



CITY OF KOTZEBUE NOTICE

Regular City Council *Meeting Minutes*

June 05, 2025 at 5:15 PM

Kotzebue Youth Center - 815 Wanda Street

THE PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

For residents who want to participate telephonically call: **1-800-315-6338**; access code:
49401#

RESOLUTION 25-27 [INTRODUCTION]

ORDINANCE 25-03 [SECOND HEARING]

I. **Call to Order** at 5:25 PM.

II. **Roll Call**

City Council Members present at time of roll call: Ernest Norton; Derek Haviland-Lie; Joshua Hadley; Kathleen Sherman; Ruth Moto & Johnson Greene.

Absent: Cory Jackson, Excused.

III. **Introduction of Staff & Guests**

Staff present at the time of roll call: Leon Kiana, City Manager; Russ Ferguson, Public Works Director; Chris Cook, Chief of Police; Fred Smith, City Planner; Sam Camp, Planning Director; Mike Laughlin, Finance Director; Jamie Lambert, Arctic Spirits Manager; Liliya Boiko, Parks & Rec Assistant and Lorraine Hunnicutt, Public Works Assistant Director.

Guests present/telephonically at the time of roll call: Joe Evans, City Attorney; Matt Tekker; Harold Lambert; Brenda Evak; Rick Lie; Airana Erlich; Matt Bergan; Mark Hansen, Copper River Seafoods.

IV. **Invocation/Moment of Silence**

Leon Kiana gave invocation.

V. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

VI. **Adoption of The Agenda**

Agenda was *amended / accepted* by Mayor Haviland-Lie

Amendments:

Councilor Moto made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Councilor Norton.

Motion: passed

VII. Adoption of Minutes

a) May 15, 2025 RCCM Meeting Minutes

Councilor Norton made a motion to amend May 15, 2025, meeting minutes, seconded by Councilor Hadley.

Motion: passed

VIII. Citizen Comments

Rick Lie said the water, sewer and garbage rates are going up and he doesn't think we should raise the rates until we get better water. He also said that when he was in the line maintenance department that they would clear the mains and that's not being done and there is sewer that was getting all over the ground when Lift Station #10 was not working. When I was working for Drake Construction we put in a line that goes to Swan Lake for the water treatment plant.

Russ Ferguson responded that the pumps at Lift Station #10 were undersized and we ordered new ones and had them put in. Also, the water that goes to Swan Lake is not treated and the treated water has to go through the Lift Station because of treated water has chemicals and would kill the fish.

Airiana Erlich said the background on the new Water Treatment Plant is not the same because of the design. The manganese levels are higher. The Rate Study by Dowl based on what it costs the citizens and that we were undercharging for water, sewer and garbage. I don't think that we should raise the price of the water – not drinkable. I agree with raising the sewer and garbage rate. The reason for the higher levels of manganese in the new plant doesn't have as many baffles.

Russ Ferguson stated that this is not the case. The old plant didn't use baffles at all. The new plant does. The higher levels are due to higher levels of manganese in the water.

Harold Lambert said that we trying to make citizens pay their bill. When we have the meetings here at the Youth Center we are taking time away from our kids, we need staff to do that. I came to the meeting because it's hard to hear the meeting on the radio.

Matt Tekker said there should be no increase because of water quality.

IX. Correspondence

X. Unfinished Business

XI. New Business

- a) **ORDINANCE 25-03 ENTITLED:** "A CODE ORDINANCE ADDING NEW SECTIONS TO THE KOTZEBUE MUNICIPAL CODE ("KMC") TITLE 13, CHAPTER 13.04, WATER AND SEWER UTILITY, A NEW SECTION 13.04.350, ENTITLED '*LIENS FOR PAST DUE UTILITY BILLINGS*' AND KOTZEBUE MUNICIPAL CODE ("KMC") CHAPTER 8.04, REFUSE COLLECTION, A NEW SECTION 8.04.310, ENTITLED '*LIENS FOR PAST DUE UTILITY BILLINGS*' AS SET FORTH HEREIN." **[SECOND HEARING]**

Councilor Hadley moved to approve Resolution 25-03, seconded by Councilor Moto.

Ernest Norton	No	Derek Haviland-Lie	No
Joshua Hadley	Yes	Kathleen Sherman	No
Ruth Moto	Yes	Johnson Greene	No

Motion Failed.

City Council would like the City to be more transparent and give all the information to the Citizens of Kotzebue by putting it on the Radio Station.

Jamie Lambert said that when it first came out her grandparents owned the property and her brother was the one staying in it when he passed away. I was asking City Hall how much is owed on the bill and was curious as to what we would be putting a lien on?

Joe Evans said that the lien would be on the property, so if it was to go for a sale for the property and if it had a lien on it, the lien would need to be paid before it could be sold.

- b) **RESOLUTION 25-23,** "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KOTZEBUE SETTING REVISED / UPDATED / RECALCULATED WATER, SEWER AND GARBAGE RATES AS REQUIRED BY ORDINANCE 25-02, EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 2025."

Councilor Hadley moved to approve Resolution 25-23, seconded by Councilor Norton.

Ernest Norton	No	Derek Haviland-Lie	No
Joshua Hadley	No	Kathleen Sherman	Yes

Ruth Moto	Yes	Johnson Greene	Yes
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Motion Failed.

Motion failed due to tie vote, this can be brought back before the City Council but it needs to be a new Resolution.

- c) **RESOLUTION 25-26**, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KOTZEBUE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER WORKING WITH THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO AUTHORIZE THE PARTICIPATION OF THE CITY OF KOTZEBUE IN THE ALASKA PUBLIC RISK ALLIANCE."

Councilor Hadley moved to approve Resolution 25-26, seconded by Councilor Moto.

Ernest Norton	Yes	Derek Haviland-Lie	Yes
Joshua Hadley	Yes	Kathleen Sherman	Yes
Ruth Moto	Yes	Johnson Greene	Yes

- d) **RESOLUTION 25-27**, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KOTZEBUE ACCEPTING THE PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION 25-07 AND DESIGNATING THE CITY-OWNED BUILDING AT 289 FIFTH AVENUE AS THE NEW LOCATION FOR THE "ARCTIC SPIRITS" PACKAGE STORE." **[INTRODUCTION]**

Councilor Moto moved to approve Resolution 25-27, seconded by Councilor Norton.

Ernest Norton	Yes	Derek Haviland-Lie	Yes
Joshua Hadley	Yes	Kathleen Sherman	Yes
Ruth Moto	Yes	Johnson Greene	Yes

- e) **RESOLUTION 25-28**, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KOTZEBUE ACCEPTING PLANNING COMMISSION RESOLUTION 25-08 AND APPROVING THE TIDELANDS USE PERMIT FOR COPPER RIVER SEAFOODS FOR THE 2025 COMMERCIAL FISHING SEASON".

Councilor Norton moved to approve Resolution 25-28, seconded by Councilor Sherman.

Ernest Norton	Yes	Derek Haviland-Lie	Yes
Joshua Hadley	Yes	Kathleen Sherman	Yes
Ruth Moto	Yes	Johnson Greene	Yes

- f) **RESOLUTION 25-29**, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KOTZEBUE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER LEON KIANA OR HIS DESIGNEE FINANCE DIRECTOR MICHAEL LAUGHLIN AS AUTHORIZED SIGNERS ON ALL OF THE CITY'S ACCOUNTS WITH CETERA (TIME VALUE)."

Councilor Norton moved to approve Resolution 25-29, seconded by Councilor Moto.

Ernest Norton	Yes	Derek Haviland-Lie	Yes
Joshua Hadley	Yes	Kathleen Sherman	Yes
Ruth Moto	Yes	Johnson Greene	Yes

- g) **RESOLUTION 25-30**, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KOTZEBUE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER LEON KIANA OR HIS DESIGNEE FINANCE DIRECTOR MICHAEL LAUGHLIN AS AUTHORIZED SIGNERS ON ALL OF THE CITY'S ACCOUNTS WITH KEY BANK."

Councilor Greene moved to approve Resolution 25-30, seconded by Councilor Norton.

Ernest Norton	Yes	Derek Haviland-Lie	Yes
Joshua Hadley	Yes	Kathleen Sherman	Yes
Ruth Moto	Yes	Johnson Greene	Yes

- h) **RESOLUTION 25-31**, "A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KOTZEBUE AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER OR HIS DESIGNEE TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT AND/OR PURCHASE ORDER WITH US ECOLOGY ALASKA, LLC, ANCHORAGE, ALASKA, IN THE AMOUNT OF SIXTY-ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$61,000.00) FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL FOR CY2025."

Councilor Norton moved to approve Resolution 25-31, seconded by Councilor Moto.

Ernest Norton	Yes	Derek Haviland-Lie	Yes
Joshua Hadley	Yes	Kathleen Sherman	Yes
Ruth Moto	Yes	Johnson Greene	Yes

- i) **Alaska Deferred Compensation Plan**

Neil Carlson stated that The Alaska Deferred Compensation Plan was taken away by previous administration because it only included Tier #1 & #2. This one will include Tier 3 & 4.

XII. Council Members Comments

Seat A: Ernest Norton

Seat B: Derek Haviland-Lie

Seat C: Joshua Hadley

Seat D: Kathleen Sherman

Seat E: Ruth Moto

Seat F: Cory Jackson

Seat G: Johnson Greene

Youth Representative: vacant

All Councilor comments can be found on record at City Hall.

XIII. Executive Session

Councilor Hadley moved to go into executive session, seconded by Councilor Greene.

The City Council went into executive session at 7:30 PM and reconvened at 8:45 PM. No action was taken but directions were given to Leon Kiana.

XIV. Adjournment

Councilor Moto made a motion, seconded by Councilor Greene to adjourn.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Accepted by:

Derek Haviland-Lie

Mayor

[SEAL]

Respectfully Submitted by:

Lorraine Hunnicutt

Acting City Clerk