

KENAI CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
AUGUST 6, 2025 – 6:00 P.M.
KENAI CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
210 FIDALGO AVE., KENAI, AK 99611
VICE MAYOR HENRY KNACKSTEDT, PRESIDING

MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

A Regular Meeting of the Kenai City Council was held on August 6, 2025, in City Hall Council Chambers, Kenai, AK. Vice Mayor Knackstedt called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Vice Mayor Knackstedt led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Roll Call

There were present:

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Henry Knackstedt, Vice Mayor | Sovala Kisena (<i>remote participation</i>) |
| Phil Daniel | Deborah Sounart |
| Alex Douthit | Victoria Askin |
| Sovala Kisena | |

A quorum was present.

Absent:

Brian Gabriel, Mayor

Also in attendance were:

**Xiling Tanner, Student Representative
Terry Eubank, City Manager
David Swarner, Finance Director
Kevin Buettner, Planning Director
Lee Frey, Public Works Director
Dave Ross, Police Chief
Shellie Saner, City Clerk

3. Agenda and Consent Agenda Approval

MOTION:

Council Member Askin **MOVED** to approve the agenda. Council Member Sounart **SECONDED** the motion.

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

Vice Mayor Knackstedt 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

Ellen Sheehan addressed the Council with concerns regarding the staffing levels, and the twelve-day closure of the Kenai Animal Shelter; she requested the City Council take steps to support the Animal Control Officer to restore stability to the shelter.

Sherry Powell addressed the Council with concerns regarding activities on Kiana Lane, noting she recently moved into her home on Kiana Lane; she described disturbance activities from a neighboring home, which included loose dogs, loud music, high volumes of traffic, yelling and screaming and drones flying over her property; and she reported that the Kenai Police Department recently raided the property.

Paul Gold addressed the Council with concerns regarding activities on Kiana Lane, stating he would like to see the City get involved with the problems, including getting the neighbor to clean up their property; address the on-street parking problem; and the invasion of privacy with drone activity.

Recommendations from Council to Ms. Powell and Mr. Gold included: continued conversations with the Police Department and reaching out to the Planning Director to address code violations.

Brad Brown addressed the Council regarding the activities on Kiana Lane; commended the Police Department on their recent raid; urged Council to continue supporting the Police Department by adopting new ordinances and providing funding for enforcement efforts.

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 1. Resolution No. 2025-48 - Authorizing a Contract Award for the Vintage Pointe Exterior Door Replacement. (Administration)**

MOTION:

Council Member Askin **MOVED** to adopt Resolution No. 2025-48. Council Member Sounart **SECONDED** the motion.

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

Clarification was provided regarding the number of doors and their locations.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT was requested.

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

- 2. Resolution No. 2025-49 - Authorizing a Contract Award for the Street Condition Assessment. (Administration)**

MOTION:

Council member Askin **MOVED** to adopt Resolution No. 2025-49. Council Member Daniel **SECONDED** the motion.

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

There was discussion in support of this project and clarification was provided regarding the scope of work.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT was requested.

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

3. Resolution No. 2025-50 - Authorizing a Contract Award for the Street Light Assessment.
(Administration)

MOTION:

Council Member Askin **MOVED** to adopt Resolution No. 2025-50. Council Member Daniel **SECONDED** the motion.

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

There was discussion in support of this project and clarification was provided regarding this project and how it would interface with current repairs.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT was requested.

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

4. Resolution No. 2025-51 - Authorizing a Purchase of Water Treatment Chemicals.
(Administration)

MOTION:

Council Member Askin **MOVED** to adopt Resolution No. 2025-51. Council Member Sounart **SECONDED** the motion.

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

Clarification was provided that this was for water treatment and represented a savings of roughly \$8,000 per tote.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT was requested.

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

5. Resolution No. 2025-52 - Declaring a Right-of-Way for a 60' by 230' Portion of Sixth Street as Dedicated Between Lots 2 & 3, Kenai Meadows Addition No. 1 (Plat 2023-48), Not Needed for a Public Purpose and Consenting to its Vacation. (Administration)

MOTION:

Council Member Askin **MOVED** to adopt Resolution No. 2025-52. Council Member Sounart **SECONDED** the motion.

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

Clarification was provided that the dedication would take place later during the platting process.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT was requested.

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

F. MINUTES

1. *Special Meeting of June 30, 2025. (City Clerk)
2. *Regular Meeting of July 2, 2025. (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** - Purchase Orders and Purchase Order Amendments Requiring Council Approval in Accordance with KMC 7.15.020. (Administration)

Approved by the consent agenda.

3. ***Action/Approval** - Consent to Assignment and Assignment and Assumption of Lease Agreement, of Lot 2, Block 1, General Aviation Apron No. 1 Amended. (Administration)

Approved by the consent agenda.

4. ***Ordinance No. 3481-2025 - Increasing Estimated Fiscal Year 2025 Revenues and Appropriations in the General Fund - Police Department and Accepting a Grant from the Alaska High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area for Drug Investigation Overtime Expenditures. (Administration)**

Introduced by the consent agenda and Public Hearing set for August 20, 2025.

5. **Ordinance No. 3482-2025** - Amending the Official Zoning Map and Land Use Table by Rezoning Thirteen Properties Zoned with Multiple Zones and Assigning One Zoning District Per Parcel, Tract, or Government Lot. (Douthit)

MOTION:

Council Member Douthit **MOVED** to introduce Ordinance 3482-2025, refer the Ordinance to the August 27, 2025 Planning and Zoning Commission meeting for Commission recommendation, and schedule the Public Hearing for September 3, 2025. Council Member Askin **SECONDED** the motion.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT was requested on the motion.

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

I. COMMISSION / COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Council on Aging Commission

Vice Mayor Knackstedt reported on the July 10, 2025 meeting, next meeting August 14, 2025.

2. Airport Commission

Council Member Daniel reported on the July 10, 2025 work session, next meeting cancelled.

3. Harbor Commission

No report, next meeting cancelled.

4. Parks and Recreation Commission

No report, next meeting cancelled.

5. Planning and Zoning Commission

Council Member Sounart reported on the July 23, 2025 meeting, next meeting August 27, 2025.

6. Beautification Commission

No report, next meeting September 9, 2025.

J. REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Vice Mayor Knackstedt relayed the following messages from Mayor Gabriel:

- Mayor Gabriel's apology for missing the meeting due to set netting opening for the first time in three-years.
- Mayor Gabriel's announcement that he would not be running for re-election.

K. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

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

- Recruitment has been extended for the Airport Manager, Building Official and Chief Animal Control Officer positions.
- Mary Bondurant has agreed to serve as Temporary Airport Manager.
- Provided an update regarding the State of Alaska, Kenai Spur Highway Phase II project.
- Information on pool operations has been requested from the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District.
- Personal Use Fisher concluded on July 31, revenue was strong this year and reported tent camping occurring in residential subdivisions.
- Applications for the Storefront Improvement Program were available and due by October 17.
- There were 14 respondents to the RFP to perform a statistically valid community survey.
- The Library Summer Reading Program final event will be on Thursday, August 7.
- Included in the packet is the FY2024 PAFR.
- Regarding the temporary closure of the Animal Shelter, no animals were euthanized to accommodate the closure; the only closure is the area available to the public for adoption of animals; the City is still responding to animal emergencies; staff would still be taking care of animals; the closure is predicated on preserving the employees that we do have.

2. City Attorney - No report.

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

- Candidate Filing period is open until August 15, 2025 at 4:30 p.m.
- There are vacancies on the Beautification, Council on Aging, Harbor and Parks & Recreation Commissions.

L. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Citizen Comments (*Public comments limited to (5) minutes per speaker*)

Marion Nelson addressed the Council with concerns regarding progress on the State of Alaska, Kenai Spur Highway rehabilitation project; commended the improved beach cleanup measures taken during the dipnet season; and provided an update on current exhibits at the Art Center.

2. Council Comments

Council Member Kisena noted his appreciation for the 4th of July festivities; welcomed Marcie Murphy, the new Principal for Kaleidoscope School of Arts; thanked Mayor Gabriel for his service; and congratulated the Grace Khan and City of Kenai Student Representative, Xiling Tanner for receiving that Alaska Communications (ACS), 2025 Summer of Heroes scholarship award.

Council Member Douthit reported his contributions to the 4th of July activities included sitting in the Dunk Tank, which he did again for the Soldotna's Progress Days event; and noted his appreciation for the amazing summer and fishing season.

Student Representative Tanner provided information on the upcoming registration process for the new school year; provided an update on Kenai Central High School sports; and noted that Connections will have a booth at the Soldotna Sport Center Field House grand opening.

Council Member Sounart congratulated Student Representative Tanner; and wished everyone a happy summer.

Council Member Askin thanked the Finance Department for the PAFR; congratulated Student Representative Tanner; noted her appreciation for the 4th of July festivities; and reminded everyone to be safe.

Council Member Daniel congratulated Student Representative Tanner; thanked City Manager and staff for all they do; and noted he was looking forward to meeting new Deputy Clerk, Logan Parks.

M. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None.

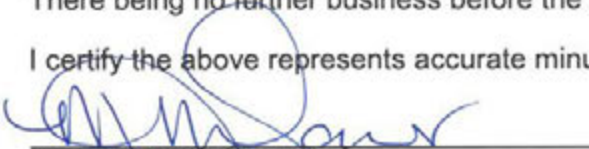
N. PENDING ITEMS - None.

O. ADJOURNMENT

P. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS - None.

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

I certify the above represents accurate minutes of the Kenai City Council meeting of August 6, 2025.



Michelle M. Saher, MMC
City Clerk

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