



Kenai Peninsula Borough

144 North Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Assembly

Peter Ribbens, President
Kelly Cooper, Vice President
James Baisden
Tyson Cox
Willy Dunne
Cindy Ecklund
Brent Johnson
Leslie Morton
Ryan Tunseth

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

6:00 PM

Betty J. Glick Assembly Chambers
Meeting ID: 835 6358 3837 Passcode: 606672
[https://yourkpb.zoom.us/j/83563583837?](https://yourkpb.zoom.us/j/83563583837?pwd=eTO44Um9ao1JJGaVtBJG86PXlsuNvm.1)
[pwd=eTO44Um9ao1JJGaVtBJG86PXlsuNvm.1](#)

Meeting ID: 835 6358 3837 Passcode: 606672

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Tim Weekley, chaplain for Central Emergency Services.

ROLL CALL

Present: 8 - Brent Johnson, Tyson Cox, Ryan Tunseth, Vice President Kelly Cooper, President Peter Ribbens, Cindy Ecklund, Willy Dunne, and Leslie Morton
Excused: 1 - James Baisden

Also present were:

Peter A. Micciche, Borough Mayor
Brandi Harbaugh, Finance Director
Sean Kelley, Borough Attorney
Michele Turner, Borough Clerk
Sue Ellen Essert, Deputy Borough Clerk

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Assembly Member Tunseth stated the Finance Committee met and discussed its agenda items.

[8 Present: Cox, Cooper, Ecklund, Dunne, Johnson, Morton, Tunseth, Ribbens]

[1 Excused: Baisden]

Assembly Member Cox stated the Policies and Procedures Committee met and discussed its agenda items.

[8 Present: Cox, Cooper, Ecklund, Dunne, Johnson, Morton, Tunseth, Ribbens]

[1 Excused: Baisden]

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Cooper moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda.

Copies have been made available to the public, Borough Clerk Michele Turner noted by title only the resolutions, ordinances and other new business items that were on the consent agenda.

[KPB-7151](#) August 19, 2025 Regular Assembly Meeting Minutes

The following public hearing items met the required conditions of KPB 22.40.110 and were added to the consent agenda:

[2025-19-08](#) An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2024-19-36, Relating To Commercial Passenger Vessel Tax Proceeds Received From the State of Alaska to the Cities of Seward and Homer, to Provide a Revised Effective Date (Mayor)

This Budget Ordinance was enacted.

[2025-19-09](#) An Ordinance Approving the Use of Funds for the Costs of Distributing Informational and Promotional Materials About Ballot Proposition No. 1 Seeking Voter Approval to Require Hand Counting of In Person Ballots Voted on Election Day and Ballot Proposition No. 5 Seeking Voter Approval to Require to Change the Current Election Date to Align with the State of Alaska Election Date (Cooper)

[Clerk's Note: Ordinance 2025-19-09 was amended. The title to read, "AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE USE OF Funds FOR THE COSTS OF DISTRIBUTING INFORMATIONAL AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS ABOUT BALLOT PROPOSITION NO. 1 SEEKING VOTER APPROVAL TO REQUIRE HAND COUNTING OF IN PERSON BALLOTS VOTED ON ELECTION DAY AND BALLOT PROPOSITION NO. 5 SEEKING VOTER APPROVAL TO REQUIRE TO CHANGE THE CURRENT ELECTION DATE TO ALIGN WITH THE STATE OF ALASKA ELECTION DATE"; and

the sixth Whereas clause read, "it essential to provide factual, nonpartisan information on the efficiencies, cost-effectiveness, and accuracy of ballot tabulators and local election[s] processes, procedures and practices; and"; and

the following Whereas clauses were added before the sixth Whereas clause, “WHEREAS, voters should be aware that moving the Borough regular election to November will cause certain logistical challenges, including polling place conflicts, ballot printing constraints, and, due to the state making it clear that the Borough and State will not be able to share election workers, the change may result in a need to recruit and train a separate pool of election workers apart from those serving State and Federal elections; and

WHEREAS, changing the Borough regular election date to November would also require the purchase of polling place booths, signs, etc. currently shared with the State; and

WHEREAS, unless the cities within the Kenai Peninsula Borough likewise amend their election dates, this election date change may void the MOA the Borough has with the cities related to election administration; and

WHEREAS, a Borough election date change that does not include the cities changing their local election date accordingly would mean that city residents would continue to participate in city elections in October, resulting in multiple election dates for the same voters and increased voter confusion and administrative burden; and

WHEREAS, moving the Borough regular election date to coincide with State and Federal elections could also result in local issues and local candidates being overshadowed by State and Federal election campaigns;” and

Section 2 was amended to read, “That the Assembly hereby appropriates \$34,000 from the General Fund fund balance to account 100.11110.26PR1.49999 and approves the use of the funds for an informational and promotional campaign, which may be used to influence the outcome of the election on October 7, 2025, on ballot Proposition 1 concerning hand counting ballots and ballot Proposition 5 concerning changing borough elections to November.”

This Budget Ordinance was enacted as amended.

NEW BUSINESS

[2025-037](#)

A Resolution Authorizing an Agreement with Central Peninsula General Hospital, Inc. for Dispatch Services (Mayor, Assembly)

This Resolution was adopted.

[2025-19-10](#)

An Ordinance Accepting and Appropriating Grant Funds of \$18,200 to the Kenai Peninsula Borough for the River Center Access and Restoration Demonstration Project (Mayor) (Hearing on 09/16/25)

This Budget Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

[2025-19-11](#) An Ordinance Accepting and Appropriating Grant and Funds for the Purchase of Three Slip-On Tanker Units (Mayor) (Hearing on 09/16/25)

This Budget Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

[2025-19-12](#) An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the Insurance and Litigation Fund Balance for Additional Insurance Premiums and Claim Reserves (Mayor) (Hearing on 09/16/25)

This Budget Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

[2025-21](#) An Ordinance Repealing and Reenacting KPB Chapter 5.12, Relating to Real Property Tax, Enacting a New KPB Chapter 5.11, Relating to Personal Property Tax, a New KPB Chapter 5.13, Relating to Tax Exemptions, Credits, or Deferrals, and a New KPB Chapter 5.15, Relating to Tax Appeals (Mayor) (Hearing on 10/14/25)

This Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

Approval of the Agenda and Consent Agenda

President Ribbens called for public comment.

Kevin Fraley, Homer, spoke in support of Ordinance 2025-19-09.

Joan Corr, K-Beach, spoke in opposition of Ordinance 2025-19-09.

There being no one else to speak, the public comment period was closed.

The motion to approve the agenda and consent agenda as amended carried by the following vote:

Yes: 8 - Johnson, Cox, Tunseth, Cooper, Ribbens, Ecklund, Dunne, and Morton

Absent: 1 - Baisden

COMMENDING RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

[KPB-7170](#) A Mayoral Proclamation Acknowledging Kachemak Bay Recovery Connection and Encouraging Kenai Peninsula Borough Residents to Participate in National Recovery Month (Mayor)

[Clerk's Note: Mayor Micciche presented the Mayor's proclamation to Kachemak Bay Recovery Connection.]

PRESENTATIONS WITH PRIOR NOTICE

1. [KPB-7171](#) Kachemak Bay Recovery Connection, Jay Bechtol, Interim Program Manager (10 Minutes)

[Clerk's Note: Jaclyn Rainwater and Harold Sargeant gave a presentation to the Assembly.]

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

President Ribbens called for public comment.

Jan Wallace, Soldotna, addressed the Assembly regarding recycling at Central Peninsula Landfill.

Joan Corr, K-Beach, spoke in support of Proposition No. 1 and Proposition No. 5.

There being no one else to speak, the public comment period was closed.

MAYOR'S REPORT

[KPB-7168](#) Mayor's Report Cover Memo

1. Assembly Requests/Responses - None
 2. Agreements and Contracts - None
 3. Other
- a. [KPB-7169](#) Tax Adjustment Request Approval

ITEMS NOT COMPLETED FROM PRIOR AGENDA - None

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON ORDINANCES - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

President Ribbens called for public comment.

Jan Wallace, Soldotna, addressed the Assembly regarding recycling at Central Peninsula Landfill.

There being no one else to speak, the public comment period was closed.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Assembly Member Dunne thanked Kachemak Bay Recovery Connection for their presentation and expressed his appreciation for the staff and the work they do. He also stated he attended the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation community breakfast in Homer.

Assembly Member Tunseth stated he attended Industry Appreciation Days, describing it as a great and well-executed event. He asked everyone to keep in their thoughts the woman who was seriously injured in a recent bear attack, and wished everyone a good night.

Assembly Member Johnson expressed appreciation for the Kachemak Bay Recovery Connection presentation. He announced a public meeting at the Kasilof Fire Station on September 18, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. regarding the Spruce Grove Memorial Park Cemetery.

Assembly Member Morton thanked Kachemak Bay Recovery Connection for a very informative presentation and noted her attendance at Industry Appreciation Days.

Assembly Member Cox stated he attended the Ted McKinney Cross Country Invite at Skyview Middle School, where over 800 students participated. Mr. Cox reminded the public of the upcoming October election, noting several propositions and assembly seats on the ballot.

Assembly Member Ecklund expressed support for Resolution 2025-037 and stated the Kachemak Bay Recovery Connection presentation was fabulous.

Assembly Member Cooper stated she really appreciated all who presented the Kachemak Bay Recovery presentation and stated she appreciated all they do for the community.

Assembly Member Ribbens addressed the ongoing post office situation in Nikiski.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS AND REPORTS

ASSEMBLY MEETING AND HEARING ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. September 16, 2025 6:00 PM
Regular Assembly Meeting
Betty J. Glick Assembly Chambers
Borough Administration Building
Remote participation available through Zoom
Meeting ID: 835 6358 3837 Passcode: 606672

2. September 16, 2025 TBD
Ordinance 2025-21 Work Session
Betty J. Glick Assembly Chambers
Borough Administration Building
Remote participation available through Zoom
Meeting ID: 835 6358 3837 Passcode: 606672

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the assembly, President Ribbens adjourned the meeting at 7:31p.m.

I certify the above represents accurate minutes of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly meeting of September 2, 2025.

Michele Turner, CMC, Borough Clerk

Approved by the Assembly: _____