COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

September 2026

The Federation of Community Councils exists to foster and support neighborhood engagement across Anchorage. As part of that work, we are looking for ways to help councils and neighbors keep up with what's happening in their community. This fall, Neighbor to Neighbor adds a new monthly section, *Council Highlights*. Like the council reports that ran in the newsletter years ago, it offers a look at what Anchorage's 35 community councils are working on and the themes they share.

FCC staff use AI tools to help summarize the agendas, minutes, and resolutions that councils send us. Items drawn from agendas describe what a council planned. Items drawn from minutes describe what it did. For the full story, attend your council's meetings or check out the minutes on their website.

Join us each month for a look at what your neighbors are working on.
Councils can send documents, and readers can send corrections, to info@communitycouncils.org.

Restoring Property Owner Notice for Rezonings

In 2025, the Assembly removed the requirement to mail notice to property owners when the Municipality proposes rezonings or overlays. Some councils see the Missing Middle overlay as the first major test of that change.

- Sand Lake and Rogers Park took up resolutions asking the Assembly to restore mailed notice, and Turnagain and Rabbit Creek continued their earlier requests.
- Some councils acknowledged the cost of mailing notice and encouraged the Municipality to find efficient ways to provide it (RCCC, SLCC).

Missing Middle Housing Opportunity Overlay (AO 2026-85)

The Assembly introduced this overlay in June and set a public hearing for September 15. It intends to allow denser housing across a broad area, including many R-1 and R-2 zones.

- Turnagain and Sand Lake took up resolutions responding to the overlay, and both noted that it moved forward over the summer, when most councils don't meet.
- Rabbit Creek asked the Assembly for five revisions, including excluding high-hazard areas and focusing growth where the 2040 Land Use Plan calls for it. Rogers Park drafted a request to extend the comment period through October 20.
- The proposal was also presented or discussed at three other councils (SCC, UMTCC, FVCC).

Police Surveillance Technology and Privacy

A few councils followed an active Assembly debate over APD's use of surveillance tools and what privacy protections belong in code.

- North Star took up a resolution objecting to APD's use of automated license plate readers, citing the state constitutional right to privacy.
- Northeast was set to hear about AO 2026-108, which would restrict police surveillance technology. At Fairview, an Assembly member called for privacy protections before any expansion, while the Mayor's Office expressed interest in new tools for APD.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

September 2026

Abbott Loop turned its attention to annual elections, choosing officers one seat at a time before filling a nine-member board. Zoning was also on the table, including a request to rezone two Ivan Drive parcels to allow two-family homes and additional lots joining a separate rezone. The cannabis and alcohol committee lined up three license matters, among them a new marijuana shop on Elim Street.

Airport Heights welcomed two guest presentations, one on the Municipality's Community Safety and Development outreach and another on judicial retention. Members also began getting ready for October elections.

Basher set its sights on Chugach State Park access, with an Assembly co-sponsor slated to present an ordinance creating a new park access advisory board. Two resolutions were up for a vote: one weighing in on that ordinance and another naming the Northeast Connector Trail in honor of a late former Assembly member.

Bayshore/Klatt kept things short, with a Chugach substation update main item of business.

Bear Valley skipped a business meeting in favor of a neighborhood fall gathering with a cookout, warm drinks, and kids' activities. It also explained how the area's two road service areas work and whom to contact about road concerns. All seven officer seats are up for election on October 14.and a gasline fuel break starting in October were among the announcements.

Birchwood was set to hear from the volunteer fire chief that, without state funding this year, the mill rate would need to rise to cover expenses. Solid Waste Services was slated to present on Waste-to-Energy. Old business included a liquor license transfer to the Chin'an Gambling Hall, a proposal to move property assessment payments to a six-month schedule, and an update on the council's earlier resolution on gaming at the Ondola Allotment. Open FCC and publicity seats.

Campbell Park had a design review of pedestrian improvements at Tudor Elementary School (PM&E Project 24-20) was on the docket, with comments due the same day. Members also expected to discuss a mailing list download request to FCC and forming a communications committee. Homelessness was flagged as an open forum topic.

Chugiak lined up a Waste-to-Energy presentation and an introduction from a candidate for office.

Downtown opened with elections for its full board. The alcohol and marijuana committee brought forward three renewals. Presentations were slated on signal, lighting, and sidewalk upgrades along 4th Avenue from Cordova to Ingra, and on the new Downtown Library.

Eagle River was slated to host the Waste-to-Energy presentation along with public safety and elected officials' reports. Members were also reminded of FCC's library outreach day on September 11 and an Assembly Neighborhood Nerd Nite on September 16.

Eagle River Valley had a full slate of guests: Waste-to-Energy, Great Land Trust on adding the Joe Bear Homestead to Chugach State Park, and Eaglexit. The council is looking to fill an FCC alternate seat and a Parks and Recreation chair. Residents were reminded that curbside chipping registration closes Oct 1.

Fairview unanimously passed a resolution raising concerns about reduced hours at the Fairview Community Recreation Center and the lack of consultation with the council. A second resolution, asking that the Perseverance property move from DOT to the Municipality, was introduced for a future vote. Members also approved up to $1,000 for asphalt art along Hyder Street, starting at 12th and Hyder this fall. The Reconnecting Fairview Committee reported that a draft community plan should be out next month. The Mayor's Office shared plans to narrow Gambell and Ingra to make room for wider sidewalks.

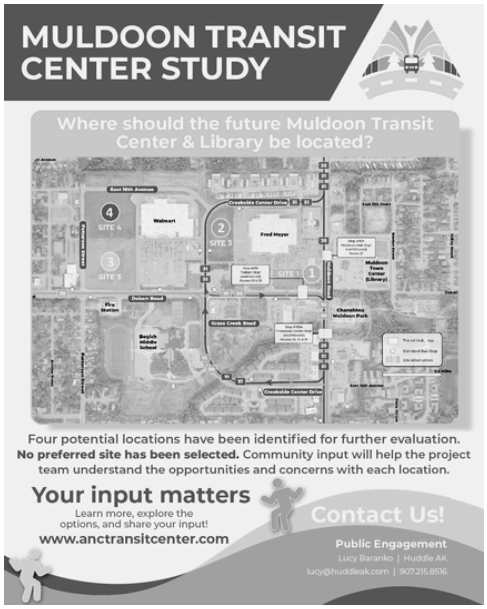
COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

September 2026

Glen Alps brought a long list of business, from Chugach Electric pole replacement to Canyon Road joining the Municipal Traffic Calming Program. Members were set to hear about Chugach State Park parking lot work, with construction expected in 2027, and the CASA advisory board ordinance, which the Assembly continued to October 6. New business included Waste-to-Energy, trash bear experiences in the area's Trash Regulation Zone, a wildfire sprinkler giveaway, and neighbor phone trees.

Government Hill had one new business item: a presentation on the new Downtown Library. No old business was listed. Community concerns included the GH Commons Fall Harvest Festival and a reminder about reporting bears and taking down bird feeders. No resolutions were scheduled.

Huffman/O'Malley focused on transportation, starting with DOT&PF bike lane designs. The Anchorage Historic Preservation Commission was slated to address the Seward Highway milepost 98.5–118 project. The Mayor's Office was expected to speak to a vote reversal on that same project.



Midtown moved toward October elections with proposed bylaw changes and a slate of candidates. DOWL was set to update members on Fireweed Lane. The Anchorage Health Department and the St. Paul Aleut Community were scheduled to present on community safety and development. The meeting also marked a farewell to the area's outgoing state representative and an introduction to the incoming one.

North Star brought two notable items forward: an update on Fireweed Lane alternatives from the project team, and a resolution objecting to APD's use of automated license plate readers on privacy grounds. Members were also pointed to FCC's "Join or Die" screening, the Rise and Represent leadership program, and a proposed trail upgrade at Westchester Lagoon. Recordings on the police use-of-force review and on dangerous buildings were shared for anyone who missed them.

Northeast had two resolutions up for final action: one requesting speed humps on Turpin Drive and another supporting the Assembly's audit of member expenses. The Office of Emergency Services was slated to present on emergency preparedness, with updates on the Muldoon Transit Center, WUI-CAT, and AMATS. Elected officials were expected to speak on school right-sizing, a proposed ordinance restricting police surveillance technology, and state oil windfall budgeting. The council is also recruiting for two board seats and two committee chairs.

Old Seward/Oceanview had a proposed ordinance designating safe parking areas for people living in vehicles on its docket. The Seward Highway project and the "10,000 Homes in Ten Years" initiative carried over as old business. Committees were set to report on water and sewer grants, road and drainage upgrades, wildfire readiness, and parks. The meeting moved to a new home at Chapel by the Sea.

Rabbit Creek put the Missing Middle housing overlay at the top of its list. The Board asked the Assembly for five revisions, pending ratification by members, including keeping denser housing out of high-hazard areas and focusing growth where the 2040 Land Use Plan calls for it. A Safer Seward Highway update, a proposed community travel-stories night, and a neighborhood sign were also up for discussion. The opening of the South Potter Marsh boardwalk was announced.

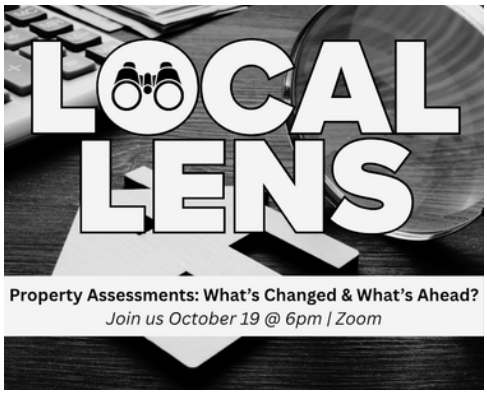
COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

September 2026

Rogers Park turned to the Missing Middle overlay with two drafts in hand: a letter asking to extend the comment period through October 20, and a resolution calling for property owners to be notified before any rezoning. DOWL was slated to update members on Fireweed Lane, and a new Land Use/Zoning Committee was proposed. Information on the Chester Creek Sports Complex was set for the close of the evening.

Russian Jack heard from a full bench of state legislators recapping the session, from vetoed elections and transit bills to a new ban on artificial dyes in school food. One legislator relayed that APD is about 100 officers short, and residents raised concerns about camps in Russian Jack Springs Park and property assessments outpacing senior exemptions. An Assembly member described work on tougher drug penalties paired with treatment, and Chugach Electric explained its time-of-use rate. The council also began gathering neighborhood input on its capital project priority lists ahead of a January deadline.

Spenard had a funding decision to make on Trick or Treat Fish Creek. The executive board also sought approval to send a letter asking for action and an ordinance on kratom. An Assembly member was slated to present on the Missing Middle housing proposal, joined by Chugach Electric and the Anchorage Health Department's community safety program. The Minnesota Drive sidewalk update moved to October, and volunteers were sought to represent Spenard on the Kincaid Park Master Plan stakeholder group.



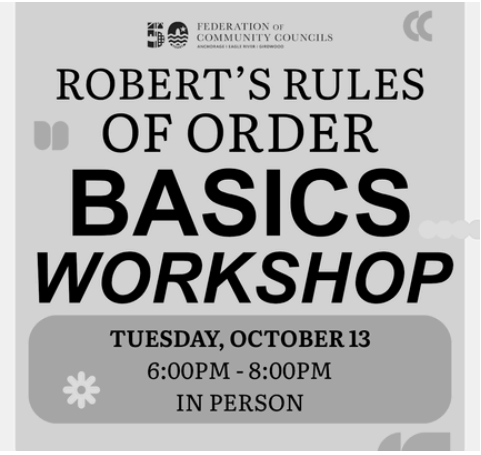
Sand Lake had two zoning resolutions ready for consideration: one responding to the Missing Middle overlay and another backing the restoration of property owner notice for rezonings. Airport issues, a Chitose City Park update, water quality in two subdivisions, and flooding at Meadow and DeLong Lakes were also on the docket. The council meets again October 12.

Scenic Foothills called a special meeting for one purpose: presenting a resolution to name the Northeast Connector Trail in honor of its late former chair, who went on to serve on the Assembly. The resolution credits her with securing the trail, which offers year-round access through the Muldoon Bog away from Tudor Road. Parks and Recreation is leading the naming effort. The meeting is set for September 30.

South Fork kept its business brief, with the Waste-to-Energy presentation pushed to October. Old business involved regaining access to an old council email account, followed by road board, parks, and treasurer's reports.

Taku/Campbell had community cleanup day carried forward as old business. New business centered on moving the meeting venue.

Turnagain set out to dig into land use, with a resolution on the Missing Middle overlay up for approval ahead of the Assembly's September 15 hearing. Members were set to hear an update on the push to restore public notice for rezones and to weigh trail and viewing enhancements on an HLB parcel. The airport report covered a UPS expansion lease, hangar development in the Turnagain Bog, and a noise study. The "10,000 Homes" open house and the consolidation of the city's comprehensive and land use plans were also on the list.

UMed/Tudor hoped to vote on new bylaws formalizing its name change from the University Area Community Council. A project team was slated to update members on the Muldoon Transit Center and the Basher trailhead parking lot. MOA Planning was expected to address the lot next to Tozier Track and the motorcycle training area on Tudor Road. Members also set aside time to discuss the Missing Middle housing proposal ahead of its public hearing.

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