

City of Aniak
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Aniak City Office
Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 6:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order by Mayor DBonanno at 604pm on May 14, 2025

II. Roll Call

DBonanno-P, SCharles- Absent, AFolz-P, AMorgan-Excused Absent, CMorgan-P, LSeavey-Called in 559pm, BWilson-P

Staff Present: LKameroff-P, MSimeon-P, FVaska-P

III. Public Participation- Letter Read by LKameroff from Richie and Emerie Diehl

To Aniak City Council, as local lodging providers in Aniak, we are happy to offer an essential service to those visiting our community- whether for business, medical, or personal travel. These visitors don't just pass through; they contribute to our local economy by supporting businesses, shopping in local stores, dining at our local restaurant, and investing their time and resources in our town. We understand that the purpose of the **Bed Tax ordinance** is to generate revenue for important public needs such as city services, tourism promotion, infrastructure improvements, and other community benefits. As residents of Aniak, we **fully support** generating revenue to fund these efforts- *provided* the resulting improvements are visible, effective, and directly benefit both our community and its visitors. At present, however, this is not always the case. All lodging establishments in Aniak are located along the main road, yet from May to October, residents and visitors alike are unable to comfortably sit outside, walk, bike, run, or even drive a four-wheeler without being overwhelmed by dust from passing vehicles. Additionally, loose and aggressive dogs are an ongoing safety concern that has been raised repeatedly by community members and guests yet remains insufficiently addressed. We recognize and appreciate the efforts by the City and the Tribe to apply dust control each summer. However, these efforts fall short. Dust control typically isn't applied until July-often coinciding with the rainy season-by which time its impact is minimal. A single treatment is not enough, and reapplication needs to be done. To be truly effective, dust control needs to be applied early in the spring as soon as roads dry and reapplied several weeks later. Watering the roads is not a viable alternative, as dust returns within 20-30 minutes, and it offers no lasting solution while incurring labor and equipment cost. As business owners, we are already investing our own resources to mitigate these issues. For the past eight years, for example, we have personally spent at least \$1,000 each summer applying calcium chloride to the stretch of Boundary Avenue between our small blue house and our property on Bush Street, in an attempt to control some of the dust. Other businesses, such as Bush-Tell and Aniak Light & Power, have also taken on this responsibility for their locations, as well as some community members. This issue is more than an inconvenience-it affects health, guest experience, and operational costs. With windows forced shut to keep out the dust, we must provide air conditioning for our guests, significantly increasing our electricity bills. As business owners, we are **not eligible** for Power Cost Equalization (PCE), so the burden of these rising costs is ours alone to bear. We work hard to provide a high-quality experience to visitors in Aniak, and we take pride in doing so. But in return, we ask the city to uphold its end of the bargain-especially as it begins collecting new revenue streams from vendor taxes, the bed tax, and increases in public service fees and utilities. These funds must be reinvested in ways that visibly and meaningfully improve the quality of life in Aniak-through stronger infrastructure, public services, and tourism support that benefits both residents and visitors. Aniak is our home. Many of us small business owners have built our businesses from the ground up, not with large investments or a million-dollar budget, but with dedication and the dream of a sustainable life here. We want to see Aniak grow and thrive. But for that to happen, additional costs and taxes must come with accountability. We urge the City to ensure that any new tax revenue-including that generated from the proposed Bed Tax-is used to transparently and

effectively to improve the roads, dust control, safety, and public services that matter most to this community. As the saying goes: there can be no taxation without representation. Sincerely, Richie & Emerie Diehl Aniak Rentals Aniak, Alaska. Council- This is an ongoing effort as best we can. A lot of our costs go up the same as everything. Partnership with ATC and follow up on the roads.

IV. Approval of Agenda CMorgan makes a motion to approve May 14, 2025, agenda, AFolz seconded, all approved.

V. Previous Meeting Minutes

A. March 26, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

B. April 16, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes

AFolz makes a motion to approve both March 26, 2025, and April 16, 2025, regular meeting minutes, CMorgan seconded, all approved.

VI. Reports

A. Mayor Report-D. Bonanno- Scerp meeting ended-no flood. Extinguishers, fire alarms, and carbon monoxide would be good to follow up on. SCERP Meetings may continue for fire awareness. I put up a yield sign by AC Store, cost was \$30.66 including shipping. We should include driving four-wheelers in our SCERP, we see them overloading bikes, and no helmets. On May 13 I assisted a customer with billing. We can think of a way to get more fire extinguishers, fire alarms, and carbon monoxide inside homes. New batteries also that we can give out-9V. Think of a small pick-up that can hold water in the back of it, in case of fires where the water truck may not be able to get to.

B. Aniak Volunteer Fire Department - Animal Control Discussion Rates- Will be further discussed in a work session.

C. Public Works - F. Vaska-FVaska mentions that there are two of them that are employed, himself and Dakota Phillips, that no one else is here to help, no volunteers, relying on people to show up. Keeping the Fire Department warm for the Fire Truck, maybe follow up with YKHC if they can store it in their garage. The levee is our major issue; it's going to be a lot of work. One idea is to smash the vehicle and empty the oil and gas so we can bury them in the front of the river where the Levee starts and ends.

The first day of the month started with finding a broken section on the grader. We dealt with the water drainages opened by the crew. The roads were a big concern and focus until just recently. We took the time to work on our lift stations, replacing what's needed and cleaning what is needed as well. Towards the end of the month as well as getting prepared for a possible flood we prepared our equipment. One of the main pumps we used in the river road was the pump donated by Fran Brown, and it is ready to deploy across the slough. Francis Vaska and Public Works Crew

D. City Clerk- M. Simeon- Good evening, Nice to see you all after not physically being here for the last two meetings. These past couple months have been super busy setting up our SCERP Meetings, along with work sessions and regular monthly meetings. I am thankful for everyone who comes together and works with me to have the SCERP Meetings and provide contact phone numbers and information in case of any emergencies. Soon we will start having monthly SCERP meetings for Fire or any emergency that comes upon, another suggestion was Search and Rescue. Also have been attending the LEGIT zoom meetings continuing Thursdays, any council member is welcome to join as well. On the 22nd of this month will be Council and Staff Roles and Responsibilities and it runs for an hour or less. Other than that, I continue my daily tasks and am always constantly busy throughout the day. Thank you! Morgan Simeon

E. Financial Report- L. Kameronoff- AFolz made a motion to approve the Financial Report, CMorgan seconded, all approved.

F. City Manager - L. Kameronoff - Would like to hire a public works director in place of a finance director. Next month, resolution to purge past due sewer accounts of deceased individuals. Essential Air Service- Aniak is already receiving 5 non-stop R/T to Anchorage, fulfills frequent and flights are just below 50% capacity. Basic EAS are met. Closed out the ARPA fund grant, FY24 IMLS Grant Received signed agreement for Burn cage and equipment. Updated the FY26 Financial Report into original format. Work Sessions, to work with ATC, other partnerships? Kuspuk, Napaimute, Maps/Land, Sewer and Public

works, and Animal control. Processed bank Resolution to close accounts. Slow down on Roads notices will be posting, need more community involvement, and trooper enforcement. Incentives to keep customer balance up to date. Fire extinguishers, gift cards/discount on bill.

VII. Old Business

- A. Public Hearing on: Ordinance 25-02 Establishing a Bed Tax
AFolz made a motion to approve the Public Hearing Ordinance on 25-02 Establishing a Bed Tax, LSeavey seconded, all approved.
- B. Public Hearing on: Ordinance 25-04 FY26 Budget Appropriations
CMorgan made a motion to approve the Public Hearing on Ordinance 25-04 FY26 Budget Appropriations, AFolz seconded, all approved.

VIII. New Business

- A. Ordinance 25-03 Amending Ordinance 05.26 Landfill Maintenance and Trash Haul to Include an Exemption List Requirement
AFolz made a motion to a Public Hearing for Ordinance 25-03 Amending Ordinance 05.26 Landfill Maintenance Trash Haul to Include and Exemption List Requirement, CMorgan seconded, all approved.
- B. Resolution 25-04 Authorize Participation in the ARPA Insurance between APEI & AMJIA
CMorgan made a motion to approve the Resolution 25-04 Authorize Participation in the ARPA Insurance between APEI & AMJIA, AFolz seconded, all approved.

IX. Council Comments- CMorgan mentioned that Napaimute put in for gravel from Calista, selling gravel. Road behind Fire Station towards Kameroff's place for a new landfill and look for gravel there, and for Calista to open the road.

X. Time and Place of Next Meeting- Wednesday, June 18, 2025 @ 6pm

XI. Adjourn- CMorgan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 812pm, AFolz seconded, all approved.

Attested:

Mayor David Bonanno *Signed: Date*

City Clerk Morgan Simeon *Signed: Date*