



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, May 20, 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 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 Assembly held Budget Work Session #3 and Budget Work Session #4.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 and ordinances on the consent agenda.

[KPB-6905](#) May 6, 2025 Regular Assembly Meeting Minutes
approved.

[2024-19-36](#) An Ordinance Appropriating and Allocating Commercial Passenger Vessel Tax Proceeds Received from the State of Alaska to the City of Seward and to the City of Homer (Mayor)
This Ordinance was enacted.

[2024-19-37](#) An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the South Peninsula Hospital Service Area Capital Project Fund for Critical Hospital Construction and Infrastructure Repairs (Mayor)
This Ordinance was enacted.

[2025-09](#) An Ordinance Authorizing and Approving the Land Affordability Program (Mayor, Ribbens, Tunseth)
This Ordinance was enacted.

[2025-022](#) A Resolution Authorizing a Lease Agreement with Skyline Towers, LLC for Continued Use of the Kachemak Emergency Service Area

Emergency Communications Site (Mayor)

This Resolution was adopted.

[2024-19-38](#) An Ordinance Appropriating an Additional \$150,029.03 to the Special Assessment Fund for the Rollins Way Road Improvement Assessment District (Mayor) (Hearing on 06/17/25)

This Ordinance was introduced and set for public hearing on June 17, 2025.

[KPB-6906](#) Authorizing the Issuance of a Non-Objection Letter to the Alcohol Beverage Control Board Regarding the Transfer of Location Application filed by Howling Wolf Brewpub, LLC dba Seward Doggie Bar, License No. 4747, Outside Seward City Limits (Referred to Finance Committee)

Approved as amended.

[KPB-6907](#) Approving a Petition to Vacate the 100' Section Line Easement with Tract B1 of Quartz Creek Subdivision Outfitter Way Replat, Plat SW 2024-19, KPB File 2025-046V in the Cooper Landing Area (Referred to Lands Committee)

[Clerk's Note: At its regular meeting of April 28, 2025, the Planning Commission unanimously approved the referenced petition to vacate.]

Approved

[KPB-6908](#) Approving a Petition to Vacate a Portion of Erlwein Road and Associated Utility Easements Adjacent to Lot 1, Block 2 and Lot 2 Block 2 of Birch Forest No. 2, Plat KN 2019-80 in the Sterling area (Referred to Lands Committee)

[Clerk's Note: At its regular meeting of April 28, 2025, the Planning Commission unanimously approved the referenced petition to vacate.]

Approved

Approval of the Agenda and Consent Agenda

President Ribbens 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, Ribbens, Ecklund, Dunne, and Morton

Absent: 1 - Baisden

PRESENTATIONS WITH PRIOR NOTICE

[KPB-6904](#) College Update, Alaska Christian College, Dr. Keith Hamilton, President (10 Minutes)

[Clerk's Note: Dr. Keith Hamilton, Alaska Christian College President, gave a presentation to the Assembly.]

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA

President Ribbens called for public comment with none being offered.

MAYOR'S REPORT

[KPB-6909](#) Mayor's Report Cover Memo

1. Assembly Requests/Responses - None
2. Agreements and Contracts
 - a. [KPB-6910](#) Authorization to Award Contract – ITB25-057 Welding Shop Ventilation Engineering Services Kenai Central High School & Soldotna High School
 - b. [KPB-6911](#) Authorization to Award Contract – ITB25-059 Seward High School Flooring Abatement
 - c. [KPB-6912](#) Authorization to Award Contract – RFP25-017 Chapman Elementary School Transportation Operational and Capital Improvement
3. Other
 - a. [KPB-6913](#) Capital Project Reports – March 31, 2025
 - b. [KPB-6914](#) Investment Report Quarter Ended 03/31/25
 - c. [KPB-6915](#) Tax Adjustment Request Approval

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

[2025-19](#) An Ordinance Appropriating Funds for Fiscal Year 2026 (Mayor) (Additional Hearing on 06/17/25)

Tunseth moved to enact Ordinance 2025-19.

President Ribbens called for public comment.

The following people addressed the Assembly regarding Ordinance 2025-19:

Barbara Haynes, Homer
Cathleen Rolph, Soldotna
Erin Pearce, Seward
Patti Truesdell
Winter Marshall-Allen
Erin Bellotte
Rebecca Walker
Joan Corr, K-Beach
Tim Navarre, Kenai
Paul Marks
Luke Herman, Soldotna
Brian Krauklis, Sterling
Jenn Haugh, Seward
Rachel Barton
Paul Seaton, Homer
Nickole Lyon, Seward
Christy Jordan, Seward

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

[Clerk's Note: Possible conflicts were declared by Mr. Cox whose wife was an art teacher at Soldotna High School and former Vice President of the Kenai Peninsula Education Association (KPEA); Ms. Ecklund who was a substitute teacher and Ms. Morton who was a substitute teacher. Through the advice of counsel, President Ribbens ruled conflicts did not exist.]

Tunseth moved to override President Ribbens' ruling regarding Cox's conflict.

The motion to overrule the President's ruling failed by the following vote:

Yes: 1 - Tunseth

No: 6 - Johnson, Cooper, Ribbens, Ecklund, Dunne, and Morton

Excused: 1 - Baisden

Abstain: 1 - Cox

Johnson moved to amend Ordinance 2025-19.

Amend the Section 2 to read, "That \$[103,824,646]**108,549,711** is appropriated in the General Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 as follows:

General Government Operations \$22,647,635
Transfer to School District for Operations and In-kind Services [57,634,015]
\$62,359,080
Transfer to School Debt Service 4,948,328
Transfer to Special Revenue Funds:
Solid Waste 11,485,368
Post-Secondary Education 999,300
911 Communications Fund 150,000
Eastern Peninsula Highway Emergency Service Area 310,000
Transfer to Capital Projects Funds:
School Revenue 4,100,000
General Government 150,000
Solid Waste 1,400,000" and

Amend Section 3 to read, "The following is appropriated to the School Fund from local sources for operations purposes and in-kind services:

A. Local Effort \$[42,153,164]**46,878,229**
B. Maintenance 9,688,754
C. School District Utilities 81,600
D. School District Insurance 5,398,898
E. School District Audit 166,908
F. Custodial Services 144,691
Total Local Contribution per AS 14.17.410 \$[57,634,015]**62,359,080**"

[Clerk's Note: Mr. Cox, Ms. Ecklund and Ms. Morton participated in the discussion and votes regarding Ordinance 2025-19.]

Assembly Members Cox, Ecklund and Dunne spoke in support of the Johnson amendment. Assembly Members Tunseth and Cooper spoke in opposition to the Johnson amendment.

Dunne moved to Call the Question.

The motion to Call the Question failed by the following vote:

Yes: 4 - Johnson, Cox, Ecklund, and Dunne

No: 4 - Tunseth, Cooper, Ribbens, and Morton

Absent: 1 - Baisden

Morton moved to add an additional public hearing date and postpone the Johnson amendment to June 17, 2025.

Assembly Members Cooper and Johnson spoke in support of postponement.
Assembly Members Ecklund and Cox spoke in opposition to postponement.

President Ribbens passed the gavel to Vice President Cooper and spoke in

opposition to postponement of the Johnson amendment. Vice President Cooper returned the gavel to President Ribbens.

The motion to add an additional public hearing date and postpone the Johnson amendment to June 17, 2025 carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Baisden

[Clerk's Note: Ordinance 2025-19 additional hearing dates scheduled: June 3, 2025 and June 17, 2025.]

2025-07

An Ordinance Amending KPB 4.10.100 Relating to the Use of Public Funds on Ballot Propositions to Mirror State Law (Cox)

Cox moved to enact Ordinance 2025-07

President Ribbens called for public comment with none being offered.

The motion to enact Ordinance 2025-07 carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: 1 - Baisden

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

President Ribbens called for public comment:

Duane Bannock, Kenai addressed the Assembly regarding the George Moore award given at the Kenai Middle School.

The following people addressed the Assembly regarding school funding:

Winter Marshall-Allen

Paul Marks

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

ASSEMBLY COMMENTS

Assembly Member Dunne thanked everyone for testifying regarding school funding. Mr. Dunne stated he spent a weekend in Seldovia with Kachemak Bay Recovery Connection and thanked the community of Seldovia for their support.

Assembly Member Tunseth thanked everyone for their comments regarding school

funding. Mr. Tunseth expressed his excitement for the grand opening of the new Kenai Boys and Girls building and appreciated the community's support.

Assembly Member Johnson thanked everyone for their comments and emails regarding school funding.

Assembly Member Morton appreciated the public testimony regarding school funding.

Assembly Member Cox discussed the Assembly's actions regarding Ordinance 2025-19 and the conflict of interest matter.

Assembly Member Ecklund congratulated the Seward High School graduates. Ms. Ecklund wished everyone a great Memorial Day weekend.

Assembly Member Cooper thanked everyone for their great work and wished everyone a good evening.

INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS AND REPORTS

ASSEMBLY MEETING AND HEARING ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. June 3, 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 9:33 p.m.

I certify the above represents accurate minutes of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly meeting of May 20, 2025.

Michele Turner, CMC, Borough Clerk

Approved by the Assembly: _____

