

**DECEMBER 4, 2024  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
ADDITIONAL MATERIAL/REVISIONS**

**REQUESTED ADDITIONS TO THE PACKET**

<b><u>ACTION</u></b>	<b><u>ITEM</u></b>	<b><u>REQUESTED BY</u></b>	<b><u>PAGE</u></b>
Add to Item H.7.	<b>Discussion – Scheduling a Joint Work Session with Kenaitze</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Memo and Draft Agenda</li></ul>	City Manager	2
Add to Item K.1.	<b>City Manager’s Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board Meeting Report</li></ul>	City Manager	4

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor Gabriel and Council Members

**FROM:** Terry Eubank, City Manager

**DATE:** December 4, 2024

**SUBJECT:** **Scheduling a Joint Work Session with Kenaitze Tribal Council**

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The annual Joint Work Session of the Kenai and Kenaitze Tribal Councils traditionally takes place in January. The administration is recommending this year's work session take place at the Kenai Visitor and Cultural Center. The Kenai Chamber of Commerce Cultural Center Coordinator, in cooperation the members of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, has been reworking the Cultural Center with a grand reopening scheduled for January 15<sup>th</sup>. In addition to the work being done, the Cultural Center Coordinator has planned monthly themed shows for 2025 which will include lectures. These monthly shows will highlight different time periods of Kenai's history. Part of this year's work session will be a tour by the Cultural Center Coordinator.

To facilitate the scheduling of this year's work session, the administration has proposed the following dates and times for the meeting:

- Wednesday, January 15 at 4:00 p.m.
- Thursday, January 16, at 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, January 17 at 6:00 p.m.

Kenaitze staff are working with their Council to select one of these dates or propose another. I expect to have their response prior to the December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. A draft agenda has also been provided to the Tribe to which they may add additional items. The draft agenda is included for your review and for the addition of additional items Council may feel appropriate.

The Administration anticipates an Action/Approval Item to be included on the December 18, 2024 Council Agenda to schedule the 2025 Annual Joint Work Session and approve its agenda. Annual work session represents an important opportunity to strengthen inter-Council cooperation and this year will spotlight the efforts to renew the Kenai Visitor and Cultural Center's cultural exhibit as a significant cultural and historical asset of the community.



**Kenai City Council – Joint Work Session  
with Kenaitze Tribal Council**

**Date/Time: TBD**

**Kenai Visitor Center**

**11471 Kenai Spur Hwy, Kenai, Alaska**

**[www.kenai.city](http://www.kenai.city)**

**Agenda**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

**B. INTRODUCTION**

1. Introduction of Kenai City Council and Staff (Mayor Gabriel)
2. Introduction of Kenaitze Tribal Council and Staff (Chair Atchison)

**C. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Kenai Bluff Stabilization Project Update (Kenai City Manager)
2. Kenai Police Department and Kenaitze Tribal Security Coordination/Collaboration Update (Kenai Police Chief)
3. Old Town Playground Refurbishment Project Update (Kenai Parks & Recreation Director)
4. Kenai Municipal Airport Direct Air Service to Seattle/Tacoma Project Update (Kenai Airport Manager)
5. Cemetery Creek Culvert Replacement Project Update (Kenai Public Works Director)
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

**D. KENAI CULTURAL CENTER TOUR**

1. Danielle Lopez Stamm , Kenai Chamber of Commerce Cultural Center Coordinator

**E. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**F. TRIBAL COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**G. CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**H. ADJOURNMENT**

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor Gabriel and Council Members

**THROUGH:** Terry Eubank, City Manager

**FROM:** Tyler Best, Parks and Recreation Director

**DATE:** December 4<sup>th</sup> 2024

**SUBJECT:** **Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board Meeting Recap**

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This Fall, the Parks and Recreation Director, Tyler Best, was appointed to the Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board as the City of Kenai Representative. The City of Kenai is a voting member of this advisory board. The Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board was originally created in 1985 under the authority of A.S. 41.21.510. The original Board was charged with developing a comprehensive management plan for the Kenai River. The original Comprehensive Plan was completed and the Board disbanded in 1986. In 1988, a new board was appointed to advise the Department of Natural Resources on implementation of the Plan. In 1997, the Board worked to update the Kenai River Comprehensive Management Plan, and it was adopted in December 1997. In May 2004, the Alaska Legislature passed a bill that changed the composition of the board from what the law had directed in the original 1984 KRSMA statute.

Attached is a recap of the KRSMA meeting held on November 14th at 6:00 p.m. The next meeting will be on December 12th at 5:30 p.m. at the Kenai Refuge Visitor Center.

## **Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board Meeting Recap**

On November 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., I attended the Kenai River Special Manager Advisory Board meeting. The Board consists of 17 members: 9 public members, three agency voting members, and five agency non-voting members. The City of Kenai is one of the agencies voting member positions that I now represent.

At the start of the meeting, Dave Matoernowski, President and Shannon Martin, Vice President, were voted into

### **Public Comment**

Two members of the public who were in attendance complained that the KRSMA board needed better public notice of their meetings.

### **2024 Law Enforcement Report**

Despite a limited number of Rangers, significant enforcement and community assistance were achieved on the Kenai River in July:

#### Enforcement Actions

- Answered hundreds of questions regarding fishing and vessel operation rules.
- Issued over **150 warnings** and **29 citations** for violations of riparian habitat closures.
- Additional citations included:
  - **42 for snagging**
  - **8 for fishing without a license**
  - **6 boating safety violations**
  - **2 Boating equipment violations**
  - **4-operating a powerboat with more than six people onboard**

#### Search, Rescue, and Investigations

- Responded to several search and rescue missions, including a fatal incident involving a sport fisher. The Ranger gave recognition to a Guide who saw this bank fisherman in the water and was able to retrieve them from the water and tried to perform CPR.
- Successfully investigated and prosecuted an illegal guide for multiple misdemeanors.

#### Guide-Related Issues

- **Three guides cited and pleaded guilty** to riparian violations, safety equipment deficiencies, and professional conduct breaches.
- Ongoing cases include violations of coho regulations, USCG licensing, and general provisions.
- Increase in complaints about guides for snagged fish retention, habitat violations, and lighting issues.
- Improved patrols reduced early morning violations near Skilak Lake.

### Public Safety and Staffing Updates

- Collaborating on better habitat signage
- Kenai River State Park Rangers will be fully staffed for the 2025 season. Ranger Lana Davenport completed training, and Trooper Chris Johnson will join in December 2024.

Rangers donated over **100 illegally caught sockeye salmon** to local charities, benefiting the community while enforcing regulations.

### **DEC Report**

The Department of Environmental Conservation reported that they are having great success with their AQUA grants, and it had many applicants.

### **Alaska Department of Fish and Game (not present)**

Fish and game had no report to give

### **United States and Wildlife Service (not present)**

USFD&WS had no report to give

### **United States Forest Service**

The United States Forest Service gave an update on the Russian River Campground improvement. Their Contractor will continue working into February 2025 and begin construction again in early spring. It will pause again if the road cannot be completed by Memorial Day. The road will open for public use after Memorial Day until August 15th, when construction can be finished.

They are currently understaffed and hiring for a steam watch volunteer coordinator and the Russian River campground coordinator.

They have bought a small air curtain incinerator to help them burn slash from their spruce bark maintenance at the campground.

### **City of Kenai**

The City of Kenai reported another successful year of the Kenai River Dipnet Fishery, with more participants at North Beach, allowing for the most assessable bank fishing. The 2024 Dipnet report should be published in the next few weeks.

### **City of Soldotna**

The City of Soldotna reported that they continue to try to protect the banks at their parks on the river and that a small group of people restored a section of the bank just downstream of Centennial Park.

**Public Comment**

Two members of the public who were in attendance testified that the KRSMA board needed better public notice of their meetings.