



BUDGET WORKSHOP AT 5:30
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AT 7 PM (AMENDED)

Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 7:00 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 (Amended)

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

WORKSHOP ON FY27 BUDGET AT 5:30 PM

CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS / 7:00 p.m.

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

Zoom: Meeting ID: 920 483 0473; passcode: 99576

Or dial: 1(719)359-4580 or 1(253)205-0468

A workshop was held for the FY27 Budget beginning at 5:34 pm. It was attended by Alice, Triston, Kaleb, and Jack and Abigail in person and Kevin and Anita on Zoom. Curt joined by Zoom at 5:26. Guests in attendance included Sue Isaacs, Debbie McClain, Dan Boyd, Tracy Hightower and Nate Carlow

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Alice Ruby, Mayor.

ROLL CALL

Present in Person:

- Triston Chaney
- Curt Armstrong
- Kaleb Westfall
- Alice Ruby, Mayor

Quorum Established

Present Via Zoom:

- Steven Carriere
- Kevin McCambly

Vacant: Council Seat B

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-

1. The minutes of the following meetings were presented for approval:
 - May 7, 2026 Regular Council Meeting
 - May 21, 2026 Special Council Meeting
 - May 28, 2026 Special Council Meeting

- June 8, 2026 Special Council Meeting

The Mayor asked if there were any corrections. Hearing none, the minutes were approved as presented by unanimous consent.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

There were no items on the consent agenda.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- **Motion:** Steven Carriere moved to approve the amended agenda.
- **Second:** Triston Chaney.
- **Discussion:** None.
- **Vote:** Unanimous (5-0)
- **Result:** Motion carried; amended agenda approved.

STAFF REPORTS

3. Strategic Plan Report

4. City Manager and Staff Reports

City Manager Jack Savo Jr. highlighted the following items from the written reports:

- Recognition of Buildings and Grounds staff for repairs at the museum office space and appreciation for all City employees working on FY2026 closeout and FY2027 budget development.
- Progress on the Airport Waterline Extension, including active field work and an anticipated 35% design milestone at the end of June.
- Senior Center meal and transportation services and the importance of maintaining those services.
- Progress toward obtaining a 24-month extension for the Snake Point Erosion Project.
- Development of a citywide equipment maintenance and vehicle replacement plan, with an initial draft anticipated later in the fiscal year.
- Council discussed the Grandma's House insurance claim and the proposed website platform transition. Staff stated that the insurance settlement had not been accepted pending confirmation that it would cover actual local repair costs, and that the website transition would be further evaluated for cost, staff time, and overall benefit to the City.

5. Standing Committee Reports

- adopted minutes from the Code Review Committee were included in the meeting packet.

Citizen Committee Appointments

6. Friends of the Landfill appointment- Dan Boyd

Motion: Kaleb Westfall moved to appoint Dan Boyd to the Friends of the Landfill Committee.

Second: Steven Carriere.

Discussion: None.

Vote: Unanimous (5-0)

Result: Motion carried; Dan Boyd appointed.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- The Mayor opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2026-09.
- No members of the public offered testimony, and the public hearing was closed.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS (Prior Notice or Agenda Items)

- Debbie McClain thanked Kevin McCambly for inviting her to attend the meeting.
- Nate Carlow thanked the Council for its work and spoke in support of his application for vacant Council Seat B, stating that he hoped to serve in the best interests of the community.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

8. Resolution no. 2026-18: A Resolution of the Dillingham City Council Appointing _____ to Fill Vacant Council Seat B

Nomination for City Council Seat B

Before nominations, the Mayor advised Council that an additional letter of interest had been received from Cynthia Libby after the published deadline and therefore had not been included in the Council packet. The City Manager read DMC 2.06.060 regarding the procedure for filling a Council vacancy.

Motion to Appoint Bert Luckhurst

Motion: Steven Carriere moved to adopt Resolution No. 2026-18 appointing Bert Luckhurst to fill vacant Council Seat B.

Second: Triston Chaney.

Discussion

- Council confirmed all applicants met the minimum qualifications.
- The Mayor clarified that appointment required a majority vote of the remaining Council members.

Vote

- Curt Armstrong — Yes
- Kaleb Westfall — No
- Kevin McCambly — No
- Triston Chaney — No
- Steven Carriere — Yes

Result: Motion failed (2–3).

Motion to Appoint Tracy Hightower

Motion: Kaleb Westfall moved to adopt Resolution No. 2026-18 appointing Tracy Hightower to fill vacant Council Seat B.

Second: Triston Chaney.

Discussion: None.

Vote: Unanimous.

Result: Motion carried; Tracy Hightower appointed to Council Seat B. Tracy Hightower took the Oath of Office and immediately assumed his seat on the Council. The Mayor thanked Nate Carlow, Bert Luckhurst, and Cynthia Libby for their willingness to serve the community.

9. (Adopt) Ordinance No. 2026-09: Budget FY27

An Ordinance of the Dillingham City Council Adopting the Budget and Appropriating Funds for the FY 2027 City of Dillingham Budget.

Motion: Steven Carriere moved to adopt Ordinance No. 2026-09, adopting the budget and appropriating funds for the FY2027 City of Dillingham budget.

Second: Kaleb Westfall.

Amendment No. 1

Motion: Kaleb Westfall moved to amend Ordinance No. 2026-09 by striking the special employee benefits of rent or housing, solid waste, internet, water, and wastewater from all departments except for rotational police officers.

Second: Kevin McCambly.

Discussion Topics

- Equity among employees and consistency with City personnel policies.
- Housing and travel benefits for employees who do not reside full-time in Dillingham.
- Whether the amendment was sufficiently detailed to determine its exact financial effect.
- Whether the issue should instead be addressed through a later budget amendment or personnel policy review.

Motion to Call the Question

During discussion of Amendment No. 1, **Steven Carriere moved to call the question and close debate. Kaleb Westfall objected.** The Mayor directed the Clerk to conduct a roll-call vote on whether to end debate and proceed to a vote on Amendment No. 1.

Vote on Motion to Call the Question

- Kaleb Westfall — No
- Kevin McCambly — No
- Triston Chaney — No
- Tracy Hightower — Yes
- Steven Carriere — Yes
- Curt Armstrong — Yes
- Mayor Alice Ruby — Yes (casting the deciding vote following a tie)

Result: Motion carried; debate closed.

Vote on Amendment No. 1

- Kaleb Westfall - Yes

- Kevin McCambly - Yes
- Triston Chaney - No
- Tracy Hightower - No
- Steven Carriere - No
- Curt Armstrong - No
- Mayor Alice Ruby - No, to break the tie

Result: Amendment No. 1 failed.

Amendment No. 2

Motion: Kaleb Westfall moved to amend Ordinance No. 2026-09 by adding \$30,000 to the Planning Department for planning and development of the Waskey Emperor Subdivision.

Second: Triston Chaney.

Discussion Topics

- Need for additional housing development.
- Importance of expanding the community and the City tax base.

Vote

- Triston Chaney - Yes
- Tracy Hightower - Yes
- Curt Armstrong - No
- Kaleb Westfall - Yes
- Kevin McCambly - Yes
- Steven Carriere - No

Result: Amendment No. 2 carried 4-2.

Vote on Ordinance No. 2026-09, as Amended

- Tracy Hightower - Yes
- Steven Carriere - No
- Curt Armstrong - Yes
- Kaleb Westfall - Yes
- Kevin McCambly - No
- Triston Chaney - Yes

Result: Motion carried 4-2; Ordinance No. 2026-09 adopted as amended.

10. Resolution No. 2026-22: A Resolution for Adoption of the Organizational Chart for FY27

Motion: Steven Carriere moved to adopt Resolution No. 2026-22.

Second: Kaleb Westfall.

Discussion Topics

- Council requested that the duties and responsibilities of the Deputy City Manager position be codified before the position is filled.

Vote: Unanimous (6-0)

Result: Motion carried; Resolution No. 2026-22 adopted

11. Resolution No. 2026-23: A Resolution Adopting the FY27 Salary Schedule

Motion: Steven Carriere moved to adopt Resolution No. 2026-23.

Second: Tracy Hightower.

Discussion Topics

- The salary schedule reinstates a cap at Step 12 and grandfathers employees currently above Step 12.
- A two-year service interval applies between Steps 10 and 11.
- A 1% increase applies to pay levels 10 and below; department heads do not receive the increase.
- The Deputy City Manager position was moved from Level 12 to Level 11.
- New hires are generally budgeted between Steps 1 and 4.

Vote: Unanimous (6-0)

Result: Motion carried; Resolution No. 2026-23 adopted.

12. Resolution No. 2026-24: Accept EECBG Allocation for \$50,000

Motion: Steven Carriere moved to adopt Resolution No. 2026-24 accepting the \$50,000 EECBG allocation.

Second: Tracy Hightower.

Discussion Topics

- The City must complete the work identified in the approved grant scope.
- The funding will support building envelope and energy-efficiency improvements.
- The Alaska Municipal League assisted communities by applying for the funding as a group.

Vote: Unanimous (6-0)

Result: Motion carried; Resolution No. 2026-24 adopted.

13. Resolution No. 2026-25: Accept RE-VEEP Allocation for \$167,000

Motion: Tracy Hightower moved to adopt Resolution No. 2026-25 accepting the \$167,000 RE-VEEP allocation.

Second: Curt Armstrong.

Discussion Topics

- The funding supplements the EECBG allocation and will allow the City to complete most of the work identified in the energy-efficiency work plan.
- The grant carries the same general performance requirements discussed for the EECBG allocation.

Vote: Unanimous (6-0)

Result: Motion carried; Resolution No. 2026-25 adopted.

14. Resolution No. 2026-20

A Resolution of the Dillingham City Council Waiving Section 3.95 of the City's Personnel Regulations to Authorize Dispatch Supervisor Stephanie Koutchak to Supervise Dispatcher Damon Koutchak.

Motion: Kaleb Westfall moved to adopt Resolution No. 2026-20, waiving Section 3.95 of the City Personnel Regulations to authorize Dispatch Supervisor Stephanie Koutchak to supervise Dispatcher Damon Koutchak.

Second: Tracy Hightower.

Discussion Topics

- The reporting relationship already existed following Stephanie Koutchak's promotion to Dispatch Supervisor.
- Staff reported no concerns with the current supervisory arrangement.
- Mayor Ruby disclosed that Stephanie Koutchak is her niece and Damon Koutchak is her great-nephew and stated that she had no financial interest in either position.

Vote: Unanimous (6-0)

Result: Motion carried; Resolution No. 2026-20 adopted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- none

NEW BUSINESS

15. Commendation from the Mayor for Sterling Bailey, John Filipek, Kyle Gregory

Mayor Ruby read a letter of commendation recognizing Sterling Bailey, John Filipek, and Kyle Gregory for their exceptional service during the emergency water main repair at 303 C Street on May 23-24, 2026. The commendation recognized their professionalism, teamwork, long hours, and dedication to restoring water service and directed that the letters be placed in their permanent personnel files.

16. Executive Session: Discussion of BBNA vs COD Lawsuit, Case No. 3DI - 24-00117 CI

Motion: Steven Carriere moved to enter executive session pursuant to DMC 2.09.050(B)(2) to discuss pending litigation in which the City has an interest, specifically BBNA v. City of Dillingham, Case No. 3DI-24-00117 CI.

Second: Triston Chaney.

Vote: Unanimous (6-0)

Result: Motion carried. Council entered executive session at 8:04 PM.

Return to Regular Session

Motion: Steven Carriere moved to end the executive session and return to regular session.

Second: Kaleb Westfall.

Result: Council returned to regular session at 9:04 PM.

The record reflects that Kevin McCambly lost his Zoom connection at approximately 9:04 PM and did not reconnect.

CITIZEN'S DISCUSSION (Open to the Public)

- A member of the public thanked the Council for approving funding for the Waskey Emperor Subdivision planning effort.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Council comments were heard.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

- The Mayor welcomed Tracy and thanked the others who put their names in for consideration for the open seat.
- A moment of silence was observed.
- A safe and good summer was wished to all.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm

ATTEST:

Abigail Flynn, City Clerk

[SEAL]

Date of Approval