



# Kenai Peninsula Borough

144 North Binkley Street  
Soldotna, AK 99669

## Meeting Minutes - Final

### Assembly

*Peter Ribbens, President*

*Kelly Cooper, Vice President*

*James Baisden*

*Tyson Cox*

*Willy Dunne*

*Cindy Ecklund*

*Brent Johnson*

*Leslie Morton*

*Ryan Tunseth*

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Tuesday, April 1, 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](https://yourkpb.zoom.us/j/83563583837?pwd=eTO44Um9ao1JJGaVtBJG86PXlsuNvm.1)

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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, Cindy Ecklund, James Baisden, Willy Dunne, and Leslie Morton

**Excused:** 1 - President Peter Ribbens

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: Baisden, Cox, Ecklund, Johnson, Morton, Tunseth, Cooper / 1 absent: Ribbens]*

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

*[8 present: Baisden, Cox, Ecklund, Johnson, Morton, Tunseth, Cooper / 1 absent: Ribbens]*

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

**Tunseth 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-6768](#) March 18, 2025 Regular Assembly Meeting Minutes  
**approved.**

[KPB-6600](#) A Resolution Commending the Nikiski High School Girls' Volleyball Team - 2024 Alaska Class 3A State Champions (Ribbens, Mayor)  
**This Commending Resolution was adopted.**

## **New Business**

[2025-016](#) A Resolution Approving the Correction of Manifest Clerical Errors on Real Property Accounts and Approval of a Refund in Excess of \$10,000 (Mayor)  
**This Resolution was adopted.**

[2025-05](#) An Ordinance Amending Borough Code Sections KPB 3.04.110 and KPB 3.04.115 Regarding Minimum Qualifications for Employment (Mayor)  
**This Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.**

[2024-19-34](#) An Ordinance Accepting and Appropriating Congressionally Directed Spending Grant Funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration for Upgrading the Mechanical and Power Plant at South Peninsula Hospital (Mayor)  
**This Budget Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.**

[2025-06](#) An Ordinance Providing an Exception to Borough Code to Accept the FY26 Late-Filed Senior Citizen Grant Applications for the Senior Citizen Program (Mayor)

**This Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.**

[KPB-6774](#) Confirming Appointments to Service Area Boards (Mayor)

Eastern Peninsula Highway Emergency Service Area  
Applicant Rachel Sullivan, Seat A, Term Expires 10/2027

Western Emergency Service Area  
Applicant Janet Hewitt Cully, Seat A, Term Expires 10/2026  
**approved.**

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Vice President Cooper 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:** 8 - Johnson, Cox, Tunseth, Cooper, Ecklund, Baisden, Dunne, and Morton

**Excused:** 1 - Ribbens

**COMMENDING RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS**

[KPB-6600](#) A Resolution Commending the Nikiski High School Girls' Volleyball Team - 2024 Alaska Class 3A State Champions (Ribbens, Mayor)

*[Clerk's Note: Mayor Micciche presented the commending resolution to the Nikiski High School Volleyball athletes and coaches.]*

**This Commending Resolution was adopted.**

**PRESENTATIONS WITH PRIOR NOTICE**

1. [KPB-6769](#) Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council Update, Mako Haggerty, Board Member and Maia Draper-Reich, Outreach Coordinator (10 Minutes)

*[Clerk's Note: Mako Haggerty, Board Member (in person) and Maia Draper-Reich, Outreach Coordinator (via Zoom) presented a Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council update to the assembly.]*

2. [KPB-6770](#) Project Homeless Connect Update, Jodi Stuart, PR Chair Kenai Peninsula Homelessness Coalition (10 Minutes)

*[Clerk's Note: Jodi Stuart, PR Chair of Kenai Peninsula Homelessness Coalition provided and update to the assembly.]*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA**

Vice President Cooper called for public comments.

**Mako Haggerty** Addressed the Assembly regarding the land sale process.

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

## MAYOR'S REPORT

[KPB-6775](#) Mayor's Report Cover Memo

1. Assembly Requests/Responses - None
2. Agreements and Contracts
  - a. [KPB-6776](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for ITB25-031 Soldotna High School Siding
  - b. [KPB-6777](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for ITB25-034 Hope School Roof Replacement
  - c. [KPB-6778](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for ITB25-035 Basargin Approach
  - d. [KPB-6779](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for ITB25-026 to ITB25-30 Calcium Chloride Application

## ITEMS NOT COMPLETED FROM PRIOR AGENDA

## PUBLIC HEARINGS ON ORDINANCES - None

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Postponed Items

[2025-04](#) An Ordinance Amending the Resilience and Security Commission Enabling Ordinance (Mayor) [Postponed on 03/18/25]

*[Clerk's Note: The motion to enact is on the floor from the 03/18/25 meeting.]*

Vice President called for public comment with none being offered.

**Cox moved to amend Ordinance 2025-04.**

Section 1 to read as follows, "**SECTION 2. Purpose and Scope.** The RSAC [commission] will work in collaboration with and advise the administration and assembly on developing sustainability solutions for the Kenai Peninsula Borough

to promote the economic security, safety, self-reliance, and wellbeing of its inhabitants, while maintaining the ability of future generations to do the same. The RSAC may~~[, in collaboration with the administration]~~, make recommendations ~~[it considers advisable]~~ **directly to the assembly**. The scope of matters subject to consideration by the RSAC [resilience and security commission] includes:

1. Divert materials in a manner that ~~[does not exacerbate]~~**considers the effect of greenhouse gas generation** that would otherwise be discarded in landfills within the borough to extend the lifetime of landfills and save taxpayer dollars;
2. Improve cost and energy efficiency of buildings;
3. Improve cost and energy efficiency of transportation;
4. [Increase] Evaluate the use of local, clean energy to [(a)] modernize electricity generation, storage and distribution; [(b)] increase energy independence; [(c)] diversify the grid, and reduce supply volatility;
5. Support hazard mitigation planning that accounts for changing environmental conditions;
6. Improve food security through support of local agriculture, protection of the ecological integrity of fish and wildlife habitat, protection of water resources, and other means;
7. Conduct cost-benefit analyses of sustainable resource initiatives; and
8. [9. Seek] Research funding to support the work of the RSAC. [commission] [; and]
- [10. Other similar efforts focused on protection of our natural resources, economy, security and wellbeing.]

..."; and "... SECTION 3. Duties. In collaboration with the administration, [T]the duties of the RSAC [commission] are as follows to the extent the duties performed are within the scope of the borough's legally authorized powers:

[A. Collaborate with borough staff, communities, utilities, agencies, universities, and the private sector to lead the development and modification of strategic planning to mitigate and adapt to significant changes in our environment;]

1. [4-] [B.] Develop programmatic strategies for sustainable development that anticipate, adapt to, and mitigate against changes in our natural systems;

[C. Collaborate with utility cooperatives to conduct energy assessments, evaluate borough investments in the energy sector, and diversify energy portfolios;]

2. [2-] [D.] Conduct cost-benefit analyses of strategic support of borough services [sectors] with a [good] long-term outlook, such as building and transportation efficiency, renewable energy, agriculture, tourism, and fishing;

3. [3-] [E. Lead] Participate in implementation of strategies through continued collaboration with the mayor, **assembly**, and staff [, agencies, utilities, universities, the private sector, and communities];

4. [4-] [F.] Provide metrics for monitoring progress toward meeting goals, **and**

report annually to the mayor and assembly at the end of January on the progress made for the previous year along with recommendations on how to support or improve those efforts; and

[G. Actively engage and communicate with borough communities to collaboratively develop and institute sustainable resource initiatives through citizen workgroups, task-forces, online media, etc.; and]

5. [5.] [H.] Make recommendations to the mayor **or assembly** on public purpose grants that promote sustainability goals of the borough." and "SECTION 4. Memberships. The RSAC [resilience and security commission] shall consist of nine voting members appointed by the mayor and approved by the assembly. Appointed members shall have experience in at least one of the [eight] [ten] areas **in Section 2 above** defining the scope of the [commission] RSAC, must be registered to vote, and must physically reside within the boundaries of the Kenai Peninsula Borough. [and] Members shall serve overlapping three-year terms [for no more than two consecutive terms]. [Sustainability] Prospective members [commissioners] shall submit a resume with their application to be appointed by the mayor and approved by the assembly **from each of the following geographic areas as generally described below. If no qualified applicant from the geographic area applies, the seat may be filled by a qualified at-large applicant.**

1. East Peninsula including areas of Seward, Moose Pass, Cooper Landing.

2. Southwest Borough including areas of Seldovia, Port Graham, Homer, Kachemak City, Nanwalek.

3. South Central including areas of Anchor Point, Ninilchik, Kasilof, Clam Gulch.

4. Central shall have two seats including areas of Sterling, Kenai, Soldotna, Kalifornsky.

5. Northwest Borough including areas of Hope, Tyonek, Nikiski.

6. Three At-Large Seats.

In addition, the RSAC [commission] may appoint two non-voting youth members. Youth members shall serve one-year terms. Notice of vacancies and the membership roster will be administered by the clerk's office.

..." and "**SECTION 5. Officers.** A chair, vice-chair, and recording secretary of the RSAC [commission] shall be selected annually from and by the appointed RSAC members [of the commission]."

The RSAC [commission] shall coordinate with the [planning department] borough clerk to publicize meetings, and mayor's office to create agendas, meeting packets, [publicize meetings,] and post the minutes, [, etc.] The Assembly President may appoint an assembly member to be the assembly representative for the RSAC [this advisory commission]." and "..."

**SECTION 6. Meetings.** Meetings shall occur at least once quarterly and up to once a month at [assembly chambers] the location provided by public meeting notice.

...

3. ~~[Up to two]~~**Quarterly work sessions may be called by the chair** ~~[upon prior approval from the administration and upon at least three business days' notice]~~. **No quorum is required at a work session, as the RSAC may not take any official action at a work session. RSAC work sessions will be open to the public. The RSAC need not, but may, provide for audience participation at a work session. Public notice of a work session is required."** and "...**SECTION 8. [Investigation and] Recommendation authority. The resilience and security commission may consider [and investigate] subject matters tending to the development and betterment of the borough, now and in the future. It may make recommendations as it considers advisable to the [planning commission,] administration and the assembly. [The commission must request approval to make or have made energy assessments, analyses, surveys, maps or plans through the budget process.]"**.

Dunne moved to amend the Cox amendment as follows:

Section 1 to read, "...**SECTION 2. Purpose and Scope.** The RSAC [commission] will work in collaboration with and advise the administration and assembly on developing sustainability solutions for the Kenai Peninsula Borough to promote the economic security, safety, self-reliance, and wellbeing of its inhabitants, while maintaining the ability of future generations to do the same. The RSAC may in collaboration with the administration, make recommendations ~~[it considers advisable]~~ directly to the assembly."

The motion to amend the Cox amendment carried by the following vote:

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

**Excused:** 1 - Ribbens

The motion to amend Ordinance 2025-04 as amended carried by the following vote:

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

**Absent:** 1 - Ribbens

The motion to enact Ordinance 2025-04 as amended carried by the following vote:

**Yes:** 7 - Johnson, Cox, Tunseth, Cooper, Ecklund, Dunne, and Morton

**No:** 1 - Baisden

**Excused:** 1 - Ribbens

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Resolutions

[2025-017](#)

A Resolution Requesting the Alaska Legislature Provide Municipalities Authority to Enact a Cap on Real Property Tax Assessments Increases (Mayor, Cooper) [Postponed on 04/01/25]

**Tunseth moved to adopt Resolution 2025-017.**

Vice President called for public comment.

**Duane Bannock**, Kenai spoke in support of Resolution 2025-017.

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

Assembly Members Baisden and Tunseth spoke in support of Resolution 2025-017.

**Johnson moved to postpone Resolution 2025-017 to April 15, 2025.**

Assembly Members Cox, Dunne and Ecklund spoke in support of postponement of Resolution 2025-017.

Assembly Member Tunseth spoke in opposition to postponement of Resolution 2025-017.

Vice President Cooper passed the gavel to President Pro Tem Tunseth and spoke in opposition to postponement of Resolution 2025-017. President Pro Tem returned the gavel to Vice President Cooper.

**The motion to postpone Resolution 2025-017 to April 15, 2025 carried by the following vote:**

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

**Absent:** 1 - Ribbens

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

Vice President Cooper called for public comment with none being offered.

## **ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

Assembly Member Dunne thanked the assembly for their support on Ordinance 2024-19-34. Mr. Dunne gave a brief update regarding the work on East End Road in the Cottonwood Eastland unit of Kachemak Bay State Park. Mr. Dunne stated he was glad that the Kenai Peninsula Borough was working on a 5 million dollar grant proposal (NOAA Climate Resilience Regional Challenge).

Assembly Member Tunseth congratulated the Nikiski Girls Volleyball Team. Mr. Tunseth thanked Mako Haggerty and Jodi Stuart for their presentations and thanked borough staff for their hard work. He invited everyone to the grand opening of the



new Boys and Girls Club in Kenai on May 17, 2025 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm and wished everyone a good night.

Assembly Member Baisden thanked everyone for attending and wished the Borough Clerk a happy birthday. Mr. Baisden congratulated the Kenai Cheer team who participated in the Alaska State Cheer Competition.

Assembly Member Johnson commented on Ordinance 2025-04.

Assembly Member Morton congratulated the Nikiski Girls Volleyball Team. Ms. Morton thanked the public for the comments regarding the school district budget. She thanked the Mayor for the updates on the Chapman School land and the school maintenance for Soldotna High and Hope.

Assembly Member Cox stated he participated in the job share program with two Soldotna High School students, stating it was fun. He reported on upcoming Soldotna High School sports.

Assembly Member Ecklund stated she appreciated all the hard work that borough staff does for the assembly. Ms. Ecklund congratulated the Nikiski Girls Volleyball Team. Ms. Ecklund stated that the Seward High School Student Body President was presenting a report at the April 15, 2025 assembly meeting. She stated that she was working with City of Seward to hopefully waive some of the utility costs.

Assembly Member Cooper congratulated Majo Hernandez, a 7th grader at Homer Middle School, for winning the Alaska spelling bee. She wished the Borough Clerk a happy birthday and thanked her for all her hard work.

## **PENDING LEGISLATION - None**

## **INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS AND REPORTS**

## **ASSEMBLY MEETING AND HEARING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1. April 15, 2025 6:00 PM  
Regular Assembly Meeting  
Seward Community Library and Museum  
239 6th Avenue, Community Room  
Seward, AK 99664  
Remote participation available through Zoom  
Meeting ID: 835 6358 3837 Passcode: 606672

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the assembly, Vice President Cooper

adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.

I certify the above represents accurate minutes of the Kenai Peninsula Borough  
Assembly meeting of April 1, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michele Turner, CMC, Borough Clerk

Approved by the Assembly: \_\_\_\_\_