



Kenai Peninsula Borough

144 North Binkley Street
Soldotna, AK 99669

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Assembly

Ryan Tunseth, President
Kelly Cooper, Vice President
Willy Dunne
Cindy Ecklund
Dale Eicher
Scott Griebel
Michael Hicks
Lenora Niesen
Sarge Truesdell

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

6:00 PM

Betty J. Glick Assembly Chambers
Meeting ID: 897 1694 8642 Passcode: 075938
[https://yourkpb.zoom.us/j/89716948642?
pwd=fEb3zpJksgh1maera2nn3XZRWifPat.1](https://yourkpb.zoom.us/j/89716948642?pwd=fEb3zpJksgh1maera2nn3XZRWifPat.1)

Meeting ID: 897 1694 8642 Passcode: 075938

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Frank Alioto, Chaplain for Central Emergency Services.

ROLL CALL

Present: 9 - Ryan Tunseth, Kelly Cooper, Cindy Ecklund, Willy Dunne, Dale Eicher, Lenora Niesen, Michael Hicks, Sarge Truesdell, and Scott Griebel

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 President Tunseth stated the Committee of the Whole met and conducted the Borough Clerk's annual review.

[9 Present: Cooper, Dunne, Ecklund, Eicher, Griebel, Hicks, Niesen, Truesdell, Tunseth]

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

[9 Present: Cooper, Dunne, Ecklund, Eicher, Griebel, Hicks, Niesen, Truesdell, Tunseth]

Assembly Member Ecklund stated the Lands Committee met and discussed its agenda items.

[9 Present: Cooper, Dunne, Ecklund, Eicher, Griebel, Hicks, Niesen, Truesdell, Tunseth]

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

[9 Present: Cooper, Dunne, Ecklund, Eicher, Griebel, Hicks, Niesen, Truesdell, Tunseth]

Assembly Member Dunne stated the Legislative Committee met and discussed its agenda items.

[9 Present: Cooper, Dunne, Ecklund, Eicher, Griebel, Hicks, Niesen, Truesdell, Tunseth]

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-7497](#) February 17, 2026 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:

[2025-19-27](#) An Ordinance Accepting and Appropriating Code Blue Grant Funds from the Southern Region Emergency Medical Services, Inc. on Behalf of Western Emergency Service Area (Mayor)

This Budget Ordinance was enacted.

[2026-05](#) An Ordinance Authorizing Retention or Sale of Certain Real Property Obtained by the Kenai Peninsula Borough Through Tax Foreclosure Proceedings (Mayor)

[Clerk's Note: Exhibit B, Parcels to be Sold by Auction, of Ordinance 2026-05 was amended; parcel numbers 17913312 and 16929013 were deleted from the list, and the fifth Whereas clause of Ordinance 2026-05 was amended to read, "KPB will, up to the close of business at 5:00 p.m. AKST on April 24, 2026, extend the right to former owners of record to repurchase parcels retained for public purpose and parcels that are scheduled for sale, excluding any unredeemed parcel that lies in a city that the city has requested for

conveyance and that have been deeded to the city subject to the payment by the city of unpaid borough taxes and costs of foreclosure levied against the property before foreclosure; and”]

This Ordinance was enacted as amended.

[2026-07](#)

An Ordinance Authorizing the Kenai Peninsula Borough to Enter Into a Long-Term Lease Agreement with the City of Seward for Operation of a Public Outdoor Shooting Range (Mayor)

This Ordinance was enacted.

[2026-08](#)

An Ordinance Authorizing a Communications Site Lease Agreement with Chugach Electric Association, Inc., in Cooper Landing (Mayor)

This Ordinance was enacted.

NEW BUSINESS

[2026-013](#)

A Resolution Approving an Amendment to the Nikiski Senior Citizens, Inc. FY2026 Senior Grant Program Budget (Mayor)

[Clerk's Note: Assembly Member Niesen disclosed that she was a member of the Nikiski Senior Citizens, Inc. board.]

This Resolution was adopted.

[2026-014](#)

A Resolution Authorizing a Recategorization of an Existing Full-Time Lead Operator Classified Position to a Full-Time Landfill Manager Administrative Service Position at the Homer Landfill and Approving the Job Description (Mayor)

This Resolution was adopted.

[2026-012](#)

A Resolution Confirming an Appointment to a Non-Borough Board (Tunseth)

This Resolution was adopted.

[2026-015](#)

A Resolution Authorizing Fiscal Year 2027 Federal Legislative Priority Project to Construction of a Class I Injection Well at Central Peninsula Landfill (Mayor)

This Resolution was adopted.

[2026-016](#)

A Resolution Requesting the State Legislature Amend Alaska Statutes Section 14.17.410 to Reduce Statutory Disincentives for School Closure or Consolidation Decisions (Mayor, Eicher)

This Resolution was adopted.

[2026-017](#) A Resolution Requesting the State Legislature to Hold the Determination of Full and True Value of the Taxable Real and Personal Property Under Alaska Statutes Section 14.17.510 to the FY26 Determination for Three Years (Mayor)

This Resolution was adopted.

[2025-19-29](#) An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the Nikiski Senior Citizens Service Area Fund Balance for Additional Personnel Costs for FY2026 (Mayor) (Hearing on 04/07/26)

[Clerk's Note: Assembly Member Niesen disclosed that she was a member of the Nikiski Senior Citizens, Inc. board.]

This Budget Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

[2025-19-30](#) An Ordinance Appropriating Insurance Proceeds and Additional Local Funds for Structural Repairs at Kenai Central High School Vocational Building (Mayor) (Hearing on 04/07/26)

This Budget Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

[2025-19-28](#) An Ordinance Appropriating \$100,000 in Supplemental Funds from the General Fund to Replace Seward High School's Gym Floor (Mayor) (Hearing on 04/07/26)

This Budget Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

[2025-19-31](#) An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the General Fund for Skyview School Boiler Replacements (Mayor) (Hearing on 04/07/26)

This Budget Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

[2025-19-32](#) An Ordinance Accepting and Appropriating Code Blue Grant Funds from the Southern Region Emergency Medical Services, Inc. on Behalf of Bear Creek Fire Service Area (Mayor) (Hearing on 04/07/26)

This Budget Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

[2025-19-33](#) An Ordinance Accepting and Appropriating Code Blue Grant Funds from the Southern Region Emergency Medical Services, Inc. on Behalf of Nikiski Fire Service Area (Mayor) (Hearing on 04/07/26)

This Budget Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

[2026-10](#) An Ordinance Authorizing the Lease of a Material Site Owned by the

Kenai Peninsula Borough by Competitive Lease Offering Through Sealed Bid Procedures (Mayor) (Hearing on 04/07/26)

This Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

2026-09

An Ordinance Amending Borough Code, KPB 2.58.058 and KPB 4.30.060, Relating to Dual Service Prohibitions and Incompatibility of Offices (Mayor) (Hearing on 04/21/26)

[Clerk's Note: Assembly Member Griebel disclosed he may be interested in future borough positions and requested to be excused from the vote. Per KPB 22.40.140, President Tunseth ruled Mr. Griebel would be excused from the vote.]

This Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

Yes: 8 - Tunseth, Cooper, Ecklund, Dunne, Eicher, Niesen, Hicks, and Truesdell

Abstain: 1 - Griebel

2026-12

An Ordinance Amending Borough Code, KPB Chapter 2.60, to Establish the Department of Public Safety Communications and Sunset the Advisory Board under KPB 2.60.040 (Mayor) (Hearing on 04/21/26)

This Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

2026-018

NOT MOVED A Resolution Urging the State Legislature to Pass House Bill 374 Relating to the Base Student Allocation (Ecklund, Dunne) LAYDOWN

A motion to add Resolution 2026-18 to the agenda was not made.

2026-11

WITHDRAWN BY SPONSOR An Ordinance Amending Borough Code Sections KPB 17.10.190 and KPB 17.10.250 Regarding Casual Use of Borough Land (Mayor) (Hearing on 04/21/26)

Yes: 9 - Tunseth, Cooper, Ecklund, Dunne, Eicher, Niesen, Hicks, Truesdell, and Griebel

Approval of the Agenda and Consent Agenda as Amended.

President Tunseth called for public comment with none being offered.

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

Yes: 9 - Tunseth, Cooper, Ecklund, Dunne, Eicher, Niesen, Hicks, Truesdell, and Griebel

PRESENTATIONS WITH PRIOR NOTICE

1. KPB-7526 Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Quarterly Report, Clayton

Holland, Superintendent

[Clerk's Note: Clayton Holland, Superintendent presented a quarterly report to the Assembly.]

2. [KPB-7527](#) Kenai Peninsula Peace Crane Garden Trails Project Update, Sarah Pyhala, President, Shimai Toshi Garden Trails, Inc.

[Clerk's Note: Sarah Pyhala, President, Shimai Toshi Garden Trails, Inc. presented a project update to the Assembly.]

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

President Tunseth called for public comment.

Maureen Todd, Soldotna, addressed the Assembly regarding borough recreation powers and school funding.

The following people addressed the Assembly regarding school funding:

Heidi Stokes, Principal Chapman Elementary

Doug Hayman, Connections Homeschool Principal

Danielle Byler

Beth Wythe, Homer, addressed the Assembly regarding the South Peninsula Hospital community meetings.

Danielle Chihuly, Kasilof, addressed the Assembly regarding property assessments and school funding.

The 20 minute aggregate was reached and the public comment period was closed.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor's Report Cover Memo

[KPB-7543](#) Mayor's Report Cover Memo

1. Assembly Requests/Responses
2. Agreements and Contracts

[KPB-7544](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for ITB26-015 Mountain View Elementary Window Replacement

3. Other

- a. [KPB-7545](#) Revenue Expenditure Report- February 2026
- b. [KPB-7546](#) Budget Revisions- January/February 2026
- c. [KPB-7547](#) Certification of the 2025 Real Property Supplemental Assessment Roll
- d. [KPB-7550](#) Litigation Status Report

ITEMS NOT COMPLETED FROM PRIOR AGENDA**PUBLIC HEARINGS ON ORDINANCES**

[2026-04](#) An Ordinance Amending KPB 2.56.030 to Adopt the 2045 Homer Comprehensive Plan as the Official Comprehensive Plan for that Portion of the Borough within the Boundaries of the City of Homer (Mayor)

Truesdell moved to enact Ordinance 2026-04.

President Tunseth called for public comments with none being offered.

The motion to enact Ordinance 2026-04 carried by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Tunseth, Cooper, Ecklund, Dunne, Eicher, Niesen, Hicks, Truesdell, and Griebel

[2026-06](#) An Ordinance Amending Borough Code Section 17.10.100(F) Regarding Methods of Disposition (Mayor)

Truesdell moved to enact Ordinance 2026-06.

President Tunseth called for public comment with none being offered.

The motion to enact Ordinance 2026-06 carried by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Tunseth, Cooper, Ecklund, Dunne, Eicher, Niesen, Hicks, Truesdell, and Griebel

UNFINISHED BUSINESS**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

President Tunseth called for public comment.

Casey Brouard, Nikiski, addressed the Assembly regarding North Peninsula Recreation Center.

Marney Alcot, Sterling, addressed the Assembly regarding school funding.

Greg Alcot, Sterling, addressed the Assembly regarding school funding.

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

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Assembly Member Dunne thanked all participants and reported that he has been working with Seldovia regarding the pool closure. He also announced his attendance at the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve quarterly Community Council meeting on March 27, 2026.

Assembly Member Niesen expressed appreciation to all who attended and provided comments.

Assembly Member Griebel reported attending the Central Emergency Service Area Board meeting on February 19, 2026, and the KPB Road Service Area Board meeting on March 10, 2026, providing brief updates from both. He also thanked constituents for their emails.

Assembly Member Hicks stated he was encouraged by the ongoing efforts related to school funding.

Assembly Member Eicher thanked Borough Clerk Turner for her dedicated service and support to the Assembly and noted his appreciation for public attendance.

Assembly Member Truesdell thanked the Mayor for his advocacy and expertise on the AK LNG project and briefly commented on the impact of homeschool programs on school funding.

Assembly Member Ecklund reported attending the Eastern Peninsula Highway Emergency Service Area Board meeting on March 16, 2026, and provided a brief update. She expressed appreciation for borough staff and congratulated the Seward girls and Ninilchik boys on winning the 2A State Basketball Tournament.

Vice President Cooper thanked attendees and announced the South Peninsula Hospital “Community Conversation: Lunch with Leadership” held March 18, 2026, and the Homer High School choir performances of Footloose the Musical on March 19 and 21, 2026.

President Tunseth thanked the public for their testimony, echoed appreciation for Borough Clerk Turner, and expressed gratitude to all borough staff for their continued support.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS AND REPORTS - None

ASSEMBLY MEETING AND HEARING ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. April 7, 2026 6:00 PM
Regular Assembly Meeting
Betty J. Glick Assembly Chambers
Borough Administration Building
Remote participation available through Zoom
Meeting ID: 897 1694 8642 Passcode: 075938

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the assembly, President Tunseth adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

I certify the above represents accurate minutes of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly meeting of March 17, 2026.

Michele Turner, CMC, Borough Clerk

Approved by the Assembly: _____