



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

Tuesday, February 25, 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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CALL TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INVOCATION

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

ROLL CALL

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

Excused: 1 - Willy Dunne

Also present were:

Peter A. Micciche, Borough Mayor

Brandi Harbaugh, Finance Director

Sean Kelley, Borough Attorney

Sue Ellen Essert, Deputy Borough Clerk

Michele Turner, Borough Clerk

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

*[8 Present: Baisden, Cooper, Cox, Ecklund, Morton, Johnson, Tunseth, Ribbens
/ 1 Absent: Dunne]*

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

[8 Present: Baisden, Cooper, Cox, Ecklund, Morton, Johnson, Tunseth, Ribbens / 1 Absent: Dunne]

President Ribbens stated the Assembly held a Work Session for Training Refresher Session 1.

[8 Present: Baisden, Cooper, Cox, Ecklund, Morton, Johnson, Tunseth, Ribbens / 1 Absent: Dunne]

President Ribbens stated the Assembly, Board of Education and Kenai Peninsula School District administration had a joint budget work session.

[8 Present: Baisden, Cooper, Cox, Ecklund, Morton, Johnson, Tunseth, Ribbens / 1 Absent: Dunne]

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Cooper moved to approve the agenda and consent agenda.

MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Cooper moved to suspend the rules and move Agenda Item 1 KPB-6625, Office of Governor Dunleavy's Presentation before "Presentations with Prior Notice" on the agenda.

The motion to Suspend the Rules carried by the following vote:

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

Excused: 1 - Dunne

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-6604](#) February 4, 2025 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:

1. [2024-19-28](#) An Ordinance Approving the Scope of Work Change and Reallocating the Fisheries Business Tax Funds Received from the State of Alaska Under the Federal Pass-Through Program, American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 in the Amount of \$934.04 (Mayor)

This Budget Ordinance was enacted.

New Business

- *a. [2025-014](#) A Resolution Urging the State of Alaska to Implement a Sustainable Increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) and Invest in Strategic Improvements to Public Education (Assembly, Mayor)
- [Clerk's Note: A new fifth Whereas clause was added to Resolution 2024-014 to read, "the KPB consistently funds over 95% of the allowable maximum local contribution which is significantly greater than comparable municipalities across the State, KPB's local contribution has kept pace with or exceeded inflation while State funding has not; and" and Section 1 was amended to read, "That the Assembly requests the State Legislature and Governor Dunleavy pass a balanced education package that includes a permanent and sustainable increase to the base student allocation-indexed to inflation-as well as strategic investments in teacher retention, student literacy, and public school choice options as part of a comprehensive education plan that incorporates responsible reforms to strengthen student achievement."]*
- This Resolution was adopted.**
- [2025-013](#) A Resolution Confirming an Appointment to a Non-Borough Board (Ribbens, Cooper)
- This Resolution was adopted.**
- [2025-015](#) A Resolution Authorizing a Standardization Policy for the Use of Pictometry International Corp's High-Resolution Aerial Imagery Products and Services (Mayor)
- This Resolution was adopted.**
- [2024-19-29](#) An Ordinance Accepting and Appropriating Code Blue Grant Funds from the Southern Region Emergency Medical Services, Inc. (Mayor)
- This Budget Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.**
- [2024-19-30](#) An Ordinance Appropriating Additional Funds from the Seward Bear Creek Flood Service Area Fund Balance for the Kwechak Creek Drainage Sediment Extraction Project (Mayor)
- This Budget Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.**
- [2024-19-31](#) An Ordinance Deobligating Existing Projects and Appropriating New Project Funds from the South Kenai Peninsula Hospital Service Area Capital Project Fund (Mayor)
- This Budget Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.**

[2024-19-32](#) An Ordinance Appropriating \$300,000 from the School Maintenance Fund for Snow Removal and Sanding (Mayor)

This Budget Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

[2024-19-33](#) An Ordinance Approving and Appropriating Grant Funds from the Alaska Department of Natural Resources for the Volunteer Fire Capacity Program on Behalf of Bear Creek Fire Service Area, Central Emergency Services Area, Nikiski Fire Service Area, and Western Emergency Services Area (Mayor)

This Budget Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

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

This Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing.

[KPB-6603](#) Authorizing the Issuance of a Non-Objection Letter to the Alcohol Beverage Control Board Regarding the New Restaurant Eating Place Liquor License Requested by Franklin Donham dba Timberline Farm, License No. 16191, Sterling

approved.

[KPB-6645](#) Confirming the Appointment of Sue Ellen Essert to the Position of Deputy Borough Clerk and Setting the Salary

approved.

Approval of the Agenda and Consent Agenda

President Ribbens called for public comment:

The eight students spoke in support of Resolution 2025-014.

Additional speakers in support of Resolution 2025-014:

Luke Herman, Teacher Soldotna High School

Debbie Cary

Joan Corr, Soldotna

Rachel Lord, City of Homer Mayor

Zen Kelly, Board of Education President

Patricia Bouton spoke in opposition to Resolution 2025-014.

There being no one else who wished 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, Baisden, and Morton

Absent: 1 - Dunne

COMMENDING RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS AND REPORTS

1. [KPB-6625](#) Office of Governor Dunleavy Presentation: HB76 and SB82 Education Reform, Todd Smoldon, Mat-Su Regional Director and Education Policy Advisor; Jill Schaefer, Kenai Peninsula Director (15 minutes)
[Clerk's Note: Todd Smoldon, Mat-Su Regional Director and Education Policy Advisor and Jill Schaefer, Kenai Peninsula Director from Governor Dunleavy's Office gave a presentation to the Assembly regarding education reform.]

PRESENTATIONS WITH PRIOR NOTICE

- [KPB-6622](#) Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Quarterly Report, Clayton Holland, Superintendent (10 Minutes)
[Clerk's Note: Clayton Holland, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Superintendent gave a presentation to the Assembly.]
- [KPB-6623](#) Annual Update Small Business Development Center, Cliff Cochran (10 Minutes)
[Clerk's Note: Cliff Cochran, Kenai Peninsula Director, Small Business Development Center gave a presentation to the Assembly.]

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

President Ribbens called for public comment.

Nikki (last name not provided), addressed the Assembly regarding Forestry Dispatch on the Peninsula.

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

MAYOR'S REPORT

- [KPB-6627](#) Mayor's Report Cover Memo

1. Assembly Requests/Responses
 - a. Heat Pump Update
2. Agreements and Contracts
 - a. [KPB-6628](#) Authorization to Award Contract RFP25-012 External Investment Portfolio Manager
 - b. [KPB-6629](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for ITB25-024 K-Beach Elementary Boiler Replacement
 - c. [KPB-6630](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for ITB25-023 CES Station #1 Camera Purchase & Installation
 - d. [KPB-6631](#) Tyonek Landfill O&M – Sole Source Contract Extension #3 - Tyonek Landfill O&M
3. Other
 - a. Bob Cicciarella Former Kachemak Emergency Service Fire Chief Retirement Gift Presentation

[Clerk's Note: Mayor Micciche presented former Kachemak Emergency Fire Chief, Bob Cicciarella with a retirement gift.]
 - b. [KPB-6632](#) FY25 – 2nd Quarter Grant Reports:
Kenai Peninsula Small Business Development
Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District
 - c. [KPB-6633](#) FY25 – 2nd Quarter Senior Center Grant Reports
 - d. [KPB-6634](#) Tax Adjustment Request Approval
 - e. [KPB-6635](#) Revenue Expenditure Report January 2025
 - f. [KPB-6636](#) Budget Revisions January 2025

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

- [2025-03](#) An Ordinance Amending KPB Chapter 21.20 Relating to Hearings and

Appeals to a Hearing Officer (Mayor)

Cox moved to enact Ordinance 2025-03.

President Ribbens called for public comment with none being offered.

The motion to enact Ordinance 2025-03 carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Dunne

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

President Ribbens called for public comment with none being offered.

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Assembly Member Tunseth thanked the students for their testimony regarding Resolution 2025-014. He stated he attended the school board budget meeting and provided a brief summary. He stated he attended the Kenai River Special Management meeting and provided a brief summary. Mr. Tunseth thanked the borough staff and assembly members and wished everyone a good evening.

Assembly Member Baisden thanked everyone for their comments. He congratulated former Kachemak Fire Chief, Bob Ciccirella on his retirement. Mr. Baisden wished everyone a good evening.

Assembly Member Johnson appreciated the students testimony and public's support of Resolution 2025-014. He stated he attended the school board budget meeting in Kenai and Homer and provided a brief summary. He attended the Planning Commission meeting and provided a brief summary. Mr. Johnson stated he was appointed to the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council as a representative of the Commercial Fishing Interest Group.

Assembly Member Morton thanked the students for their testimony regarding Resolution 2025-014. She thanked the presenters, stating it was informative. She stated she and President Ribbens attended the Alaska Municipal League Conference in Juneau and provided a brief summary.

Assembly Member Cox thanked everyone for the support and testimony regarding Resolution 2025-014. He congratulated the Soldotna High School Girls Ski Team that placed third in state. He shared his thoughts regarding the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and moving certain items on the meeting agenda.

Assembly Member Ecklund thanked the students for their testimony regarding

Resolution 2025-014. She discussed the Assembly's vote regarding last year's funding for schools and stated she appreciated everyone's comments that were sent to the legislature.

Vice President Cooper congratulated Sue Ellen Essert as the new Deputy Borough Clerk. She discussed the relationship the City of Kachemak and City of Homer in regards to fire/emergency response. She reminded everyone of the Tourism Industry Working Group meeting on February 26, 2025 at 2:00 pm. Ms. Cooper thanked the students for their testimony regarding Resolution 2025-014.

President Ribbens thanked the Mayor for his comments regarding the state's responsibility with school funding. He thanked Board of Education President Zen Kelly for requesting the joint work session with the Assembly. He stated he attended the Nikiski Fire Service Area and North Peninsula Recreation Service Area board meetings and provided a brief summary. He thanked the students for their testimony regarding Resolution 2025-014. Mr. Ribbens congratulated Sue Ellen Essert on her appointment as Deputy Borough Clerk.

PENDING LEGISLATION

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS AND REPORTS

2. [KPB-6648](#) Citizen Initiative 2024-01 Update

ASSEMBLY MEETING AND HEARING ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. March 18, 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

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the assembly, President Ribbens adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

I certify the above represents accurate minutes of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly meeting of February 25, 2025.

Michele Turner, CMC, Borough Clerk

Approved by the Assembly: _____