



Anchorage Port Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: July 8, 2026

Scheduled Time: 12pm - 2pm

Location: Port Admin third-floor conference room/virtual via Microsoft Teams

Present	Port Commissioners:	Commissioner Nathaniel Betz (seat 6) (online); Vice-Chair Aves Thompson (acting chair) (seat 7); Commissioner Stephanie Kesler (seat 9)
	Staff:	Director Terry Umatum; Deputy Director Cheryl Beckham; Operations, Maintenance & Security Ronnie Poole; Port Engineer Bill Carlson; Engineering & PAMP Program Manager John Daley; Safety Coordinator Shane Olo; Security Manager/FSO Brian Stanley
	Guests:	Eva Gardner (Municipal Attorney); Joe Bussa (Deputy Municipal Attorney/Solicitor General); Lance Wilber; other port users, contractors and members of the public participating in person or online
Absent	Port Commissioners:	Commissioner Simon Lisiecki (seat 2); Commissioner Mike Robbins (seat 4); Commissioner Peggy Jean Rotan (seat 5); Commissioner Ron Ward (seat 8); Seats 1 and 3 -- vacant
Absent	Staff:	None noted

I. Meeting called to order at 12:07 PM - Vice-Chair Aves Thompson opened the meeting. Commissioners, staff and guest attendance are shown above. A quorum was not present, so no formal action was taken. The Commission proceeded with informational items only.

II. Pledge of Allegiance - Led by the Chair.

III. Safety Minute – Safety Coordinator Olo presented a safety minute regarding wildlife encounters around the Port perimeter. The discussion emphasized that increased summer wildlife activity may include moose and bears near tracks, yards, wooded areas and access gates. Report wildlife sightings immediately to Port Security at 907-343-6034.

IV. Approval of Agenda - No action was taken due to lack of quorum.

V. Approval of Minutes of the May 20, 2026, meeting - No action was taken due to lack of quorum. The May 20, 2026 minutes will be included for approval at the next meeting.

VI. Port Director's Comments

- Director Umatum reported that the Port hosted a successful Golden Pile event the prior week to mark the start of Terminal 1 construction and recognize federal funding support. More than 150 people attended, including federal, state, municipal and Port representatives.
- Director Umatum discussed the MARAD/PIEP settlement announcement and apologized that Commissioners did not receive advance notice of the event. Commissioners requested stronger communication and recognition of the Port Commission's role and history in future Port-related announcements. Director Umatum acknowledged the concern and committed to improving communication and public recognition of the Commission as an institution.
- Commissioner Betz congratulated the Port team and the Municipality, noting that the settlement is a major positive step for the modernization program.
- Municipal Attorney Eva Gardner and Deputy Municipal Attorney/Solicitor General Joe Bussa briefed the Commission on the MARAD litigation settlement. They explained that the Municipality filed suit in 2014, previously obtained a \$367 million judgment that was overturned on appeal in 2024, and had an affirmed recovery of \$11 million before settlement. The new settlement provides \$180 million, preserving the \$11 million judgment, for an expected total recovery of approximately \$191.3 million.



- Legal staff described the settlement as the largest legal recovery in Municipal history and stated that the funds are expected through the Judgment Fund after paperwork and Treasury processing. They noted that immediate cash recovery provides certainty, avoids further litigation risk and is more valuable than uncertain future recovery because it can reduce downstream financing costs associated with PAMP.
- Director Umatum reported that the Port received a Government Hill Community Council noise complaint related to ABI cement pumping operations. The Port is working with staff and engineers to evaluate the issue, including potential industrial-noise monitoring, and emphasized that the concern is being taken seriously.
- Director Umatum reported increased beluga activity near Terminal 1 work areas. The activity has not delayed the project to date, but staff are monitoring it closely and will continue to track reported takes and production impacts.
- Director Umatum reported continued community outreach, including Government Hill Community Council and Rotary engagement. He also noted that weekly PAMP update meetings provide useful project information and that the meeting information will be shared with the Commission.

VII. Staff Reports

Operations and Maintenance (Ronnie Poole):

- Operations thanked Port staff, including Safety Coordinator Shane Olo for safety training and Security Manager/FSO Brian Stanley for keeping security efforts focused during a busy period of Port activity, tours, press events and construction.
- The June 25-26 cruise ship call was completed without incident. Brian Stanley helped support the call while Ronnie Poole was out, and the next cruise ship, The World, is expected August 5, 6 and 7.
- MMJV and Port crews continue housekeeping activities, including sweeping, dust control, grass cutting and other seasonal work to keep the Port clean and safe.
- Two new Port maintenance hires were reported.
- Berthing Line 3 at POL2 has been restored to service following the December 25 incident, and recent operations were completed without incident.

Engineering (Bill Carlson):

- Storm Drain Systems 1 and 2 are progressing with system 5 work approved through Assembly action on July 7, 2026. Future storm drain improvements are also being scoped with Project Management and Engineering.
- POL2 Berthing Line 3 is restored to service. Fuel used during flushing is being stored in a tank and is planned to be sold back to Inlet Energy to help offset costs.
- The Port Maintenance Complex/Sprung structure is delayed, with delivery now likely in 2027. The structure is approximately 27,000 square feet and is intended to support sand storage, operations and heavy equipment storage.
- For the PCT crane, staff reported a low-cost insulation project intended to improve cold-weather hydraulic-fluid performance after last winter's issues. The improvement is expected to raise hydraulic-fluid temperature and improve reliability in cold conditions.

PAMP (John Daley):

- North Extension Stabilization Phase 1 is mostly complete. Remaining MARAD funds will be used for a road and helipad project. A design-build RFP is being advertised, with selection expected in the next few weeks; design is expected in fall/winter and construction is expected next spring.
- A remaining KABATA/right-of-way issue is being addressed through a process to move or reconfigure the right-of-way so that it better aligns with Port plans. A hearing is expected in September and staff do not anticipate major controversy.



- Terminal 1 construction remains the Port's major focus. Work includes demolition of POL1, the old Terminal 1 and the old Petroleum Terminal 1; removal of piping, piles and concrete; abutment preparation; and deep soil mixing for the new trestles.
- The north-end staging area is receiving precast and prefabricated materials, including piles and concrete shipped from the Pacific Northwest. The contractor is preparing to set pile templates and targeted the first permanent pile for Friday, July 17.
- Beluga activity, reduced daylight later in the season and production-pile timing remain schedule concerns. Staff requested enhanced reporting so the Port can monitor pile production, beluga takes and production rates during the work season.
- The electrical substation design-build project is progressing. Staff received the 65 percent design package with few comments. Fall work is expected to include duct bank installation, and the BESS and other long-lead equipment are on order.
- Terminal 2 design is underway at the 35 percent level. Related studies include alternative fueling/POL2 replacement scenarios, possible accelerated in-place replacement of POL2 with minimal downtime, and seismic optimization to evaluate pile size and cost opportunities.
- Additional maintenance and readiness projects include main dock fender replacement, North Floating Dock/NOAA tide station pile work, POL2 fender replacement, annual dock inspection, and POL2 pile jacket and pile cap repairs moving toward bid.
- PCT operational procedures and guidelines are under development, including line-stripping procedures and a broader POL operations guideline document. Staff emphasized that the Port is working with users to address operational questions and build consensus without dictating solutions.

Finance (Cheryl Beckham):

- Finance reported stable financial results, with revenues, expenses and tariff surcharge collections generally tracking with budget and supporting debt service as expected.
- The short-term borrowing line has increased from \$40 million to \$100 million. Monthly interest payments have increased from approximately \$119,000 to approximately \$250,000. The borrowing line remains a necessary funding mechanism while the Port waits for grant reimbursements.
- Legal services were reported at approximately \$173,000 year-to-date. Additional costs may be incurred to finalize the PIEP settlement but is yet to be determined.
- The Commission discussed whether the \$191.3 million settlement may affect the PAMP surcharge. Staff stated that the impact is still to be determined and that the Municipality remains scheduled to sell approximately \$400 million in revenue bonds because settlement timing is uncertain and contractor payments continue at a significant monthly rate.
- The Port received an A Stable credit rating from Kroll for the Port revenue bonds. Staff noted that the rating was a positive outcome and should help lower borrowing costs.
- The May tonnage report was included in the packet.

VIII. Old Business

- PIEP/MARAD litigation update: Staff noted that the settlement discussion provided under the Port Director's Comments addresses the litigation update.

IX. Correspondence Received by Commission - None reported.

X. New Business - None reported.

XI. Public Comments - No public comments were made.



XII. Port Director's Closing Comments - Director Umatum congratulated the Port team for maintaining operations safely during an active construction season and recent high-profile Port events. He emphasized that every Port terminal remains open, the Port is operating while construction continues, and the Port remains open for business.

XIII. Commissioners Closing Comments

- Commissioner Kesler commented that it was a good meeting and expressed appreciation for Port staff and employees.
- Commissioner Betz congratulated the Port team on the settlement and the credit rating and stated that the Port appears positioned for a strong positive trajectory.
- Commissioners commented that the meeting was informative and that the settlement is very good news, while acknowledging the importance of receiving the funds.

XIV. Next Meeting Date - The next meeting is expected to be scheduled for September 16, 2026.

XV. Meeting Adjourned at approximately 1:06 PM