



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, April 7, 2026

6:00 PM

Betty J. Glick Assembly Chambers
Meeting ID: 897 1694 8642 Passcode: 075938
[https://yourkpb.zoom.us/j/89716948642?
pwd=fEb3zpJksgh1maera2nn3XZRWlPat.1](https://yourkpb.zoom.us/j/89716948642?pwd=fEb3zpJksgh1maera2nn3XZRWlPat.1)

Meeting ID: 897 1694 8642 Passcode: 075938

CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

The invocation was given via Zoom 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

MOTION APPROVED: The Clerk's annual performance review was conducted on March 17, 2026. Cooper moved to approve a 2.5% salary increase for the Clerk, as well as 2.5% increases for the Deputy Clerk and Records Manager, as recommended by the Clerk. These increases will be effective on July 1, 2026 for the

FY27 budget cycle.

[9 Yes, 0 No, 0 Absent]

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]

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-7559](#) March 17, 2026 Regular Assembly Meeting Minutes
approved

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

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

This Budget Ordinance was enacted.

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

This Budget Ordinance was enacted.

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

This Budget Ordinance was enacted.

- [2025-19-31](#) An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the General Fund for Skyview School Boiler Replacements (Mayor)
This Budget Ordinance was enacted.
- [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)
This Budget Ordinance was enacted.
- [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)
This Budget Ordinance was enacted.
- [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)
This Ordinance was enacted.

NEW BUSINESS

- [2026-020](#) A Resolution Accepting \$210,000 from the State of Alaska, Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for Emergency Management Operations (Mayor)
This Resolution was adopted.
- [2026-019](#) A Resolution Approving a Standardization Policy for the Use of Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc., ArcGIS Software (Mayor)
This Resolution was adopted.
- [2026-13](#) An Ordinance Authorizing a Public Purpose Non-Commercial Communication Site Lease Agreement with the Cooper Landing Community Club, Inc. (Mayor) (Hearing on 04/21/26)
This Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.
- [2025-19-34](#) An Ordinance Appropriating Supplemental Funds from the General Fund and Authorizing the Maintenance Department to Redirect Funds Previously Appropriated for the Niniilchik School Septic Replacement Project to the Nikiski North Star School Septic Replacement Project

(Mayor) (Hearing on 04/21/26)

This Budget Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

[2025-19-35](#) An Ordinance Amending the Records Micrographics Technician Job Descriptions and Appropriating Necessary Funds for the Positions (Tunseth at the Request of the Borough Clerk) (Hearing on 04/21/26)

This Budget Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

[2025-19-36](#) An Ordinance Appropriating Funds for Reimbursement of Costs for Replacement of the Fire Alarm System for The Kenai Health Center (Mayor) (Hearing on 04/21/26)

This Budget Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

[2025-19-37](#) An Ordinance Accepting and Appropriating Grant Funds from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources Volunteer Fire Capacity Program on behalf of Bear Creek Fire, Kachemak Emergency, Nikiski Fire and Western Emergency Service Areas (Mayor) (Hearing on 04/21/26)

This Budget Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

[KPB-7567](#) Authorizing the Issuance of a Letter of Non-Objection to the Alcohol Beverage Control Board Regarding the Transfer of Location and Owner as Requested by 360 Entertainment, LLC dba Orca Theater, Beverage Dispensary License No. 975, outside Soldotna city limits

approved

[KPB-7568](#) Confirming an Appointment to the Road Service Area Board (Mayor) Buck Jones, Seat South Region, Term Expires 09/30/2027

approved

Approval of the Agenda and Consent Agenda

President Tunseth called for public comment.

Patricia Bouton, addressed the Assembly regarding Ordinance 2025-19-28.

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

COMMENDING RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS - None

PRESENTATIONS WITH PRIOR NOTICE

1. [KPB-7565](#) Project Homeless Connect Update, Kathy Gensel, Director, Central Peninsula Health Foundation & Cheri Smith, Executive Director at LeeShore Center
[Clerk's Note: Cheri Smith, Executive Director, Leeshore Center gave a presentation to the Assembly.]

2. [KPB-7573](#) Invasive Species Project - Elodea at Crescent Lake, Jen Chauvet, Kenai Peninsula Cooperative Species Management Area
[Clerk's Note: Jen Chauvet (via ZOOM), Peter Frank and Cody Jacobson, Kenai Peninsula Cooperative Species Management Area, gave a presentation to the Assembly.]

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

President Tunseth called for public comment.

Dr. Keith Hamilton, presented a handout of the Central Kenai Peninsula Ministries executive director list to the Assembly and provided information about the group.

Patricia Bouton, Soldotna, addressed the Assembly regarding school funding.

William Hubbler, Kenai, addressed the Assembly regarding the school district pool closures.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT

- [KPB-7569](#) Mayor's Report Cover Memo
1. Assembly Requests/Responses - None
 2. Agreements and Contracts
 - a. [KPB-7570](#) Authorization to Award Contract for ITB26-013 Central Emergency Services #1 Office Furnishings Procurement
 - b. [KPB-7571](#) Authorization to Award Contract for RFP26-013 Browns Cohoe Acres and Caribou Crossing Engineering

- c. [KPB-7572](#) Authorization to Award Contract RFP26-016 Port Graham LP Tank Farm Redesign

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

President Tunseth called for public comment.

Alex Koplín, Clam Gulch, addressed the Assembly regarding road brine, property tax exemptions, school funding and the mayoral run-off process.

Brent Johnson, Clam Gulch, addressed the Assembly regarding school funding.

Ed Oberts, Soldotna, addressed the Assembly regarding school funding.

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

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Assembly Member Griebel stated he attended the Hospice of the Central Peninsula annual fundraiser on March 28, 2026, and noted the generosity of the local community. Mr. Griebel wished everyone a good evening.

Assembly Member Hicks stated he attended the school board meeting in Homer on April 6, 2026. Mr. Hicks wished everyone a good night.

Assembly Member Eicher reminded everyone that the Freedom House fundraiser was Saturday, April 11, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Eicher wished everyone a good night.

Assembly Member Truesdell thanked the school board members who attended the budget presentation. Mr. Truesdell stated he appreciates the in-person testimony, emails, letters, and phone calls from the public.

Assembly Member Ecklund stated she attended the Seward Bear Creek Flood Service Area Board meeting on April 6, 2026, and provided a brief update. Ms. Ecklund stated she looked forward to seeing everyone in Seward on April 21, 2026.

Assembly Member Dunne stated a farmers market in Anchor Point was to be held at the senior center every Thursday from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Mr. Dunne stated on March 27, 2026, he attended the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Community Council meeting and provided a brief update. Mr. Dunne noted

that the Resilience and Security Advisory Commission meeting scheduled for April 8, 2026, was canceled. He thanked the school district for their budget presentation.

Assembly Member Niesen stated she attended the North Peninsula Recreation Service Area Board meeting on April 2, 2026, and provided a brief update. Ms. Niesen noted that the Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District recently developed a comprehensive economic development strategy and released a 2026 Housing Assessment; she provided a brief update on both.

Vice President Cooper thanked everyone for attending and for the excellent presentations. Ms. Cooper thanked the school board for their hard work, expressed hope for the arrival of spring, and thanked all road crews for their efforts.

President Tunseth thanked the Clerk's Office staff as well as the Mayor's staff for their assistance. Mr. Tunseth thanked the school board and stated he was proud of their work. He thanked the Mayor and Representative Ruffridge for the town hall meetings in Seward, Homer and Soldotna.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS AND REPORTS

1. [KPB-7593](#) LAYDOWN Memo from the Borough Clerk - Creekbend Company LLC's Liquor License Renewal Non-Objection Process

ASSEMBLY MEETING AND HEARING ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. April 21, 2026

Budget Work Session #1 TBD
Seward Community Library and Museum
239 Sixth Avenue, Community Room
Remote participation available through Zoom
Meeting ID: 897 1694 8642 Passcode: 075938

2. April 21, 2026

Regular Assembly Meeting 6:00 PM
Seward Community Library and Museum
239 Sixth Avenue, Community Room
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 7:56 p.m.

I certify the above represents accurate minutes of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly meeting of April 7, 2026.

Michele Turner, CMC, Borough Clerk

Approved by the Assembly: _____