CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, October 01, 2026 at 7:30 PM

MINUTES

Our Vision. To have an infrastructure and city workforce that supports a sustainable, diversified and growing economy. We will partner with others to achieve economic development and other common goals that assure a high quality of living, and excellence in education.

MEETING INFORMATION

AGENDA (amendment 2)

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS / 7:30 p.m. (Note- this is a half hour later than usual)

(The Public Forum planned for 6 pm is Canceled)

141 Main Street, Dillingham, AK 99576 (907) 842-5212

This meeting was also available at the following online location: Zoom

Meeting ID: 920 483 0473; passcode: 99576

CALL TO ORDER at 7:30

- Mayor Alice Ruby called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present:

- Curt Armstrong,
- Tracy Hightower,
- Steven Carriere,
- Kevin McCambly,
- Triston Chaney,
- Mayor Alice Ruby.

Kaleb Westfall joined after roll call and participated before the GCI lease vote.

Quorum Established

Staff present included City Manager Jack Savo Jr. and City Clerk Abigail Flynn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

• The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 09/03/2026 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

   03/23/2026 Joint Council and School Board Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

The September 3, 2026 Regular Council Meeting minutes were approved without correction. The March 23, 2026 Joint Council and School Board Meeting minutes were approved with a correction to reflect McCambly's attendance for the School Board as well as the Council.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval of the amended agenda and correction of the Election Board chair designation to Jasmine Kritz.

Motion: Approve the agenda as amended.

- Moved by Steven Carriere; seconded by Triston Chaney.
- Motion carried unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

2. Strategic Plan Report

3. City Manager and Staff Reports

- Sewage-lagoon repair plan, materials, contractors, and completion before freeze-up.
- Harbor dredging funding advocacy and assurances from Alaska's U.S. senators' offices.
- Snag Point erosion project extension through April 2028 and the pending FEMA grant agreement.
- EPA landfill improvements, incinerator repairs, equipment delivery, staff training, and community participation in waste sorting.
- Water-line extension design; fuel, aggregate, and information-technology procurement.
- Curyung Tribal Council and IMLS support for library training; tribal partnerships and Senior Center programs.
- Council mailboxes, Public Works staffing, fire and EMS activity, harbor use, and Alaska Marine Lines' office needs.
- Harbor-light meter-base construction and coordination needed to finish the project.
- GCI's expired property lease, appraisal, negotiated lease terms, competitive solicitation options, and the placement of action items on agendas.

Motion: Direct staff to proceed with Option A and return with an amended Resolution 2026-12 and the previously negotiated GCI lease for the November 5 meeting.

• Moved by Steven Carriere; seconded by Tracy Hightower.

• Motion carried 4–2. Yes: Carriere, Chaney, Hightower, and Armstrong. No: Westfall and McCambly.

• This direction was to bring the lease proposal back for Council consideration; it did not approve the lease.

4. Standing Committee Reports

• No standing committee reports were offered.

Citizen Committee Appointments

5. Election Board/ Canvasing Committee:

- Election Board leadership and youth participation contingent on adoption of Ordinance 2026-15.

• Additional qualified student applications through October 5 and a maximum of two students per shift.

Motion: Approve the listed Election Board and youth appointments, with youth appointments contingent on adoption of Ordinance 2026-15.

• Moved by Steven Carriere; seconded by Kaleb Westfall.

• Motion carried unanimously.

• Appointed Jasmine Kritz as Chair and Janet Dieckgrafe as Vice-Chair.

• Youth appointments: Emily Bannon, Chelsie Kropoff, Maya McDowell, Tiffany Wassillie, Myra Davis, and Kahlen Savo; and other qualified students applying by October 5, not to exceed two per shift.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

6. - Ordinance No. 2026-12: AN ORDINANCE OF THE DILLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL AMENDING CHAPTER 2.21 OF THE DILLINGHAM MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADOPTING CHAPTER 2.21.075 TO ESTABLISH THE POSITION OF DEPUTY CITY MANAGER AND REVISE THE PROCEDURES FOR APPOINTMENT OF AN ACTING CITY MANAGER.

   • Ordinance 2026-12, Deputy City Manager and Acting City Manager: No public testimony was offered.

   - Ordinance No. 2026-14: AN ORDINANCE OF THE DILLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL AMENDING DILLINGHAM MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 4.15.030 BY ADDING SUBSECTION (J) ESTABLISHING A TRIBALLY OWNED PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION.

   • Ordinance 2026-14, Tribally Owned Property Tax Exemption: No public testimony was offered.

   - Ordinance No. 2026-15 (Amended): AN ORDINANCE OF THE DILLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL ADOPTING EXHIBIT A, AMENDING CHAPTERS 3.10 THROUGH 3.70 OF THE DILLINGHAM MUNICIPAL CODE TO MODERNIZE MUNICIPAL ELECTION PROCEDURES, REMOVE OBSOLETE REQUIREMENTS, UPDATE TERMINOLOGY, IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY, AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTION FORMS, AND MAKE RELATED NONSUBSTANTIVE REVISIONS.

   - Youth at the Booth, civic education, recruitment of future election workers, and voter participation.
   - Modernization of election procedures, recount provisions, and concerns about the election-worker oath.
   - Pat Walsh, Marilyn Rosene, Gregg Marxmiller, and Jasmine Kritz testified. Dan Dunaway's written testimony supporting student election workers was read into the record. Marxmiller supported modernization and requested updating the oath to match the State's language.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS (Prior Notice or Agenda Items)

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

7. (Adopt) Ordinance No. 2026-12: AN ORDINANCE OF THE DILLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL AMENDING CHAPTER 2.21 OF THE DILLINGHAM MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADOPTING CHAPTER 2.21.075 TO ESTABLISH THE POSITION OF DEPUTY CITY MANAGER AND REVISE THE PROCEDURES FOR APPOINTMENT OF AN ACTING CITY MANAGER.

   Topics discussed:

- Temporary designation of an acting manager when both the City Manager and Deputy City Manager are unavailable.
- Council ratification, brief temporary absences, the one-year limit, and Council authority to extend an acting appointment.
- Clerical correction of “preform” to “perform.”

Motion: Adopt Ordinance 2026-12.

- Moved by Steven Carriere; seconded by Tracy Hightower.
- Motion carried unanimously.

8. (Adopt) Ordinance No. 2026-14: AN ORDINANCE OF THE DILLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL AMENDING DILLINGHAM MUNICIPAL CODE SECTION 4.15.030 BY ADDING SUBSECTION (J) ESTABLISHING A TRIBALLY OWNED PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION.

Motion: Adopt Ordinance 2026-14.

- Moved by Steven Carriere; seconded by Triston Chaney.
- Motion carried unanimously.

9. (Adopt) Ordinance No. 2026-15: (Amended): AN ORDINANCE OF THE DILLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL ADOPTING EXHIBIT A, AMENDING CHAPTERS 3.10 THROUGH 3.70 OF THE DILLINGHAM MUNICIPAL CODE TO MODERNIZE MUNICIPAL ELECTION PROCEDURES, REMOVE OBSOLETE REQUIREMENTS, UPDATE TERMINOLOGY, IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY, AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATIVE ELECTION FORMS, AND MAKE RELATED NONSUBSTANTIVE REVISIONS. Motion by Steve, 2nd Kevin, unanimous vote in favor,

Topics discussed:

- Changes reviewed by the Code Review Committee and the election-worker oath, including reference to the State oath in the packet.

Motion: Adopt Ordinance 2026-15, as amended.

- Moved by Steven Carriere; seconded by Kevin McCambly.
- Motion carried unanimously.

10. (Introduce and set public hearing date for 10/15 or 10/22) Ordinance 2026-16: Committee Code Modernization

    AN ORDINANCE OF THE DILLINGHAM CITY COUNCIL REPEALING CHAPTER 2.70, HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION; CHAPTER 2.76, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION; AND CHAPTER 2.84, SENIOR ADVISORY COMMISSION; PROVIDING FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO BE ESTABLISHED BY RESOLUTION UNDER CHAPTER 2.90; AND AMENDING MEETING REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND SCHOOL FACILITY COMMITTEE

Topics discussed:

- Repealing codified Historic Preservation, Parks and Recreation, and Senior Advisory commissions and establishing advisory committees by resolution.

• Staff capacity, volunteer participation, event coordination, and flexibility in committee structure.

• Historic-preservation duties, Planning Commission and School Facility Committee meeting requirements, and Title 29 requirements.

• Code Review Committee consideration of proposed committee resolutions and scheduling the public hearing.

Motion: Introduce Ordinance 2026-16 and set the public hearing for October 22, 2026.

• Moved by Steven Carriere; seconded by Triston Chaney.

• Motion carried unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

11. License Renewals and Changes to Control Board:

• Alaska Grown Cannabis license renewal; Willow Tree license protest held in abeyance; proposed control-board changes concerning THC potency and notices of defense.

Motion: Waive the City's right to protest the Alaska Grown Cannabis license renewal.

• Moved by Steven Carriere; seconded by Tracy Hightower.

• Motion carried unanimously.

• The Council received an update on the Willow Tree abeyance and the February 21, 2027 deadline discussed for lifting the protest. No action was taken on that update or the proposed control-board changes.

12. Thanks and Commendation to All Involved in Aluminum Can Recycling:

Topics discussed:

• Volunteer work collecting, compacting, palletizing, and shipping aluminum cans; donated hauling, shipping assistance, and sale arrangements.

• The Mayor recognized Carole McMurray, Sue Flensburg, Friends of the Landfill, Kris Straub, and Alaska Marine Lines. No formal action was taken.

CITIZEN'S DISCUSSION (Open to the Public)

Topics discussed:

- Samantha Holmberg: water service and curb-stop concerns at 211 East Main Street; property value, rental impacts, land-use decisions, records, and a request for Board of Equalization review.
- Jasmine Kritz: appreciation for the meeting and plans for voter-information outreach as a village voting ambassador.
- Gregg Marxmiller: Planning Commission involvement in proposed meeting changes, public notice, and timely establishment of a Parks and Recreation committee.
- Evelyn Trefon: House District 37 candidacy, a community meet-and-greet, and a food drive benefiting SAFE.
- Caelin Palmer: Planning Commission review of meeting changes, support for election modernization, and youth election-worker participation and pay.
- The Mayor stated that she would follow up on concerns about Planning Commission meeting requirements.

Executive Session

13. Executive Session: Discussion of Ongoing Litigation: BBNA Water Damage Claim, 3DI-25-00029CI

Topics discussed:

- Pending litigation involving the BBNA water-damage claim, as identified on the agenda.

Motion: Enter executive session following a short recess.

- Moved by Steven. Seconded by Triston Chaney. Motion carried by voice vote.
- A seven-minute recess was initially proposed; the Mayor then announced a four-minute break. Entered Executive session at 9:04 pm.

Motion: Return to open session.

- Moved by Steven Carriere; seconded by Kaleb Westfall.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- The Council returned to open session at 10:19 p.m. No action on the litigation was recorded following executive session.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Topics discussed:

- Appreciation for the SAFE food drive, school staff, and volunteers helping with school meals and library services.
- The Mayor clarified that Amy Ruby volunteered at the school library and that her own volunteer work was at the City library.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

- Recognition of Rebecca Duke and volunteers for the fish-history event and moving historical materials to the museum.
- The museum, library, campus, fisheries summit, and the possibility of recurring local-history events.
- Follow-up on Holmberg's utility concerns, responsibility for private water lines, the reported hole near the curb-stop turn key, public communication, and advice from legal counsel.
- Recognition of community members who had died since the prior meeting.
- No additional report was directed regarding the Holmberg matter. Staff discussed continuing to follow legal counsel's advice and address information requests, and providing winter water-line information to residents.
- The Council observed a moment of silence.

ADJOURNMENT

• Mayor Ruby declared the meeting adjourned at 10:34 p.m.

ATTEST:

_____ _____

Abigail Flynn, City Clerk Date of Approval

[SEAL]