MEETING DATE**  
4 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to establish the Election Board as the Canvass Committee and  
5 to set the Canvass Meeting for Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM in the Denali Borough  
6 Office. The motion was seconded.

7  
8 The VOTE TO ESTABLISH THE ELECTION BOARD AS THE CANVASS COMMITTEE  
9 AND TO SET THE CANVASS MEETING FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> AT 9:00 AM IN  
10 THE DENALI BOROUGH OFFICE PASSED by unanimous consent.

11  
12 **LIQUOR LICENSE #475: DENALI GRIZZLY BEAR LICENSE TRANSFER APPLICATION**  
13 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to not-protest the license transfer for Liquor License #475; Denali  
14 Grizzly Bear. The motion was seconded.

15  
16 The VOTE TO NOT-PROTEST PASSED by unanimous consent.

17  
18 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

19 There were no public comments.

20  
21 **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

22 Assembly members offered the following comments:

- 23 • Expressed appreciation for a productive and cordial meeting;
- 24 • Expressed appreciation for Jared ZIMMERMAN for his service as Presiding Officer
- 25 and for serving as Tri-Valley High School Soccer Coach.
- 26 • Expressed appreciation for Assembly Member Jake HILL and offered Mr. HILL best
- 27 wishes in all future endeavors.

28  
29 Assembly Member Jake HILL recognized this as his last meeting on the Assembly and  
30 offered the following comments:

- 31 • Expressed appreciation for the McKinley Village Community.
- 32 • Expressed appreciation for the School Board and Planning Commission and thanked
- 33 all those serving on those boards.
- 34 • Expressed appreciation for the other Assembly Members and thanked them for all he
- 35 has learned serving alongside them.
- 36 • Expressed appreciation for Mayor Walker and borough staff.

37

1 **TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

2 The next Assembly meeting will be Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 6:00 PM

3

4 **ADJOURN**

5 Tallon SHREEVE MOVED to adjourn. The motion was seconded.

6

7 The MEETING WAS ADJOURNED at 7:16 PM by unanimous consent.

8

9

10

11 APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

12 Jared Zimmerman, Presiding Officer

13

14 ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

15 Amber Renshaw, Borough Clerk

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_



**Denali Chamber of Commerce**

Mile 0.4 Healy Spur Road  
PO Box 437  
Healy, AK 99743

907-683-4636  
www.denalichamber.com  
info@denalichamber.com

To the Denali Borough Assembly,

After attendance at the Alaska Travel Industry Association summit, titled “A Roadmap to Alaska Tourism Recovery” I wanted to share some thoughts with you.

The leisure & hospitality industry was the most impacted economic sector nationwide due to Covid-19. That held true in Alaska as well, with 36% of jobs within this sector lost since February of 2020 – which encompasses a full 25% of all the jobs lost in the State of Alaska.

Those numbers are significant within the industry, but also for the State of Alaska as a whole. Between 2010 and 2019, the rate of job growth across Alaska was 2%. However, if you separate out the job growth of leisure & hospitality, the growth was an astounding 15%. Tourism works for Alaska and Alaskans - as one of the few economic sectors that is experiencing a consistent growth across the board.

This can be highlighted by figures found pre-covid. Statewide, two-thousand nineteen saw:

- 2.5 million visitors to the State of Alaska
- \$2.2 billion in visitor spending
- 50,000+ jobs (1 in 10 Alaskan jobs)
- \$1.4 billion in wages
- \$89 million to municipal revenues
- \$126 million to SOA revenues

The Alaska Travel Industry Association works hard on behalf of all regions of Alaska, and all aspects of the visitor industry, to promote and keep Alaska as a vacation destination, to current travelers. Due to varying fiscal environments, consistent investments in the statewide tourism destination marketing program: Travel Alaska, have been a challenge. Despite the clear economic benefits to communities, regions and the State of Alaska as a whole, support of this organization by the State of Alaska has been inconsistent and insufficient.

To manage Alaska’s statewide destination marketing program, ATIA needs an annual guarantee of funding, in a timeline that allows for proper planning and responsiveness. Denali Chamber will be communicating the importance of this work to our local legislative representatives, and asks that the Denali Borough Assembly consider a resolution of support, for recognizing the Alaska Travel Industry Association as the leading statewide destination marketing organization for the State of Alaska and the importance of continued support for consistent state investment in ATIA’s statewide marketing program, Travel Alaska. This will ensure Alaska remains a competitive destination and present in the minds of potential travelers for 2022 and beyond.

A reinvestment into a truly “renewable resource” such as tourism benefits our State, our region, local businesses and local families. Thank you for your consideration,

Sincerely,

Vanessa Juszczak  
Executive Director

**Mission:** To Grow & Enhance a Vibrant Business Community  
**Vision:** To Empower Businesses Through Collaboration  
**Guiding Values:** Credibility, Inclusiveness, Connection, Integrity, Responsibility

**ATTACHMENT A**

# DENALI BOROUGH

P.O. Box 480 • Healy, Alaska 99743  
Phone: (907) 683-1330 • Fax: (907) 683-1340  
Email: [dbgovt@mtaonline.net](mailto:dbgovt@mtaonline.net)  
Website: [www.denaliborough.org](http://www.denaliborough.org)



*Clay Walker, Mayor*

## **October 2021 Mayor's Report to the Denali Borough Assembly**

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

### **Street Naming Meetings and Next Steps**

- Outcomes from the April virtual road naming meeting were to change code language (addressing duplicate and non-conforming names) and to schedule a second round of in-person meetings.
- Those in-person meetings were held in late September in each of our three ambulance service areas – one in Cantwell, one in Healy, and one in Anderson.
- New maps, which have been available online, were produced for the meetings. Comments have been received electronically and in person.
- The Planning Commission will consider the first round of approvals of “official street names” at their October meeting – the list of “no change” names.

### **Brush Collection Site Treatments**

- This newer program of accepting brush from residential fire-wising efforts at all three solid waste locations has proved a success in terms of usage. The piles at Healy Transfer Station (which was built up over two years) and Cantwell Transfer Station (which was chipped last year) were both sizable. The borough received a \$20,000 grant from Forestry to assist with chipping and/or other disposal. I am happy to report that all brush has been addressed and the grant was well used. Thanks to volunteers at McKinley VFD and Tri-Valley VFD for their assistance, and to Forestry.
- Three different treatment methods – chipping, mulching, and burning- were all employed. Going forward, the Healy collection site will shift to the south side of the facility where future piles can be burned. The west side collection site could not be burned due to the overhead power lines, therefore it needed to be chipped and mulched. The chip piles will be available to the public when the program resumes next May.

### **Denali National Park Road Issues**

- I attended a few different sessions with NPS and stakeholders regarding the road challenges at Polychrome. NPS is hosting public meetings October 13 and 14 which will include presentations and acceptance of public comment regarding a proposed action plan to build a bridge spanning the landslide. For more information, see: <https://www.nps.gov/dena/getinvolved/polychrome-plan.htm>

### **2021 Full Value Determination (FVD)**

- We received our annual FVD which the State Assessor provides the borough. In 2021, the “full and true value of taxable real and personal property” within the Denali Borough is \$400,181,141.

- This is the first time the figure has exceeded \$400 million. Last year the FVD was \$385 million. This will increase our required local school district contribution, which is currently 2.6 mills of the FVD.

### **Solid Waste Update**

- The recycling trailers at HTS and CTS will be hauled for the last time for the year when they are full. Winter recycling will be accepted at CTS through the Native Village Recycling program. We anticipate the pilot program of the trailer collections will resume in May.
- The Denali Borough Landfill will change to its winter hours of operation on October 15<sup>th</sup>, meaning the Thursday hours will be subtracted. Open 9-4 Tues, Wed, Fri and Sat.
- The scrap metal pile at the landfill was hauled away by salvage company. A pile of soil and metal remains to be dealt with, prompting some operational changes to the program. No small items (nuts, bolts, etc) will be accepted.
- Final tonnage reports for FY21 show our lowest acceptance level in many years. Since 2008, we have averaged just under 4,000 tons annually. This past year we accepted 2,508 tons. This is very good for the lifespan of the facility. And a little challenging for the balance sheet, where many costs, such as well monitoring expenses, are fixed.

### **Memorandums of Agreements (MOAs) with the Dept. of Health and Social Services (DHSS)**

- DHSS accepted the borough's requests to amend our two MOAs, which pay for free COVID testing and vaccine service provision in the borough. We extended the date on one and increased the dollar amount by \$100,000 on the other. Through these MOAs, the borough believes we have the capacity to support free COVID testing and vaccination through next March.

### **Horizon Medical Partnership**

- Horizon is the contracted partner to deliver these services to the community. Their location has changed with the seasonal closure of the Canyon Clinic. The borough, paid for by an MOA, is renting the former bank space in Tri-Valley Community Center and Horizon is using that as their base. COVID testing will continue in the trailer while the former ATM space is converted to serve that purpose.
- October COVID Vaccination Clinics are scheduled for:
  - Monday October 11: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
  - Monday October 18: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
  - Monday October 25: 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
  - To schedule, or for more information, visit [www.horizonmedicalak.com](http://www.horizonmedicalak.com) or call (907) 750-4182.
- October hours for COVID testing are:
  - Monday 2:30 - 6:30 p.m.
  - Tuesday 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
  - Wednesday 2:30 - 6:30 p.m.
  - Thursday 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
  - Friday 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

### **New Partnership with the Healy Lions Club to support individual COVID costs**

- The borough entered into an agreement with Healy Lions Club to help offset individual expenses due to COVID-19, which may include medical expenses. The club is receiving applications and will allocate up to \$10,000 of Denali CARES funds to help impacted residents. The borough is hosting their application on our website.

## **Build Back Better Regional Challenge Grant (BBBRC) Application**

- The borough is a member of a coalition which is advancing the Alaska Regenerative Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Project to the U.S. Economic Development Administration. Our component project is the Denali Gateway Corridor, which focuses on bringing improvements and increased access to Denali's frontcountry areas. This is a competitive grant with applications due Oct. 19.

## **Legislative Redistricting based upon changing population**

- As reported earlier, both versions of draft legislative redistricting maps proposed by the Alaska Redistricting Board merge the Denali Borough with populations to the south, primarily the Susitna Valley. Alternative proposals are being accepted and public meetings are scheduled. For more info, go to: [www.akredistrict.org](http://www.akredistrict.org)

## **Personnel Policy and Procedure Manual**

- Management is working on an update to the Policy Manual, which was last updated in 2015. Expect the updated version on your agenda for consideration of approval at the November meeting.

## **Election Reminder**

- On November 2, the borough will conduct a local election. The ballot includes Assembly and School Board seats as well as a ballot question regarding meeting attendance. Per code, there are three ways to vote: in person early voting at the borough office during regular office hours beginning October 13, by-mail voting, and in person on Election Day.

## **Annual Local Government Conference November 15-19**

- The Alaska Municipal League is hosting this annual conference in person in Anchorage. Portions will also be available for online viewing, including the session on training for newly elected officials. Call the office if you are interested in attending in person, or see the website for more information: [www.akml.org/conferences-events/annual-local-government-conference](http://www.akml.org/conferences-events/annual-local-government-conference)

Happy October, happy fall project time. As always, feel free to contact me or staff with questions.

-Clay