

**PORT & HARBORS ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
DATE: January 13, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Port & Harbors Advisory Board regular meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M., at City Council Chambers, in Ketchikan, Alaska.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant	(Chairman)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Russell Cockrum	(Vice-Chairman)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Jai Mahtani	Council Member
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Eric Lunde	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Steve Wilsie	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Jay Rhodes	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Lee Bethel	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Eric Youngblood	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Tom Carruth	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ms. Linda Faber	

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Excused

<input type="checkbox"/>	Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Russell Cockrum	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Jai Mahtani	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Eric Lunde	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Steve Wilsie	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. James Rhodes	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Lee Bethel	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Eric Youngblood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Tom Carruth	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Linda Faber	<input type="checkbox"/>

Harbor Staff Present:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Wayne Phillips
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. James Wilson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Craig Bisson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ms. May Caguiat
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Gavin Buendia

CHANGES TO AGENDA:

None

MINUTES: MOTION was made by Board member Jay Rhodes to accept the minutes of the

regular meeting of the Port and Harbors Advisory Board from October 14, 2025. **MOTION SECONDED** by Council member Jai Mahtani. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS:

None

PERSONS TO BE HEARD:

Trygve Westergard questioned the parking around the Port & Harbors office. Director Wayne Phillips explained that the parking lot is managed by City of Ketchikan Public Works. Discussion was held.

Mike Holman of Pennock Island and Port & Harbor user. He stated that unless someone is in favor of the Proposed Berth III Lease, there is no need for him to speak against it.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Utilization of Bar Harbor Launch Ramp

Vice Chairman Cockrum said he initiated the discussion on the use of Bar Harbor Launch Ramp. He wanted to know what acceptable and unacceptable use of the ramp is. He said the ramp was built year 2012 and since then there was 432 seine skiff launches. It was brought to his attention that there was damaged to the ramp every time they launch seine skiff. Board Member Rhodes stated he looked at the ramp and he does not see much damaged to it. Council member Jai Mahtani noted there are certainly drag marks but instead of contending about it, we can come up with a solution to this issue. He also pointed out that we need to limit the wear and tear on the launch ramp. Board member Lunde suggested to look at fish tax money when time has come to replace the launch ramp. Port & Harbors Director Phillips will send a memo with regards to this matter at the next City Council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of PHAB Chairman and Vice Chairman/Secretary

MOTION was made by Board member Rhodes to nominate Board member Bethel for Chairman position. **MOTION SECONDED** by Board member Faber. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY; Board member Youngblood absent.**

MOTION was made by Board member Rhodes to nominate Board member Lunde for Vice Chairman/Secretary position. **MOTION SECONDED** by Board member Faber. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY; Board member Youngblood absent.**

Funding for Essential Safety Improvements at the Harbors

Port & Harbors Director Phillips addressed the request letter that will be submitted to Ketchikan Gateway Borough for utilization of raw fish tax funds.

2026 Cruise Ship Berth Utilization

Port and Harbors Director Phillips presented the 2026 Cruise Ship Berthing calendar for the record.

Berth III Tender Float Lease

City Council referred the proposed Berth III Tender Float Lease back to Port & Harbors Advisory Board for review. Port & Harbors Director Phillips spoke of the relevant rationale of the Berth III Lease.

Port & Harbors Director Phillips discussed what was outlined in the ordinance presented at City Council and explained the details. Director Phillips would like to seek further guidance from the Board on how to proceed and to gather everyone's perspective on this matter.

Mr. Mike Halman stated that Berth III is a public facility and that the ordinance envisions granting an individual business owner exclusive use of the Berth III Tender Float. He reiterated that the lease eliminates first come first serve policy.

Council member Mahtani recommended that the Berth III Tender Float remain as is and that no dedicated 150-foot lease be established, so long as the rules are equally and no party is unfairly benefiting.

MOTION was made by Council member Mahtani to maintain the current Berth III Tender Float operation. **MOTION SECONDED** by Board member Faber. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY; Board member Youngblood absent.**

2026 Harbor Rate Increase

Port & Harbors Director Phillips advised that this matter cannot be discussed at this time, as a fourteen-day notice/posting is required prior to implementation. Finance department has submitted a recommendation to adjust rates. The item will be added to next month's agenda.

Board Member Youngblood Request for Absence

MOTION was made by Council member Cockrum to accept Board member Youngblood's request for absence **MOTION SECONDED** by Board member Faber. **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY; Board member Youngblood absent.**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Port and Harbors Director Phillips reviewed/discussed the Director's report.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT

Board member Faber thanked the public that showed up and spoke.

Board member Cockrum seconded Board Member Faber's comment and said he appreciated people that showed up.

Board member Wilsie thanked May and staff.

Board member Rhodes thanked everyone.

Board member Carruth had no comment.

Vice Chairman Lunde thanked everyone that showed up. Thanked May and congratulates Chairman Bethel.

Council member Mahtani thanked everyone for showing up. He said these meetings are the only way we can get things done right for the community. He thanked everyone and May and congratulated Chairman Bethel.

Chairman Bethel thanked everyone for coming.

ADIJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business, the Port & Harbors Advisory Board meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

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Chair/Vice Chair Signature

2/10/26

Date