



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
330 Harbor Drive
Sitka, AK
(907)747-1811

Minutes - Final

City and Borough Assembly

*Mayor Steven Eisenbeisz,
Deputy Mayor Timothy Pike,
Vice Deputy Mayor JJ Carlson,
Kevin Mosher, Scott Saline,
Thor Christianson, Katie Riley*

*Municipal Administrator: John Leach
Municipal Attorney: Rachel Jones
Municipal Clerk: Sara Peterson*

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

6:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. FLAG SALUTE

III. RECITAL OF LANDS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

IV. ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Christianson, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Pike, Carlson, Saline, and Riley

V. CORRESPONDENCE/AGENDA CHANGES

No agenda changes.

[26-095](#)

Reminders and Calendar

VI. CEREMONIAL MATTERS

None.

VII. **SPECIAL REPORTS: Government to Government, Municipal Boards/Commissions/Committees, Municipal Departments, School District, Students and Guests (five minute time limit)**

[26-090](#)

1) Sitka Child Care Needs Analysis Report - Southeast Childhood Collective, Blue Shabler
2) Department Quarterly Reports - Harbors, Public and Government Relations

Southeast Childhood Collective Executive Director Blue Shabler reviewed the Child Care Needs Analysis Report, outlining Sitka's child care challenges, service gaps, and potential solutions. Department reports were provided by Harbormaster Brandon Calhoun and Public and Government Relations Director Melissa Lunas.

VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

Kari Sagel, presenting on behalf of the Chamber of Commerce, shared information regarding the Rasmuson Foundation Tending the Future Fund grant that had been awarded to the Center for Community Early Learning Program.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Mosher that the Consent Agenda consisting of item A be APPROVED. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 7 - Christianson, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Pike, Carlson, Saline, and Riley

- A** [26-091](#) Approve the minutes of the April 21, 22, 23, 24, and 28 Assembly meetings

This item was APPROVED ON THE CONSENT AGENDA.

X. BOARD, COMMISSION, COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

- B** [26-092](#) Appoint Michael Hall and Brian McLaughlin to permanent terms on the Local Emergency Planning Committee under Category 2 (Law Enforcement, Civil Defense, Fire Fighting, First Aid, Local Environmental/Hospital, and Transportation Personnel)

A motion was made by Riley that this item be APPROVED. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 7 - Christianson, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Pike, Carlson, Saline, and Riley

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- C** [ORD 26-09](#) Amending Title 1 "General Provisions" of the Sitka General Code by adding Chapter 1.36 "Acceptance of Donations to the City"

A motion was made by Christianson that this Ordinance be APPROVED on SECOND AND FINAL READING. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 7 - Christianson, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Pike, Carlson, Saline, and Riley

- D** [ORD 26-10](#) Amending Title 14 "Streets, Sidewalks, and Public Places" of the Sitka General Code by adding Chapter 14.35 "Naming of Public Places"

A motion was made by Mosher that this Ordinance be APPROVED on SECOND AND FINAL READING. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 7 - Christianson, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Pike, Carlson, Saline, and Riley

XII. NEW BUSINESS:**New Business First Reading**

- E** [ORD 26-11](#) Adopting budgets and capital improvement plan for the General Fund, Internal Service Funds, and Special Revenue Funds for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027
- Municipal Administrator Leach provided an overview of the budget process and budget highlights and thanked the Assembly for its time and work on the process, as well as Finance Director Brooke Volschenk for her exceptional work.
- A motion was made by Carlson that this Ordinance be APPROVED on FIRST READING. The motion PASSED by the following vote.**
- Yes:** 7 - Christianson, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Pike, Carlson, Saline, and Riley
- F** [ORD 26-12](#) Adopting the budget and capital improvement plan for Enterprise Funds for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, amending rates in Title 15 “Public Utilities” of the Sitka General Code and adopting moorage rates and other harbor fees
- A motion was made by Riley that this Ordinance be APPROVED on FIRST READING. The motion PASSED by the following vote.**
- Yes:** 7 - Christianson, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Pike, Carlson, Saline, and Riley
- G** [ORD 26-13](#) Proposing to amend Section 6.01 “Initiative and Referendum” of the Home Rule Charter and, submitting the question of such an amendment to the qualified voters at the regular election on October 6, 2026
- Municipal Clerk Sara Peterson provided a summary of the proposed Home Rule Charter amendment.
- A motion was made by Christianson that this Ordinance be APPROVED on FIRST READING. The motion PASSED by the following vote.**
- Yes:** 7 - Christianson, Mosher, Eisenbeisz, Pike, Carlson, Saline, and Riley

Additional New Business Items

- H** [26-093](#) Accept the Sitka Child Care Needs Analysis Report and Discussion/Direction/Decision on next steps
- A motion was made by Mosher to ACCEPT the Sitka Child Care Needs Analysis Report. The motion PASSED by the following vote.**
- Yes:** 7 - Eisenbeisz, Christianson, Riley, Mosher, Saline, Carlson, and Pike
- Sponsors Mosher, Christianson, and Pike offered comments. The Assembly asked questions of Blue Shibley, Executive Director of Southeast Childhood Collective.
- The Assembly discussed possible childcare solutions and funding options. The

consensus was to hold a work session in June to further discuss and gather community input.

XIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

Annette Evans and Margaret Galanin thanked the Assembly for its support in identifying solutions to Sitka's childcare challenges.

XIV. REPORTS

a. Mayor, b. Administrator, c. Attorney, d. Liaison Representatives, e. Clerk, f. Other

Mayor - Eisenbeisz reported on a meeting with Alaska Airlines.

Administrator - Leach relayed Senator Murkowski had submitted a request for funding of Sitka's Marine Service Center seawall and crane replacement.

Attorney - Jones reported on the dismissal of two court cases.

Liaison representatives - Reports were provided by Riley for the Planning Commission, Carlson for the Port and Harbors Commission, and Pike for the Sustainability Commission.

Other - Riley reminded drivers to watch for bicyclists, and Carlson reported attending the May 11 Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy meeting.

XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

I [26-094](#) Municipal Administrator Recruitment

A motion was made by Mosher to enter into executive session to discuss matters that may tend to prejudice the reputation and character of Municipal Administrator candidates Jenny Alber and Steven Dahl, and to identify the path forward in the Municipal Administrator recruitment, pursuant to the statutory exception for subjects that may tend to prejudice the reputation and character of an individual. I further move to invite Assistant Municipal Administrator Joshua Branthoover to participate in the executive session and to exclude the Municipal Administrator and Municipal Attorney. The motion PASSED by the following vote.

Yes: 7 - Eisenbeisz, Pike, Carlson, Mosher, Christianson, Saline, and Riley

The Assembly was in executive session from 9:07 p.m. to 9:33 p.m.

A motion was made by Carlson to RECONVENE as the Assembly in regular session. The motion PASSED by a unanimous voice vote.

Eisenbeisz stated, "We met in executive session to talk about our municipal administrator candidates. We identified some paths forward in the recruitment process, and we'll continue to work hard on our citizens' behalf to fill our municipal administrator position."

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Carlson to ADJOURN. Hearing no objections, the meeting ADJOURNED at 9:34 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Sara Peterson, MMC
Municipal Clerk