

**KENAI CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
 OCTOBER 19, 2023 – 6:00 P.M.
 KENAI CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
 210 FIDALGO AVE., KENAI, AK 99611
 MAYOR BRIAN GABRIEL, PRESIDING**

MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Kenai City Council was held on Thursday, October 19, 2023, in City Hall Council Chambers, Kenai, AK. Mayor Gabriel called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Gabriel led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

There were present:

Brian Gabriel, Mayor	Henry Knackstedt
Deborah Sounart	Alex Douthit
Victoria Askin (<i>remote participation</i>)	

A quorum was present.

Absent:

James Baisden, Vice Mayor
 Teea Winger

Also in attendance were:

**Xinlan Tanner, Student Representative
 Terry Eubank, City Manager
 Scott Bloom, City Attorney
 David Swarner, Finance Director
 Dave Ross, Police Chief
 Tyler Best, Parks and Recreation Director
 Mary Bondurant, Interim Airport Manager
 Shellie Saner, City Clerk

3. Certification of the October 3, 2023 Election Results

The City Clerk read the results of the October 3, 2023 election as follow:

FOR CITY COUNCIL, TWO THREE-YEAR TERMS

Candidates	Polls	Absentee / Questioned	Total Votes
KNACKSTEDT, Henry H.	318	119	437
DANIEL, Phillip D. (Phil)	256	70	326
WINGER, Teea M.	262	59	321
PETTEY, Glenese	238	74	312
Write-In	5	2	7

MOTION:

Council Member Knackstedt **MOVED** to certify the results of the October 3, 2023 Election as presented. Council Member Sounart **SECONDED** the motion.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT was requested.

VOTE: Motion **APPROVED**; without objection.

[Clerk's Note: Reelected Council Member Knackstedt and newly elected Council Member Daniel were administered their oath of office for a term beginning on October 23, 2023.]

4. Agenda Approval

MOTION:

Council Member Knackstedt **MOVED** to approve the agenda and consent agenda. Council Member Sounart **SECONDED** the motion.

The items on the Consent Agenda were read into the record.

Mayor Gabriel opened the floor for public comment on consent agenda items; there being no one wishing to be heard, the public comment period was closed.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT was requested.

VOTE: Motion **APPROVED**; without objection.

All items listed with an asterisk () are considered to be routine and non-controversial by the council and will be approved by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these items unless a council member so requests, in which case the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda as part of the General Orders.

B. SCHEDULED ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS - None.

C. SCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENTS - None.

D. UNSCHEDULED PUBLIC COMMENTS

Marion Nelson, Kenai Fine Art Center Board President addressed the Council noting the Harvest Auction went well and provided an update regarding the current show and the upcoming shows; and the process involved with large murals.

Tim Navarre addressed the Council regarding the development of a citizens review board for actions of the police; and options for the public when they have a complaint against the police.

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 1. Ordinance No. 3374-2023** - Increasing Estimated Revenues and Appropriations in the Airport Fund for the Purchase of Aviation Fuel Due to Fuel Sales at the Kenai Municipal Airport Float Plane Basin Being in Excess of Budgeted Amounts. (Administration)

MOTION:

Council Member Sounart **MOVED** to enact Ordinance No. 3374-2023. Council Member Knackstedt **SECONDED** the motion.

Mayor Gabriel opened the floor for public comment. There being no one wishing to be heard, the public comment period was closed.

VOTE:

YEA: Douthit, Askin, Gabriel, Sounart, Knackstedt
NAY: None
ABSENT: Baisden, Winger
**Student Representative Tanner: Yea
MOTION PASSED.

F. MINUTES

1. *Regular Meeting of October 4, 2023. (City Clerk)

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. ***Action/Approval** - Bills to be Ratified. (Administration)

Approved by the consent agenda.

2. ***Action/Approval** - Non-Objection to the Renewal of a Retail Marijuana Store License for Cook Inlet Cannabis Co., DBA East Rip - License No. 13382. (City Clerk)

Approved by the consent agenda.

3. ***Action/Approval** - Non-Objection to the Renewal of a Retail Marijuana Store License KRC LLC, DBA Kenai River Cannabis - License No. 17808. (City Clerk)

Approved by the consent agenda.

4. ***Ordinance No. 3375-2023** - Accepting and Appropriating Donations from the Kenaitze Indian Tribe to Both the Animal Shelter and the Senior Center. (Administration)

Introduced by the consent agenda and Public Hearing set for November 1, 2023.

5. ***Ordinance No. 3376-2023** - Increasing Estimated Revenues and Appropriations in the General Fund, Parks and Recreation Department for the Purchase of Playground Equipment Utilizing a Grant from Marathon Petroleum. (Administration)

Introduced by the consent agenda and Public Hearing set for November 1, 2023.

6. **Action/Approval** - Airport Terminal Landscaping Project Revision - Bronze Bear Project. (Administration)

It was reported that during the Airport Terminal Rehabilitation Project the landscaping and irrigation systems were removed; landscaping and irrigation were included in the City Capital Improvement Plan as they were not eligible to be funded in the rehabilitation project; an individual from the US Fish and Wildlife services contacted the City regarding the creation of a bronze statute for the Airport; these bronze statutes are becoming very popular; the estimated cost of the statute is \$200,000; and the administration is looking for general direction to move forward on this project by looking for community partners, sponsorships and other opportunities to bring the bronze statutes to the Airport.

There was general consensus to proceed with the project prioritizing landscaping at this time; and, to pursue grant funding opportunities and working with community partners for the statue funding.

I. COMMISSION / COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Council on Aging

No report, next meeting November 9, 2023.

2. Airport Commission

Council Member Askin reported on the October 12, 2023 meeting, next meeting November 9, 2023.

3. Harbor Commission

No report, next meeting November 6, 2023.

4. Parks and Recreation Commission

Council Member Knackstedt reported on the October 5, 2023 joint work session held with the Beautification Committee.

5. Planning and Zoning Commission

No report, next meeting October 25, 2023.

6. Beautification Committee

No report, next meeting January 10, 2024.

J. REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Gabriel reported on the following:

- Attending the Kenai Fine Art Center Harvest Auction
- Thanked Vice Mayor Baisden for filling in for him at the last meeting; thanked Council Member Knackstedt for filling in for him at the Alaska Historical Society meeting; and thanked Council Member Douthit for filling in for him at the Pumpkin Festival's Pumpkin Drop.
- He congratulated newly elected Council Member Daniel and re-elected Council Member Knackstedt.
- Thanked all of the candidates who ran for office.
- The Kenai Post Office was eligible for an award based on customer feedback and was competing against a town from Idaho for the award.

K. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

1. City Manager – City Manager Eubank reported on the following:

- Three Public Safety Life Saver Awards were awarded to City Emergency Services employees.
- Provided an update on the Bluff Stabilization Project noting the Authorization for Construction was signed today.
- Employee benefits renewals and classification study was currently in process.
- Attendance at the International City Manager Association Conference (ICMA).
- The City was given no notice from Ravn that they were ceasing operations at the Kenai Airport, the City received notification when the Ravn employees were notified.

2. City Attorney - No report.

3. City Clerk – City Clerk Saner reported on the following:

- Commission and Committee requirement is now open, with an application deadline set early enough so that appointments can take place prior to January 1, 2024 when the new terms begin.

L. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Citizen Comments (*Public comments limited to (5) minutes per speaker*) - None.

2. Council Comments

Council Member Askin congratulated Council Members Knackstedt and Daniel on their election; noted she had attended the HAVA Alaska fundraiser; and volunteering in the cemetery imaging project.

Council Member Douthit reported that the Pumpkin Festival was a lot of fun, the pumpkin drop target was expanded, there were 1,500 attendees; and reported that the Board of Fish did not schedule a meeting on the Kenai Peninsula.

Student Representative Tanner reported on Connection Home School Activities: attending the Kenai Peninsula Borough Home School Program Meeting; PSAT testing; community service opportunities; and Civil Air Patrol activities. Kenai Central High School: update on athletic competitions; volunteered at the annual Ski Swap event; and the Kenai Central High School Football Team won the Division III Championship.

Council Member Sounart stated she had heard Mr. Navarre's comments; congratulated Student Representative Tanner for being selected as a student flutist who was selected for the Alaska All State Band.

Council Member Knackstedt reported attending the Alaska State Historical meeting; the Kenai Peninsula Borough meeting hosted by Mayor Micciche that include representatives from the State of Alaska Department of Transportation to discuss the use of brine on our roads, noting there was a lot of testimony and that apparently brine was not being used in Anchorage or Palmer.

M. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - None.


N. **PENDING ITEMS**

O. **ADJOURNMENT**

P. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS** - None.

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

I certify the above represents accurate minutes of the Kenai City Council meeting of October 19, 2023.



Michelle M. Saner, MMC
City Clerk

*** The student representative may cast advisory votes on all matters except those subject to executive session discussion. Advisory votes shall be cast in the rotation of the official council vote and shall not affect the outcome of the official council vote. Advisory votes shall be recorded in the minutes. A student representative may not move or second items during a council meeting.*