DECEMBER 1, 2021 CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING ADDITIONAL MATERIAL/REVISIONS

REQUESTED ADDITIONS TO THE PACKET:

ACTION	ITEM	REQUESTED BY
Add to item D.1.	Ordinance No. 3254-2021	
	Written Public Comment	City Clerk
Add to item D.5.	Resolution No. 2021-70	
	Written Public Comment	City Clerk
Add to item G.3.	Ordinance No. 3257-2021	
	Written Public Comments	City Clerk
Add to item G.3.	Ordinance No. 3260-2021	
	Written Public Comment	City Clerk
Add to item G.7.	Land Management Plan Discussion	
	 Email from City Manager 	City Manager
	Written Public Comment	City Clerk
Add item O.5.	Information Items	
	 Letter Regarding Halibut Abundance- 	
	Based management	Council Member Winger

Dear Kenai City Council Members:

I wholeheartedly support Ordinance 3254-2021 re: remote electronic participation at Planning and Zoning Commission meetings, and encourage the Council to approve this ordinance.

I attended a Planning & Zoning Commission meeting in November, and saw for myself how well this works. It was especially important in assisting the Commission to decide on a conditional use permit (CUP) for a bed & breakfast/dormitory in the Inlet View Subdivision (Rogers Road) area.

And by the way, the changes to the Conditional Use Permit ordinance are such an improvement. So thank you for approving the ordinance improving the CUP ordinance. It was very good to have see at the November Commission meeting that the CUP applicants were available in person and on Zoom to answer questions, instead of expecting the Planning Director to have all the answers.

Thank you for your consideration of this email.

Kristine Schmidt 513 Ash Avenue Kenai, Alaska 99611 (907) 283-7373 (office)

From:	Kristine Schmidt
То:	<u>City Clerk</u>
Subject:	Re: Please Vote No On Resolution 2021-70
Date:	Tuesday, November 30, 2021 2:45:51 PM

Dear Kenai City Council Members:

Please vote no on Resolution 2021-70. I have always believed that the Kenai City Council should avoid making ineffective political statements, and prioritize its chief duty to oversee local government services. This resolution is divisive and counterproductive. It expresses a view that I believe is not shared by the majority of Kenai residents.

Government mandates during a public health crisis are common in American history. And vaccine mandates are a regular part of American public school attendance, right now. The City Council should be encouraging vaccination and mask-wearing so that our community can recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, and this resolution does the opposite.

Thank you for considering this comment.

Kristine Schmidt 513 Ash Avenue Kenai, Alaska 99611 (907) 283-7373 (office) kschmidt110@gmail.com

From:	<u>Tamra Wear</u>
То:	City Clerk; Brian G. Gabriel, Sr.
Subject:	The Power of Libraries
Date:	Monday, November 29, 2021 12:29:43 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders. Dear Mayor Gabriel and Kenai City Council Members,

I hope you had a restful holiday with family and friends. I wanted to send my support for the Kenai Public Library. Director Wolfe has the expertise and experience to select library materials that meet the needs of her patrons. Since we live in a community that can get quite divided, I feel it is important to remember that our First Amendment Rights, Intellectual Freedom, and the Freedom to Read are integral components of a democratic society. There is no place for censorship in our libraries.

Please stay strong and remember that we are all citizens of a wonderful, diverse country. Take care,

Tamra Wear Soldotna H.S. Librarian

From:	Mary Jo joiner
То:	<u>City Council</u>
Cc:	Paul Ostrander
Subject:	Ordinance 3257-2021
Date:	Tuesday, November 30, 2021 9:04:26 AM

I thought I would be back in Alaska before this Ordinance came before the Council again. I will be in transit and unable to participate via Zoom.

My name is Mary Jo Joiner and I was the Library Director in Kenai for 14 years. I was the Library Director in West Tisbury, MA for t6 years before I moved to Kenai. And, for three years, I was a medical librarian at the Georgetown University Medical Center's Dahlgren Library.

I have watched the video from the Council meeting at which Ordinance 3257-2021 was discussed. I am appalled and disappointed by the actions and some of the comments of Council members.

First, let me thank City Manager Paul Ostrander for his supportive comments on the issue.

Second, Council Member Glenese Pettey deserves round of applause for her support of the Library Director and insightful comments.

I feel compelled at this juncture to point out, what should have been obvious, which is that it is the Library Director's duty and responsibility to select items for the collection. Period. If any person objects to an item in that collection there is a process in place to challenge its inclusion.

I will now address the public comments voiced at the meeting as well as some comments from Council.

To the person concerned with the word "equity" - Equity in the context of consumer health materials can mean many things, among them simply collecting material on diseases or conditions that are experienced by a smaller segment of the population. For example, adding items that might cover Lyme Disease or Sickle Cell Anemia in addition to more standard diseases such as heart disease, diabetes and cancer.

To the person who opined that we have enough items in the collection already - The standard rule of thumb in medical information is to replace every three years. Not only do treatments change fairly rapidly, but books are published after the fact. Current information is crucial and old information can be deadly.

Yes, there may be COVID information, but the likelihood that reliable texts have been created so fast in a rapidly changing environment is small. I would trust the library Director to balance any issues that are controversial.

Yes, the National Library of Medicine may be showcasing current issues, but the books the Library will be purchasing will not come from them.

The Council's discussion, request for a complete list of titles and action to postpone is nothing less than censorship. If I were the Director I would not produce any list. Your Library Director is a

professional and should be treated as such, including referring to her as Ms. Wolfe and not as Miss Katja.

Finally, the community response should have shamed this entity. I urge you to accept the grant as presented.

Mary Jo Joiner 34370 Lake Rd. Soldotna, AK 99669 Sent from my iPad

From:	<u>Meagan Zimpelmann</u>
To:	<u>City Council</u>
Subject:	Ordinance 3257 2021
Date:	Tuesday, November 30, 2021 10:35:48 AM
Attachments:	Library Ordinance.pdf

So sorry this letter is late...I was just hoping to write in support of Director Katja Wolfe and Library Ordinance 3257-2021.

Thank you so much for your time.



Mayor Gabriel and City Council Members:

I am writing to express my opinion on the recent debate concerning ordinance No 3257-2021. I admit to having a very personal stake in this issue and thank you in advance for considering my comments.

My long employment history *began* at the Kenai Community Library, where I was once hired as a Circulation and Periodicals Clerk. It was this entry job that set me on my final career path. With the encouragement of an amazingly diverse group of patrons and the guidance of caring, professional mentors, I obtained my Master's Degree in Library and Information Science, specializing in Reference and User Services. For over twenty years now, I have served as an academic librarian at Kenai Peninsula College. Experience in both the academic and public settings has given me a unique perspective — an in depth, "from the trenches" understanding of the many changes and challenges Alaskan libraries face in their day to day operations.

Needless to say, certain opinions recorded in both the October 20th and November 3rd meetings raised my alarm. Several comments skirted dangerously close to a call for censorship and need to be countered immediately.

All librarians, regardless of professional status, are taught to honor the ALA Library Bill of Rights and support every individual's Freedom to Read. The old battle-standard, cliché quote of "A truly great library contains something in it to offend everyone," still holds as vital, true and necessary. Librarians work to maintain collections that boast accuracy and currency. We put great deliberation into either the acquisition or deaccession of materials. We make constant efforts into improving access, carefully cataloging and classifying our resources (both physical and digital), so our users can easily connect with a wealth of reliable information. Most importantly, we strive to seek out works that reflect differing points of view — books, periodicals and media that contain ideas, images and opinions that might oppose our own ideology and experiences.

As such, I take issue with much of the reasoning currently being used to postpone the acceptance of a simple NNLM Grant Award.

First of all, I certainly stand against the idea that Kenai Community Library already owns too many resources on health topics. Titles that fall under medical subject headings quickly become dated, no longer appropriate for a working collection. New treatments, new technologies, new standards of care, new discoveries, even new legislation and consumer protections are constantly on the horizon. Health resources need continual appraisal in order to help our patrons make safer, more knowledgeable choices. Would you care to fight a potentially terminal disease with supplemental data that is perhaps a decade old? Would you want to be faced with a thin selection of materials when dealing with a personal health crisis, already overburdened with physical, emotional and financial strain? Would you want a loved one to investigate a chronic condition without reputable sources? What of our region's current medical professionals or those planning to seek further training and education in high demand health careers? Should they have limits placed on their ability to access research materials that have stood up to the rigors of peerreview?

One comment presented at the October 20th Council Meeting revealed the belief that a "half a dozen books on cancer" is enough. But consider reframing this to meet the basic concerns of cataloging, classification and context relevant to my profession:

- There are over 100 forms of cancer, each affecting different tissues and organs, each coming with wide-ranging treatments, options and uncertainties.
- The disease that strikes people at varied ages, income tiers, and levels of physical health and fitness.
- There are factors of environment or heredity at play.
- And what about addressing levels of literacy? A child dealing with the illness of a parent requires information that meets their understanding and reading level, delivered in a much more sensitive voice than the complex and technical evidence presented in your average medical textbook.
- Language? Accessibility for those in our community who may be visually impaired?
- Perspective? Is the information presented by someone fighting the disease or a professional seeking to treat it?
- At present, Kenai has a diverse population of nearly 8,000 residents, while recent census data indicates 60,000 residents for the extended Peninsula region, etc.

The list could go on and on. Of course, we can't purchase or store *everything* upon a library's shelves, but I would argue that **six titles** are *not* up to the task of addressing all of those variables.

Making it even more of a convoluted mess, the complaint seeking to drastically limit collections was preceded by another protest that argued that there are *no* underserved populations on the Kenai, despite the acknowledgment of Census Data indicating otherwise. These extremes are precisely why the final voice on the evaluation of resources should fall to those who fully understand, serve and recognize our population's dynamic. Librarians are *trained* to develop collections, maintaining them to meet the ever-growing needs of ever-growing, ever-changing communities.

While focused on the theme of training, I would also like to take a moment to remind the Council that Director Wolfe not only boasts a Master's Degree in Library Science, she possesses an *additional* Master's in the field Public Health. It is very disheartening to see her expertise, integrity and efforts diminished, all thanks to a muddled definition of one "triggering" buzzword, coupled with a dash of good old conspiracy ideation.

It is this fear of boogeymen, or sinister agendas lurking within professional organizations, that leads directly to the statement I found most dismaying. In a comment recorded at the October 20th meeting (approximately 1:24:25), a constituent clearly directs that Library staff and City Council "send me a list so I can come back and ask you to reject it." While I completely understand the wish for transparency, this was such a blatant example of bias. You have a city employee, someone who is advocating for literacy and public service, whose motives and intentions are being smeared with suspicion. You have a demand for a sweeping account of titles, but it is simultaneously paired with the resolve to deny further debate, no matter what such an index would reveal. No promise of consideration, no invitation for continued discussion, no intent for critical thought, just the bold promise of a predetermined verdict.

At the risk of sounding sarcastic, I don't think our community should be forced to "stick to their vegetables over desserts." Especially if said dish arrives with an unhealthy heaping of censorship or has to be choked down with the sour taste of fear-mongering.

With her specialized education and ethics, Director Wolfe is an asset to our community and should be allowed to fulfill her role while advancing the library's overall mission. She should be granted full discretion to examine potential titles, to determine which subject headings require an update, and to negotiate with vendors that will offer the most competitive pricing. She needs to gauge which reference resources might maintain their scope and value over the longest span of time and to weed out items that might show signs of damage and disrepair. She deserves the Council's trust to evaluate what subjects are lacking and what are in highest demand, to assess which items circulate most frequently and what materials are commonly being sourced from other libraries within our sharing consortium.

I believe Director Wolfe sought this award with the best of intentions. I have no doubt that the Council understands that grant writing is a very labor-intensive process, fraught with red tape, restrictions and the inevitable reapplication. The funds were set to be provided from a reputable institution (despite niche hints to the contrary). Full information about this particular grant and its requirements is *freely* available to anyone who puts in the effort of the most basic web search. In fact, one can easily locate the NNLM's disclaimer that states the organization holds no authority or responsibility for choosing resources: **the selection of materials is strictly up to each individual library**. Not everyone wins the brass ring or collects the prize: I believe there were only 6 awards available to Region 5, which includes Alaska, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and the U.S. Territories and Freely Associated States of the Pacific. Director Wolfe *won* this award through a sound and compelling proposal, tenacity and the desire to benefit her *whole* community.

Several public comments have placed emphasis on the issue of transparency, and I, too, had been hoping for a little more clarity. I had been wondering what was really motivating this challenge. If we go back to the beginning of the October 20th discussion, it seems Director Wolfe was initially pressed on whether there were plans to use award funds to add Covid-19 materials. The tone and line of questioning appeared to indicate opposition to the prospect. One could say this was confirmed in the November 3rd meeting, when the same constituent's talk on why censorship is historically necessary derailed into an off-topic rant about vaccinations, the government, the mainstream media, Ivermectin and our local hospital infection numbers and demographics. Can we please get back to the subject of libraries? Director Wolfe clearly stated she had no intention to utilize the grant to purchase Covid related materials, but I can't help but wonder why anyone would even take issue at all?

Turning once again to the Library Bill of Rights, Item II specifically directs librarians to seek materials and information on current and historical issues. I really hope that this whole situation isn't just a poorly masked attempt to prevent a critical topic from finding its place onto our

shelves and databases. This grant should not be branded as divisive or a shady attempt at "government overreach." It shouldn't be permitted to serve as a convenient tool to inflate already over-hyped partisan divide. Regardless of political leaning or party status, Covid-19 is an event with universal fallout that has claimed the lives of 5 million people around the globe; it has altered and shaped our experiences in innumerable ways for the past two years. Accounts of the disease, from our response, resiliency and achievements, to the impacts on our community relationships, infrastructure, economies and education will be discussed and analyzed for generations. This is a pandemic; research materials, vital statistics, and primary resources all need to be gathered and added to a vast and continuous information chain. *Libraries* are where these works are safeguarded. Professional librarians, not pseudo or armchair "experts," build collections where concepts and ideas are allowed to recombine across a host of disciplines, to be freely examined and framed into a wider perspective — all despite current fear, misinformation crusades or petty attempts to out-outrage one another.

Please do not allow the latest distraction or the loudest tantrum to dictate the Kenai Community Library's collection development policies. Please consider the simple fact that over 200 community members have reached into their wallets to donate over \$15,000, clearly expressing their confidence and support of both Director Wolfe and her grant's sponsor. I urge the Council to reconsider acceptance of this simple NNLM Award to make a clear stand against the censorship of library materials and funding sources.

Thank you again for all of your time.

Meagan Zimpelmann (Box 2693 Soldotna, Alaska 99669)

Links of Interest:

Library Bill of Rights - https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill

American Library Association, Freedom to Read https://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/freedomreadstatement

Network of the National Library of Medicine - https://nnlm.gov/

At the October 20th meeting, this organization was labeled as "an entity that causes concern." That sentiment was echoed again on November 3rd. **I urge Council and community members to navigate to the URL.** The NNLM website focuses on outreach, collection sharing, citizen science, education and training, not the peddling of conspiracy. In fact, they have several projects that welcome crowd-sharing methods for gathering data. While links to Covid-19 resources can be accessed via a small red dropdown menu at the top of the page, I would argue that these are fairly common digital resources that can be found on a wide range of federal, state, transportation, commercial or educational pages. A ten-minute search will provide all of the necessary criteria and requirements associated with the grant.

From:	Kristine Schmidt
То:	City Clerk
Subject:	Please Vote Yes On Ordinance 3257-2021
Date:	Tuesday, November 30, 2021 3:16:03 PM

Dear Kenai City Council members:

Please vote yes to accept the \$1,500 grant from the National Library of Medicine. I have lived in Kenai since 1982, and I am a regular library user and supporter. Kenai residents have always supported our local community library. We are proud of our library building, resources and staff. We have been blessed with a succession of wonderful librarians. I have complete trust in our current Library Director to select health care materials with grant funds for our library, and you should too.

I don't believe it is the role of Council members to micromanage Kenai staff in the performance of their duties. It is discouraging to see residents and non-residents try to make this library grant into their personal political cause. Therefore I respectfully disagree with Mr. David Peck's comments, as well as similar comments made by other Kenai residents (and non-residents) at the October 20, 2021 City Council meeting and in your packet.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Kristine Schmidt 513 Ash Avenue Kenai, Alaska 99611 (907) 283-7373 kschmidt110@gmail.com

Dear City Council Members:

Please vote to approve amending the Kenai Municipal Code to ban off road vehicles on City streets. The decision to allow ORVs on public streets and highways was poor public policy in the first place.

Many Kenai streets are not well lit, so it is difficult to see pedestrians and small vehicles during the majority of the year; that is, winter. Just about every street in Kenai is 45 miles an hour or under. Allowing ORVs to share the road with cars would be a disaster, as it would lead to more accidents and challenges for car drivers. It is already difficult to navigate driving with the illegal ORVs on the road.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Kristine Schmidt 513 Ash Avenue Kenai, Alaska 99611 (907) 283-7373 (office) kschmidt110@gmail.com Jamie,

Can you provide this as additional information as a laydown to the Discussion item at Wednesdays meeting?

Thanks,

Paul

From: Paul Ostrander
Sent: Wednesday, November 17, 2021 2:45 PM
To: Jim Glendening <jglendening@kenai.city>; Teea Winger <twinger@kenai.city>
Subject: information for Council Members and commissioners

Jim and Teea,

At our meeting last Friday, we had discussed holding another joint work session with the Council and all commissions to provide a presentation on Zoning and the Land Use Table, tutorials on both Title 21 and Title 22 of Kenai Municipal Code, and to clarify the definitions of dispose and retain as it relates to the Land Management Plan. After looking into it further, preparing additional presentations, planning and advertising the work session as well as set-up and tear-down would require approximately 40 hours of staff time, and we are currently short-staffed with employees covering multiple desks. I would like to propose an alternative that would still get this information to Council Members and commissioners effectively in an alternative format:

- 1. Provide a memo that explains zoning in the city and how that zoning relates to our Land Use Table.
- 2. Provide a memo and visual that provides an overview of Title 21 and 22 and shows a step by step example of City land that is leased with an option to purchase using Title 22 and include an explanation that Title 21 is with few exceptions the same as Title 22 except lands can only be leased.
- 3. Provide a document that gives the background for the terms "retain" and "dispose" as used in the city's code and the Plan with a focus on the reasons land might be retained and what it means when lands are designated with a retention status of dispose.

By taking this approach, Council Members and commissioners can have materials that are easy to digest and reference at their convenience. It will also enable them to reach out to administrative staff for follow up if they have questions.

We can likely prepare these materials in approximately 10 hours of staff time.

I am confident that we can accomplish your objective of providing good information to Council Members and commissioners through this alternative approach.

Please let me know if you have questions or concerns.

Thanks,

Paul

Dear Kenai City Council Members:

I support the proposal from Vice-Mayor Glendening and Council Member Winger to divide up the Land Management Plan before the Commissions, and to take more time to consider that Plan, and thank them for bringing this matter to the Council.

I attended a Planning & Zoning Commission meeting in November 2021 where the Plan was on the agenda, and it was clear that there was so much information in the Plan that more time was needed to allow the Commissioners to read and digest the Plan, as well as interact with staff about the Plan.

Also, I request that the Council and Administration hold at least one "town hall" type meeting with Kenai residents, so that we can ask questions and give comments on the plan, in an informal atmosphere. Under the current schedule, there is only the commission public hearing process for residents to participate, which is quite restrictive: one cannot ask questions (or at least, the commission members/staff don't have to answer), and comments are limited to a very short period of time.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Kristine Schmidt 513 Ash Avenue Kenai, Alaska 99611 (907) 283-7373 (office) kschmidt110@gmail.com I wanted to share this item to go with the current fishery conversations. If this could be added to the lay down.

Alaska Ostate Regislature North Pacific Fishery Management Council 1007 West Third, Suite 400 Anchorage, AK 99501-2252 RE: Agenda Item - C2 BSAI Halibut abundance-based management (ABM) November 30th, 2021 Dear Chairman Kinneen and Members of the Council, Never before have Alaskans from all regions come together to support council action to protect our fisheries and communities in this way. Alaska is famous for its bountiful resources and sustainable stewardship of abundant fisheries. We represent Alaskans across regions and communities of the state who have compelled us to strongly support Alternative 4 in the North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Abundance-Based Management (ABM) of Halibut Bycatch action. One of the most iconic and valuable of our resources - Pacific halibut - is facing a crisis that threatens the way of life for commercial, subsistence and sport halibut fishermen, and the economic driver for communities of coastal Alaska. Alternative 4 is the only choice that would provide meaningful benefit to the State's halibut fisheries and halibut-dependent communities. Meaningful abundance-based management creates badly needed conservation incentives. These incentives are lost entirely under the current non-constraining prohibited species catch (PSC) limits because the Amendment 80 fleet feels no effects at times of low abundance-and has no incentive to reduce halibut mortality or take steps to conserve halibut-because the impacts of low abundance are felt entirely on halibut commercial, subsistence and sport fishermen. Equitable management of halibut bycatch ultimately fulfills social and ecosystem priorities that impact our fishery for generations. As a bipartisan group of state legislators, we ask the Council to uphold the principles of wise resource management and to protect the fisheries that benefit the people of Alaska. It is imperative the Council take steps to restore equity for Alaskans and Alaskan businesses in the harvest of these critical resources by implementing Alternative 4. Respectfully, Representative Sarah Vance Represent e Jonathan Kreiss-Tomkins District 31 District 35

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Representative Cathy Tilton District 12

Representative Ben Carpenter District 29

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Representative David Eastman District 10

Representative Steve Thompson District 2

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Representative Christopher Kurka District 7

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Representative Andi Story District 34

Senator Mike Shower District E

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Senator Scott Kawasaki District A

Representative Sara Hannan District 33

Representative Dan Ortiz District 36

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Senator David Wilson District D

Thank you, Teea Winger

Sent from my iPad