

APPROVED
September 16, 2026



Anchorage Port Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: May 20, 2026

Scheduled Time: 12pm – 2pm

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

Present	Port Commissioners:	Commissioner Simon Lisiecki (seat 2); Commissioner Mike Robbins (seat 4); Commissioner Peggy Jean Rotan (seat 5); Commissioner Nathaniel Betz (seat 6) (online); Vice-Chair Aves Thompson (acting chair) (seat 7); Commissioner Ron Ward (seat 8) (online); Commissioner Stephanie Kesler (seat 9)
	Staff:	Director Terry Umatum; Deputy Director Cheryl Beckham; Operations and Maintenance Director Ronnie Poole; Port Engineer Bill Carlson; PAMP Engineering Manager John Daley; Safety Coordinator Shane Olo; Security Manager Brian Stanley; Kathleen King
	Guests:	Jade Gamble (ADEC); Sarah Rolando (Jacobs); Chris Manculich; Corey Nichols; other port users, contractors and members of the public participating in person or online
Absent	Port Commissioners:	Seats 1 and 3 -- vacant
Absent	Staff:	None noted

I. Meeting called to order at 12:00 PM – Vice-Chair Aves Thompson opened the meeting. Commissioners, staff and guest attendance are shown above. There was a quorum.

II. Pledge of Allegiance – Led by the Chair Thompson

III. Safety Minute

Safety Coordinator Shane Olo presented a safety minute on maintaining situational awareness in a dynamic port environment. The discussion emphasized pausing and observing before entering operational areas, assessing changing conditions, and anticipating next steps around moving equipment, vehicles, pedestrians, weather and restricted areas.

IV. Introductions and Organizational Updates

- Brian Stanley was introduced as the new Security Manager working under Operations, Safety and Security. He noted his nearly 19 years with the Port Security Center and his continued role supporting Coast Guard compliance and secure port operations.
- The Commission was advised that Cheryl Beckham has been appointed Deputy Director of Don Young Port of Alaska.
- Director Umatum noted that the Port is making structural changes to the organization and will introduce additional new staff as positions are filled.

V. Approval of Agenda – Approval of the agenda was moved by Commissioner Kesler, seconded by Commissioner Robbins, and unanimously approved without objection.

VI. Approval of Minutes of the March 11, 2026, meeting – Approval of the March 11, 2026, meeting minutes was moved by Commissioner Kesler, seconded by Commissioner Lisiecki, and unanimously approved without edit.



VII. Port Director's Comments

- Director Umatum reported that first-quarter budget revisions and related organizational chart changes were recently approved through the Assembly process. He noted that the changes are intended to strengthen Port capacity after many years without significant structural changes.
- The updated organization will add capacity to the maintenance team, align engineering and project controls under the PAMP Engineering Manager, and support ongoing operations and modernization work.
- The first cruise ship call of the season was successful. Director Umatum also reported that PCT is being used for cement and petroleum operations, including recent tanker calls, while the Port continues to address punch-list and legacy-system items.
- The Port is evaluating the need for additional petroleum/cement technical expertise to support PCT, POL facilities and user coordination.

VIII. Staff Reports

Operations and Maintenance (Ronnie Poole):

- Operations welcomed new staff and emphasized succession planning, transparency, and continued coordination with ADEC, Coast Guard, Jacobs and port users as PCT operations continue to mature.
- The first cruise ship of the season was completed successfully. Approximately seven cruise ship visits are expected this year.
- Operations coordinated an unusual overlap involving a cruise ship and a military vessel, including helicopter operations and bus movements, with support from TOTE and other partners.
- Maintenance crews continue to support PCT, POL2, port cleanup, pothole repairs, and increased construction-related activity across the facility.

PCT and POL Operational Issues Discussed:

- Commissioner Ward raised concerns regarding the PCT man basket/crane after observing unusual noise near the boom/head block area during personnel transfer operations. Port staff acknowledged the concern, reported that the issue had been identified, and stated that the crane company was being engaged to inspect and diagnose the issue.
- Commissioner Ward also raised a concern regarding what had been characterized to him as a spill during tanker operations. Bill Carlson explained that the event he witnessed involved approximately 20 to 25 gallons of residual fuel in a berthing line that was controlled and drained into a drum on the vessel. ADEC indicated that a controlled process into an intended container would not generally be treated as a spill, while noting the importance of reporting if a release does not go as intended.

Engineering (Bill Carlson):

- PCT is operational, with multiple fuel deliveries completed. Staff continue to work through operational challenges, including PCT camera procurement and related safety needs.
- POL2 repairs are ongoing following the Christmas Day damage to Berthing Line 3. The line has been replaced and certification testing/flushing is anticipated soon.
- POAVY remains a complex legacy system. Staff are addressing pump outages and electrical interconnection issues as they arise.
- Storm drain work is advancing, including construction on systems 1 and 2 and 95 percent design on system 5. Several additional storm drain projects remain planned.
- The Port Maintenance Complex/Sprung structure parts are being prepared for shipment from Alberta and Utah to Alaska. Building permit coordination with the Municipality is ongoing, with the goal of beginning ground work in August and delivering a functional structure in 2026.

PAMP (John Daley):

- North Extension Stabilization Phase 1 is mostly complete, with closeout activities ongoing. Remaining MARAD funds may be used for a small road and helipad project, currently moving through MOA Purchasing as a design-build project.



- The Port is working through a remaining Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority right-of-way issue by reconfiguring rather than vacating the right-of-way so that it better aligns with Port development plans.
- Terminal 1 construction is underway. POL1 is out of service and demolition work is occurring at POL1 and T1. Fender removal, deep soil mixing, pile staging, pile-template work, and precast concrete fabrication/shipment are all active.
- Electrical substation design-build work is progressing. Duct bank and site work are expected this year, with long-lead electrical equipment on order. The first portion of the BESS is expected to be installed, though it may not yet be operational.
- Preliminary design for Terminal 2 has begun, including alternative fueling and seismic studies. The design team is expected onsite in June for additional work and presentations.
- Additional maintenance and readiness projects include fender replacement, annual dock inspection, POL2 pile jacket and pile cap repairs, and North Floating Dock installation.
- Commissioner Ward raised concerns about MMJV barge and mooring buoy locations near POL1 and potential interference with Matson vessel approaches, particularly for starboard-side-to operations. John Daley and Sarah Rolando stated that the team would review the contract work area, provide updated diagrams, and improve coordination with MMJV. Sarah noted that equipment outside the defined marine work area must be moved within four hours of notice.

Finance (Cheryl Beckham):

- Finance reported that revenues and tariff surcharge collections are generally on track and slightly ahead of straight-line budget targets through April, while recognizing that Port revenue is not generated evenly throughout the year.
- Debt service expense appears low year-to-date due to timing, with major payments occurring in June and November.
- Expenses are tracking below the straight-line target, largely because many operational expenses occur during the summer months.
- The Commission discussed the planned revenue bond sale, expected at approximately \$400 million near the end of July, and the tariff surcharge rates approved for 2027 to support the bond financing.
- The cargo surcharge rate discussed for 2027 is \$22.76 per ton, compared to the current \$8.05 per ton. Staff emphasized that state, federal, or third-party funding would reduce required borrowing and help mitigate surcharge impacts on users and consumers.
- Staff noted that the base tariff is separate from the PAMP surcharge and is generally in place through 2029, with a future base-tariff study likely to be considered before that period ends or sooner if operational or debt-service needs require review.
- The Commission requested the one-page funding/surcharge summary that was recently provided to the Legislature.

IX. Old Business

- PIEP litigation update: Director Umatum reported that the Municipality and counsel recently returned to Washington, D.C. to continue settlement discussions related to the MARAD litigation. He stated that the process is ongoing, with positive commentary coming back to the Municipality, and that a settlement could occur this year. Any settlement proceeds are expected to support PAMP costs and reduce impacts to users and consumers.

X. Correspondence Received by Commission – None reported.

XI. New Business

- The Commission requested that the PCT crane/personnel transfer issue and related PCT operational items raised by Commissioner Ward be tracked for follow-up at the next meeting, with staff continuing to work on solutions before then.



XII. Public Comments

- A port user representative commented that safety is the most important concern during concurrent operations and construction. He noted increased truck, contractor and vessel activity and offered to show Port safety staff the operational area from a user perspective on a ship day.
- Director Umatum encouraged direct coordination with Port safety and operations staff and suggested that users present their operations to Jacobs and contractors during a safety or coordination meeting so construction teams better understand vessel and terminal operations.

XIII. Port Director's Closing Comments – Director Umatum closed by reinforcing the importance of safety, situational awareness, and caution while driving and working at the Port during construction. He emphasized that conditions are changing daily and thanked the Commission and users for continued engagement and operational feedback.

XIV. Commissioners Closing Comments

- Commissioner Kesler reported that Director Umatum attended a Government Hill Community Council executive committee gathering and noted the importance of the Port's relationship with Government Hill. She also commented positively on recent vessel activity and the visibility of Port operations from the neighborhood.
- Commissioner Lisiecki congratulated staff on planning efforts and wished the Port success in filling the new positions.
- Commissioner Ward thanked Port staff for addressing the operational issues he raised and clarified that the residual fuel event had been mischaracterized to him as a spill. He emphasized the importance of continued communication given the amount of activity expected during the summer.
- Vice-Chair Thompson commended Director Umatum and staff on what appears to have been a smooth transition between administrations and on developing a plan to address vacancies and staffing needs.

XV. Next Meeting Date – The Commission discussed scheduling and tentatively identified July 8, 2026, for the next meeting, subject to confirmation and updated calendar invite.

XVI. Meeting Adjourned – The meeting was adjourned by motion and second at approximately 1:30 PM.