

City of Wasilla

290 E Herring Avenue, Wasilla, Alaska

Commissioners

Aaron McCarty, Chair
Kevin McCabe

Wasilla Airport Advisory Commission

Regular Meeting Agenda

www.cityofwasilla.gov
907-373-9010

Commissioners

Austin Bulawa, Vice Chair
Luther "Chip" Anderson
Michael Lucas

Meeting Date

April 16, 2026
6:00 p.m.

Location

Council Chambers
Wasilla City Hall
290 E Herring Avenue

Page

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ROLL CALL**

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

5.1. Regular Meeting Minutes: March 19, 2026

3 - 5

[AAC Regular - 19 Mar 2026 - Minutes](#)

6. **STAFF REPORTS**

7. **PUBLIC COMMENTS (FIVE MINUTES PER PERSON)**

8. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

8.1. Rate Increase Process

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

9.1. Taxiway Kilo Construction Update

9.2. Aquatic Invasive Species (Presentation by Mike Lucas)

10. **PUBLIC COMMENTS (FIVE MINUTES PER PERSON)**

11. **STAFF AND COMMISSION COMMENTS**

12. **ADJOURNMENT**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Austin Bulawa, Vice Chair
Kevin McCabe - Via telephone
Michael Lucas
Luther "Chip" Anderson

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Aaron McCarty, Chair

STAFF PRESENT: Erich Schaal, P.E., Public Works Director
Ashley Loyer, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Wasilla Airport Advisory Commission was held on Thursday, March 19, 2026, in the Wasilla City Council Chambers, Wasilla Alaska. Vice-Chairman Bulawa called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon roll call, a quorum of the Wasilla Airport Advisory Commission was established.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Anderson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: Commissioners moved to approve the agenda as presented.

ACTION: The agenda was approved without objection by unanimous consent.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.1. Regular Meeting Minutes: February 19, 2026

MOTION: Commissioners moved to approve the agenda as presented.

ACTION: The agenda was approved without objection by unanimous consent.

6. STAFF REPORTS

Public Works Director Schaal:

- Reported that preparations are underway for what is anticipated to be a successful summer season at the airport.

- Taxiway K is beginning, with contractors mobilizing equipment and trailers on site. Weekly project meetings have commenced. Noted that several FAA approvals are still pending, including the haul route.
- Invited feedback from the Commission as the projects move forward.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS (five minutes per person)

No public comments given.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

No unfinished business.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1 Rate Increase Discussion -
Public Works Director Schaal

- Provided a handout for discussion. The handout was the previously proposed rate increases from 2023, along with the resolution.
- Noted that this information is being presented again for consideration, and that the highlighted grey sections reflect the mayor's additional proposed rate adjustments.
- Discussion included the process moving forward, with rate proposals to be entered into Muniworth. The proposed rates will then be presented to the City Council for public review, during which the public will have multiple opportunities to provide comment before the Council makes a final decision.
- Noted that all individuals operating a business at the airport are required to have a business license.

Commissioner Anderson

- Asked whether there is a time limit for transient parking. Public Works Director Schaal responded that the intent is to encourage transient users to visit the airport.

Commissioner McCabe

- Requested projections of anticipated cash flow under the mayor's proposed rates.
- Stated that he does not believe airport users should subsidize airport operations through sales tax funds.
- Suggested gathering demographic information on airport users and evaluating the airport's overall economic impact.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS (five minutes per person)

Harry Zola

- Stated that he believes a majority of the sales tax collected in Wasilla is generated by nonresidents.
- Expressed that comparisons should be made with similar airports rather than dissimilar ones. He also noted concerns that the proposed fee

increases may be based on incomplete information and stated that he does not support them.

- Concluded by thanking the board members.

11. STAFF AND COMMISSION COMMENTS

Public Works Director Schaal:

- Reported that the FAA is encouraging the city to continue planning and scheduling for future projects. The FAA is prepared for the City to proceed with tie-down expansions; however, the City currently lacks the required matching funds.
- Noted the need to increase usage numbers to support extending the runway to 5,100 feet.

Commissioner Bulawa:

- Inquired about the electricity costs associated with the tie-downs. Public Works Director Schaal stated he will research the costs and provide that information.

Commissioner McCabe:

- Noted that three years ago there was less commercial activity at the airport, and that increased activity has helped maintain financial stability.
- Referenced State of Alaska rates and suggested that airport rates should remain neutral and comparable.

12. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business at hand, Vice-Chair Bulawa adjourned the regular meeting at 6:50 p.m.

ATTEST:

AARON MCCARTY, Chairman

ASHLEY LOYER, Commission Secretary

Minutes approved: _____