



# Kenai Peninsula Borough

144 North Binkley Street  
Soldotna, AK 99669

## Meeting Minutes - Draft

### Assembly

*Brent Johnson, President*

*Tyson Cox, Vice President*

*Kelly Cooper*

*Cindy Ecklund*

*Bill Elam*

*Brent Hibbert*

*Peter Ribbens*

*Ryan Tunseth*

*Mike Tupper*

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Tuesday, July 9, 2024

6:00 PM

Betty J. Glick Assembly Chambers

Meeting ID: 895 1103 3332 Passcode: 193069

[https://yourkpb.zoom.us/j/89511033332?](https://yourkpb.zoom.us/j/89511033332?pwd=GThg6CA4QuaaPihm3rpMKljbZoy5ZG.1)

[pwd=GThg6CA4QuaaPihm3rpMKljbZoy5ZG.1](https://yourkpb.zoom.us/j/89511033332?pwd=GThg6CA4QuaaPihm3rpMKljbZoy5ZG.1)

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### CALL TO ORDER

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### INVOCATION

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

### ROLL CALL

**Present:** 9 - Brent Hibbert, Cindy Ecklund, Mike Tupper, Brent Johnson, Tyson Cox, Ryan Tunseth, Kelly Cooper, Peter Ribbens, and Bill Elam

Also present were:

Peter A. Micciche, Borough Mayor

Brandi Harbaugh, Finance Director

Sean Kelley, Borough Attorney

Michele Turner, Borough Clerk

Jason Kasper, Deputy Borough Clerk

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

[9 Present: Cox, Cooper, Ecklund, Elam, Hibbert, Ribbens, Tunseth, Tupper, Johnson/0 Absent]

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

*[9 Present: Cox, Cooper, Ecklund, Elam, Hibbert, Ribbens, Tunseth, Tupper, Johnson/0 Absent]*

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

*[9 Present: Cox, Cooper, Ecklund, Elam, Hibbert, Ribbens, Tunseth, Tupper, Johnson/0 Absent]*

Assembly President Johnson stated the Committee of the Whole met and discussed its agenda item.

*[9 Present: Cox, Cooper, Ecklund, Elam, Hibbert, Ribbens, Tunseth, Tupper, Johnson/0 Absent]*

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

**Cox 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-6162](#) June 18, 2024 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:

[2024-19-01](#) An Ordinance Appropriating \$4,000,000 from the U.S. Treasury Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Funds to Support the Central Peninsula Landfill Leachate Infrastructure Capital Improvements (Mayor)  
**This Budget Ordinance was enacted.**

[2024-030](#) A Resolution Approving the Project Scope of Work for the Renovation of the 203 Pioneer Avenue Property for South Kenai Peninsula Hospital Service Area Purposes (Mayor)  
**This Resolution was adopted.**

New Business

[2024-031](#) A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Lease Agreement with the USDA Forest Service for the Cooper Mountain

Communications Site to Support Emergency Management  
Communications Equipment (Mayor)

**This Resolution was adopted.**

[2024-032](#)

A Resolution Adopting Joint Resolution No. 2024-001 of the Assembly of the Kenai Peninsula Borough and Councils of the Cities of Homer, Kachemak, Kenai, Seldovia, Seward and Soldotna, Supporting a Request the City of Kenai's Small Community Air Service Development Grant Proposal to Support Incentives Aimed at Direct Air Service from the Kenai Municipal Airport to Seattle/Tacoma and the Lower 48 (Mayor and Assembly)

**This Resolution was adopted.**

[2023-19-55](#)

An Ordinance Recording FY2024 Expenditures Paid by the State of Alaska Department of Administration, Division of Retirement & Benefits on behalf of the Kenai Peninsula Borough toward the Borough's Unfunded PERS Liability (Mayor)

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

[2024-19-02](#)

An Ordinance Re-Appropriating Funds to Provide for KPB Public Relations, Tourism Promotion, and Economic Development (Mayor)

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

[2024-18](#)

An Ordinance Authorizing the Assessor to Accept One Late-Filed Disabled Veteran Disability Documentation Filed After March 31 and Providing an Exception to KPB 5.12.040(B) (Mayor)

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

[2024-21](#)

An Ordinance Accepting Emergency Response Equipment from the Bear Creek Volunteer Fire & EMS, Inc. ("BCV") on Behalf of Bear Creek Fire Service Area and Reconveying Used Equipment Back to BCV (Mayor)

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

[2024-20](#)

An Ordinance Amending KPB 2.56.007 to Incorporate the Funny River Community Plan as an Element of the 2019 Kenai Peninsula Borough Comprehensive Plan for that Portion of the Borough (Mayor)

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

[KPB-6175](#)

Petition to Vacate a 254' x 33' Portion of Galankin Street, Salamatof Area, KPB 2022-118V

[Clerk's Note: At its regularly scheduled meeting of June 24, 2024 the Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission approved the proposed vacation by unanimous consent.]

approved.

#### Approval of the Agenda and Consent Agenda

President Johnson called for public comment.

**Terry Eubank**, Kenai City Manager spoke in support of Resolution 2024-032.

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

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

**Yes:** 9 - Hibbert, Ecklund, Tupper, Johnson, Cox, Tunseth, Cooper, Ribbens, and Elam

#### COMMENDING RESOLUTIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

1. [KPB-6179](#) Legislative Citation from Senator Jesse Bjorkman Congratulating the Kenai Peninsula Borough on its 60th Anniversary

*[Clerk's Note: Senator Bjorkman presented the legislative citation to the Assembly and Borough Mayor.]*

#### PRESENTATIONS WITH PRIOR NOTICE

1. [KPB-6163](#) Kenai Peninsula Borough School District Quarterly Report, Kari Dendurent, Assistant Superintendent (10 Minutes)

*[Clerk's Note: Kari Dendurent, Assistant Superintendent gave a presentation to the Assembly.]*

2. [KPB-6164](#) State of Alaska's Election Processes, Carol Beecher, Division of Elections Director (10 Minutes)

*[Clerk's Note: Carol Beecher, Division of Elections Director gave a presentation to the Assembly.]*

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

President Johnson called for public comment.

The following people addressed the Assembly regarding highway improvements at MP 115 on the Sterling Highway:

**Brother Tom Patmore**  
**Celeste Thomas**

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

## MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor's Report Cover Memo

[KPB-6174](#) Mayors Cover Memo

1. Assembly Requests/Responses

None

2. Agreements and Contracts

- a. [KPB-6165](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for ITB24-060 Nikolaevsk Boiler Replacement
- b. [KPB-6166](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for ITB24-062 Nikiski North Star Elementary School Parking Lot Crack Sealant
- c. [KPB-6167](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for ITB24-063 Nikiski Middle / High School Parking Lot Crack Sealant
- d. [KPB-6168](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for ITB24-064 Lawton Drive Fuel Mitigation
- e. [KPB-6169](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for RFP24-015 Broadband Project 06.14.24
- f. [KPB-6170](#) Authorization to Award a Contract for RFP24-023 Emergency Responder Medical Physical-Testing Requirements

3. Other

- a. [KPB-6171](#) South Peninsula Hospital Project Update – Project 21SHB Remodel of Kachemak Professional Building
- b. [KPB-6172](#) Budget Revisions – May 2024
- c. [KPB-6173](#) Revenue-Expenditure Report – May 2024

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

[2024-17](#) An Ordinance Amending KPB 2.56.040 to Incorporate the City of Soldotna Riverfront Development Plan as an Element of the Official Comprehensive Plan for that Portion of the Borough within the Boundaries of the City of Soldotna (Mayor, Cox)

**Ecklund moved to enact Ordinance 2024-17.**

President Johnson called for public comment.

**John Czarneski**, City of Soldotna Planner spoke in support of Ordinance 2024-17.

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

**The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Yes:** 9 - Hibbert, Ecklund, Tupper, Johnson, Cox, Tunseth, Cooper, Ribbens, and Elam

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- [2024-029](#) (Cox, Hibbert) Substitute: A Resolution Placing an Areawide Question on the October 2024 Ballot Asking whether the Borough Should Levy Up to a 12 Percent Lodging Tax on Short-Term Rental Accommodations and Overnight Camping Facilities, Exempt these Rentals from the General Sales Tax, and Provide that up to One Half of the Tax may be Exempted Inside Cities with an Adopted Lodging Tax (Cox, Hibbert)

[Clerk's Note: Hibbert gave notice to remove Resolution 2024-029 (Cox, Hibbert) Substitute from the table on 06/18/24.]

*[Clerk's Note: A motion to reconsider Resolution 2024-029 (Cox, Hibbert) Substitute was not made. The resolution remains on the table.]*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS**

President Johnson called for public comment.

The following people spoke in support of the Division of Elections presentation by Director Carol Beecher:

**Gail Knobf**

**Ouida Parker****Donna Aderhold**, Homer**Barbara Jewell**, Soldotna

**Senator Jesse Bjorkman**, addressed the Assembly regarding standardized testing in schools, statute requirements for posting election results, and the natural gas needs in the State of Alaska.

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

**ASSEMBLY COMMENTS**

Assembly Member Elam thanked everyone for attending and wished everyone a good evening.

Assembly Member Ribbens echoed Mr. Elam's comments. He stated he especially appreciated the presentation on state elections.

Assembly Member Hibbert stated he hoped everyone enjoyed the rest of the summer and see you in August.

Assembly Member Tunseth thanked the Assembly Members and the Mayor stating he gained a lot of knowledge from each. He stated Mayor Micciche has done a great job. Mr. Tunseth thanked the staff for their work as well. He thanked everyone for their testimony and the election workers for their service. He also thanked Senator Bjorkman and Representative Ruffridge for the work they were doing on our behalf. Mr. Tunseth agreed with the Mayor's comments and expressed his frustrations with the Governor's line item vetos that appear to be targeted at the Kenai Peninsula Borough. He reminded everyone of the upcoming events in Kenai.

Assembly Member Cooper stated she echoed a lot of Mr. Tunseth's comments and wished everyone a great month of July.

Assembly Member Ecklund thanked the League of Women voters for their testimony. She reminded everyone to drive safe.

Assembly Vice President Cox thanked the League of Women voters and all the election workers for the work they do. He stated recommendations from the Voter Turnout Working group would be coming forward at a future Assembly meeting.

President Johnson expressed his condolences for the passing of Paul Shadura. He stated he and his wife attended their 50th class reunion.

**INFORMATIONAL MATERIALS AND REPORTS**

**ASSEMBLY MEETING AND HEARING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 1. August 6, 2024 6:00 PM  
Regular Assembly Meeting  
Council Chambers, Homer City Hall  
491 E. Pioneer Avenue, Homer  
Remote participation available through Zoom  
Meeting ID: 895 1103 3332 Passcode: 193069

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the assembly, President Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

I certify the above represents accurate minutes of the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly meeting of July 9, 2024.

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Michele Turner, CMC, Borough Clerk

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