



## WORKSHOP ON ELECTION ORDINANCE AT 5:30 PM, CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING AT 7:00 PM

Thursday, September 03, 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

##### CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

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

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

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

#### WORKSHOP — ELECTION MODERNIZATION ORDINANCE 2026-15

The Council held a workshop beginning at 5:44 p.m. to review the proposed modernization of the remaining provisions of the City election code. Councilmembers Tracy Hightower, Curt Armstrong, Kaleb Westfall, Steven Carriere, Mayor Alice Ruby, City Manager Jack Savo Jr., and City Clerk Abigail Flynn attended. Triston Chaney was absent. The workshop ended at 6:55 p.m.

#### CALL TO ORDER

- Mayor Alice Ruby called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### ROLL CALL

##### Present in Person

Tracy Hightower  
Curt Armstrong  
Kaleb Westfall  
Steven Carriere  
Alice Ruby, Mayor

##### Present via Zoom

Kevin McCambly

##### Absent

Triston Chaney

#### 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

- The August 6, 2026 Regular Council Meeting minutes were approved without objection or correction.

#### APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- None.

#### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Motion:** "I move to approve the agenda."

- Moved by Steven Carriere; seconded by Kaleb Westfall.
- Vote: Unanimous
- Result: Motion carried.

## STAFF REPORTS

### City Manager and Staff Reports — Discussion Topics

- Upcoming ordinance and resolution workload; request to begin advertising the deputy city manager and deputy city clerk positions on or about September 21 if the ordinances were introduced.
- The water-service complaint and extensive public-records request concerning 211 East Main Street, including estimated staff time and cost, the curb-stop history, restoration of service, and attorney awareness.
- A serious landfill accident involving prohibited hazardous material, the injured employee's recovery, the investigation, immediate controls, and a fuller October report.
- Small boat harbor dredging advocacy and letters to Alaska's U.S. senators.
- Snag Point erosion authorization pending written FEMA notice to proceed.
- EPA landfill equipment repairs, parts shipment, technician work, and staff training.
- Temporary engineered repair of the sewage-lagoon forced-discharge system, DEC approval, estimated costs, winter urgency, and the need for a permanent bypass design.
- Harbor Improvement Project design status and Title VI compliance.
- September 14 removal of harbor floats, continued bulkhead access, employee safety, and early dumpster removal.
- Election-code workload, thanks to the 2026 primary election team, and the October 6 election board and canvassing committee.
- Website cost analysis and the decision to remain with CivicPlus.
- Mapping curb stops, valves, and utility infrastructure as they are located.
- Harbor-light project delay caused by City staffing and competing Public Works demands.

**Motion:** "I'd like to move to allow an amount of not to exceed \$40,000 to be approved for emergency lagoon repair for the forced discharge."

- Moved by Steven Carriere; seconded by Tracy Hightower.
- Motion carried unanimously, 5–0.

### 1. Appointment of Election Board / Canvassing Committee Members

**Motion:** "I'd like to make a motion to appoint the names provided for the canvassing board for October 6, 2026."

- Moved by Steven Carriere; seconded by Tracy Hightower.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- Appointments: Nate Carlow, Chair; Marilyn Rosene, Co-Chair; Janet Dieckgrafe, Dan Dunaway, Carole McMurray, and Wanda Wahl, poll workers; and Jon Dyasuk, translator.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance: Reviewed the year-end budget report; the result was unfavorable but better than anticipated.
- Code Review: Reviewed pending ordinances and Alaska Grown Cannabis; the committee reported no basis for protest and recommended no action/no protest. The committee also reviewed the election legislation and other ordinances on the agenda.
- Parks and Recreation: The Mayor reported on discussions with partners and staff about repealing the existing committee code and reestablishing the committee by resolution to allow flexibility, and about possible health-related funding opportunities.

## CITIZEN COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

### 2. Appointment: Friends of the Landfill

**Motion:** "I move to approve Basil Tilden's appointment to Friends of the Landfill."

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

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

3. Ordinance 2026-10, Election Code Update to Chapter 3.50: No public testimony was offered.

4. Ordinance 2026-11, 2036 Comprehensive Plan: Mayor Ruby read Samantha Holmberg's written objection into the record. The letter concerned the treatment of 211 East Main Street under the updated plan, preservation of rights, liability, and a request that the correspondence be attached to the official record. No additional testimony was offered.
5. Resolution 2026-29, FY2027–2028 Legislative Priorities: No public testimony was offered.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS — PRIOR NOTICE OR AGENDA ITEMS**

- No additional comments were offered.

### **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

#### **6. Ordinance 2026-10 — Election Code Update to Chapter 3.50**

**Motion:** "I move to adopt Ordinance 2026-10, Election Code update to Chapter 3.50."

- Moved by Steven Carriere; seconded by Kaleb Westfall.
- Motion carried 4–1. Yes: Hightower, Armstrong, Westfall, and Carriere. No: McCambly.
- Discussion: Mayor Ruby thanked the City Clerk for the work completed on the election-code update.

#### **7. Ordinance 2026-11 — 2036 Comprehensive Plan**

**Motion:** "I move to adopt Ordinance 2026-11, 2036 Comprehensive Plan."

- Moved by Kaleb Westfall; seconded by Steven Carriere.
- Motion carried unanimously.

#### **8. Ordinance 2026-12 — Deputy Manager/Acting Manager**

**Motion:** "I move to introduce Ordinance 2026-12, Deputy Manager, Acting Manager."

- Moved by Steven Carriere; seconded by Kaleb Westfall.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- Discussion topics: the chain of command; Council ratification of a deputy city manager; the 60-day ratification language and when employment would begin; difficulty recruiting if an applicant must wait; temporary acting appointments; the one-year limit; and the scope of the clerk's authority to make nonsubstantive editorial corrections during codification. The City Manager and City Clerk explained the intended limits of editorial corrections.

#### **9. Ordinance 2026-13 — Deputy Clerk**

**Motion:** "I move to introduce Ordinance 2026-13, Deputy Clerk."

- Moved by Steven Carriere; seconded by Tracy Hightower.
- The main motion later failed 3–2. Yes: Hightower, Armstrong, and Carriere. No: Westfall and McCambly.

**Motion:** "I move to amend it with similar language to the deputy manager."

- Moved by Kaleb Westfall; seconded by Tracy Hightower.
- Amendment failed 2–3. Yes: Westfall and McCambly. No: Hightower, Armstrong, and Carriere.
- Discussion topics: whether the Council should ratify the deputy clerk; whether that would be administrative micromanagement; the distinction between a deputy and an acting clerk; succession planning; and the same concern about editorial authority raised during Ordinance 2026-12.

**Motion:** "Send the wording back to the Code Review Committee to be reworked and brought back to the Council."

- Moved by Steven Carriere; seconded by Tracy Hightower.
- Motion failed 3–2. Yes: Hightower, Armstrong, and Carriere. No: Westfall and McCambly.

**Motion:** "Direct the City Manager to work on language to bring to the Council regarding a deputy city clerk."

- Moved by Kaleb Westfall; seconded by Steven Carriere.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- Discussion confirmed that the position was included in the budget.

#### **10. Ordinance 2026-14 — Tribally Owned Property Tax Exemption**

**Motion:** "I move to introduce Ordinance 2026-14, Tribal Exemptions."

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

- Discussion topics: recognition of tribal governments, public services provided through qualifying tribal property, and confirmation that commercially used property would remain taxable.

#### **11. Ordinance 2026-15 — Election Code Modernization**

**Motion:** “I move to introduce Ordinance 2026-15, modernize the rest of the Election Code, as amended.”

- Moved by Steven Carriere; seconded by Tracy Hightower.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- Discussion referenced the detailed workshop and confirmed that the motion included the workshop amendments.

#### **12. Resolution 2026-29 — FY2027–2028 Legislative Priorities**

**Motion:** “I move to approve Resolution 2026-29, Legislative Priority List.”

- Moved by Steven Carriere; seconded by Kaleb Westfall.
- Motion carried unanimously.

#### **13. Resolution 2026-30 — Jail Contract**

**Motion:** “I move to adopt Resolution 2026-30, Jail Contract.”

- Moved by Steven Carriere; seconded by Kaleb Westfall.
- Motion carried unanimously among the four members voting. Yes: Hightower, Armstrong, Westfall, and Carriere. McCambly’s Zoom connection was lost during the vote. He did not rejoin the meeting.

#### **14. Resolution 2026-31 — Library Five-Year Plan**

**Motion:** “I move to adopt Resolution 2026-31, adopt the Library Five-Year Plan.”

- Moved by Steven Carriere; seconded by Kaleb Westfall.
- Motion carried unanimously among the four members voting. McCambly remained disconnected.
- Discussion: The plan was described as reasonable for current staffing and volunteer capacity.

#### **15. Resolution 2026-32 — City/School District MOU**

**Motion:** “I move to adopt Resolution 2026-32.”

- Moved by Steven Carriere; seconded by Tracy Hightower.
- Motion carried unanimously among the members voting.
- Discussion topics: development of the MOU through the School Facilities Committee; parking-lot grading, snow removal, technical assistance, and in-kind services; annual renewal; tracking actual staff and equipment contributions; clarification of the fiscal note’s hours, quantities, and events; and avoiding competition with private contractors when the School District has been unable to obtain bids.

#### **16. Resolution 2026-33 — Arctic Tern Grant Support**

**Motion:** “I move to adopt Resolution 2026-33, Arctic Tern.”

- Moved by Steven Carriere; seconded by Kaleb Westfall.
- Motion carried unanimously among the members voting.
- Discussion: Mayor Ruby disclosed that she oversees BBEDC’s Arctic Tern Grant Program but has no financial interest in grant awards. She described the tribes’ and School District’s prior partnership in sending students to the Elders and Youth Conference.

#### **17. Joint Resolution 2026-06-01 — Southwest Alaska Fisheries Dialogue**

**Motion:** “I move to adopt Resolution 2026-06-01.”

- Moved by Steven Carriere; seconded by Tracy Hightower.
- Motion carried unanimously among the members voting.
- Discussion topics: adoption by other Southwest Alaska municipalities and boroughs; concern about divisive campaign messaging; research on Bering Sea trawling and interception; and the resolution’s intent to encourage fact-based dialogue without supporting or opposing a specific fishery or taking positions before the Board of Fisheries or North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **18. Green Degree License No. 16915**

**Motion:** “I move to waive the City’s right to protest License No. 16915.”

- Moved by Kaleb Westfall; seconded by Steven Carriere.
- Motion carried unanimously among the members voting.
- Discussion: The Code Review Committee found no basis for protest.

#### **19. Foreclosed Property Deeded to the City**

**Motion:** “Direct the City Attorney to prepare disposition ordinances consistent with the above findings.”

- Moved by Steven Carriere; seconded by Tracy Hightower.
- Motion carried unanimously among the members voting.
- Discussion topics: whether the Subdivision remnant should be disposed of to an adjacent owner or by competitive process; whether special rules apply to tax-foreclosed property; retaining the Nerka-area parcel for Widgeon Lane drainage and possible road realignment; utility infrastructure; possible park, neighborhood, housing, or other public uses; potential Alaska Housing Finance Corporation funding; and the need for Council approval of later disposition ordinances. Staff was asked to obtain legal guidance on miscellaneous versus competitive disposal.

#### **Further council direction given:**

- By consensus, Alaska Grown Cannabis was to be placed on the October agenda without a separate Code Review Committee meeting.

#### **CITIZEN DISCUSSION**

- Keggie discussed becoming the new Curyung Tribal Administrator effective September 1 and expressed a desire for closer City–Tribe collaboration and use of tribal funding opportunities for community benefit.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion:** “I move to go into executive session to discuss ongoing litigation, the BBNA water-damage claim, Case No. 3DI-25-0029CI.”

- Moved by Steven Carriere; seconded by Tracy Hightower.
- Motion carried unanimously among the members voting. (into Executive session at 9:34 pm and out at 9:53 pm. The Council invited the City Manager, City Clerk, and legal counsel to attend. Motion to come out of executive session: By Steve, seconded by Kaleb. Vote was unanimous. No action was taken following executive session.

#### **MAYOR’S COMMENTS**

- The Mayor thanked the Election workers and asked for a moment of silence for Keggie’s mother, Lila who was lost and had been an employee of the City in the Finance Department a long time ago and for others who were lost since the last council meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

- Mayor Ruby declared the meeting adjourned following executive session at 9:55 pm

ATTEST:

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Abigail Flynn, City Clerk

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Date of Approval

[SEAL]