

**ANCHORAGE, ALASKA  
AO No. 2026-13**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTIONS 4.60.090, 27.30.080 AND 27.30.085 TO ESTABLISH A REVIEW AND COMMENT PROCEDURE BY AN ADVISORY COMMISSION FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS WITHIN THE CHUGACH STATE PARK ACCESS SERVICE AREA (CASA).**

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**WHEREAS**, the voters residing in the proposed boundaries approved creation of the Chugach State Park Access Service Area (CASA) at the April 4, 2023, regular municipal election and special concurrent election, when Proposition 6 received a favorable vote of 59.68% of those voting on the question; and

**WHEREAS**, the CASA's purpose and services are limited, as set out in Anchorage Municipal Code section 27.30.085, to provide a means of financing capital improvement projects and their upkeep only for "for amenities that support park access or for roads, or incidental to roads that are classified by the municipality's Official Streets and Highways Plan in section 21.01.080 as minor arterials, collector and neighborhood streets that leading from streets of higher classifications and are generally used by the public for access to Chugach State Park trail heads"; and

**WHEREAS**, while qualifying capital improvements in CASA must be proximate to and used for access to Chugach State Park or amenities supporting access, the boundaries of CASA in which taxes may be levied uniformly when approved by the voters cover the entire Anchorage Bowl and JBER; and

**WHEREAS**, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Service Area (APRSA) was created in 1976 and annexed several times, with boundaries unchanged since 1995 that cover most of the Anchorage Bowl and JBER, but does not include some areas adjacent to or near Chugach State Park; and

**WHEREAS**, the APRSA is fully within the boundaries of CASA, and the CASA boundaries are coterminous with the Eagle River-Chugiak Parks and Recreation Service Area to the north and east, tracks the shoreline to the west, and at McHugh Creek outlet tracks into the park and easterly, effectively covering all of the Anchorage Bowl and much of Chugach State Park beyond its boundary; and

**WHEREAS**, both the APRSA and CASA do not have an independent board of supervisors, and under AMC section 27.10.030 their services are provided directly by Municipal departments; and

**WHEREAS**, in contrast to the above, a board of supervisors for service areas which have one shall "supervise the furnishing of special services," consult with and advise the Assembly and Mayor concerning administration of the affairs of the service area, advise the Mayor when preparing the service area's annual budget, and the departments' provision of services are "subject to the advice and recommendations

of the board of supervisors,” under AMC sections 27.10.040 and 27.20.050; and

**WHEREAS**, the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Service Area Commission, in existence since the creation of the Municipality of Anchorage by unification, is not a board of supervisors but does act in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and Assembly in all matters pertaining to parks and recreation only within the APRSA; and

**WHEREAS**, under AMC subsection 4.60.090F. before Assembly action on various actions related to APRSA park land and plans-including the capital improvement program, budget, and development of facilities-the matter must first be referred to the APRSA Commission for its recommendations and comments; and

**WHEREAS**, the CASA currently lacks any supervisory or advisory body with members equitably representing the whole area, and would benefit from one in its budgeting and capital improvement plan development similar to the APRSA Commission’s role; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a working group convened for the purpose of developing an initial capital improvement program list of CASA projects beginning in 2027, as directed in AO 2025-107, As Amended, to be completed and submitted to the Assembly by March 31, 2026; however, the overall process for development and review for the CASA CIP has not been formalized or codified to date; now, therefore,

**THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY ORDAINS:**

**Section 1.** Anchorage Municipal Code section 4.60.090 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**4.60.090 - Anchorage Parks and Recreation and Chugach State Park Access Service Areas Advisory Commission.**

- A. There is established an Anchorage parks and recreation service area and Chugach State Park access service area (CASA) advisory commission consisting of nine members. The commission may be referred to as the Anchorage Parks and CASA Advisory Commission.
- B. The director of the department of cultural and recreational services shall be the executive secretary to the commission.
- C. Membership of the commission should represent as broad a geographic area of the two service areas as possible.
- D. Any official action by the commission shall require the favorable vote of the majority of all authorized seats of the commission.
- E. The commission shall act in an advisory capacity to the mayor and assembly in all matters pertaining to parks, [AND] recreation and park access and amenities within the two service areas, including but not limited to:



No. 2023-48(S), § 4, 9-12-23)

**Section 2.** Anchorage Municipal Code section 27.30.080 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**27.30.080 - Anchorage Parks and Recreation Service Area.**

\* \* \* \* \*

B. Parks and recreation services shall be provided in the Anchorage Parks and Recreation Service Area. Before the assembly acts to authorize capital improvements for the service area, including approval of the six-year program, plans and annual budgets, the matter shall first be referred to the advisory commission established by Section 4.60.090 for its recommendations and comments.

(AO No. 18-76; AO No. 80-183; AO No. 86-100, 1-1-87; AO No. 86-124, 1-1-87; AO No. 95-33, § 4, 2-14-95)

**Section 3.** Anchorage Municipal Code section 27.30.085 is hereby amended to read as follows (*the remainder of the section is not affected and therefore not set out*):

**27.30.085 - Chugach State Park Access Service Area.**

\* \* \* \* \*

B. The Chugach State Park Access Service Area shall provide capital improvements that support access to Chugach State Park and ameliorate the neighborhood effects of access by park users, and the maintenance thereof. Capital improvements may only be for amenities that support park access or for roads, or incidental to roads that are classified by the municipality's Official Streets and Highways Plan in section 21.01.080 as minor arterials, collector and neighborhood streets that leading from streets of higher classifications and are generally used by the public for access to Chugach State Park trail heads. Before the assembly acts to authorize eligible capital improvements for the service area, including approval of the six-year program, plans and annual budgets, the matter shall first be referred to the advisory commission established by Section 4.60.090 for its recommendations and comments. Taxes may only be levied as authorized by the voters.

C. When a proposed project for the Chugach State Park Access Service Area would be located, in whole or in part, within the boundary of a service area that provides roads and/or drainage services, the municipality shall provide notice of the proposed project and consult with the board of supervisors for the limited road service area or rural road service area, prior to including the proposed project in a capital improvement program and budget, and prior to proceeding with construction of the project. The powers and responsibilities of service areas that provide roads and/or drainage services shall not be affected

or limited by the Chugach State Park Access Service Area. However, Chugach State Park Access Service Area projects may only proceed if the municipality first enters cooperative agreements with all parties when the project is within the boundaries of a service area that provides roads and/or drainage services, or involves roads or real property owned by the State of Alaska.

(AO No. 2023-8, § 2, 4-25-23)

**Section 4.** This ordinance enlarges the geographic scope of the commission’s jurisdiction but does not increase the number of members from nine. For purposes of implementation of this ordinance to transition the current APRSA Commission to the Anchorage Parks and CASA Advisory Commission, the Assembly’s intent is, notwithstanding the directive of AMC subsection 4.60.090C., that current members should be able to serve the remainder of their terms, and as only as vacancies arise or terms end the Mayor should consider how to meet the required membership from both service areas when appointing new members.

**Section 5.** This ordinance shall be effective July 1, 2026.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Anchorage Assembly this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

ATTEST:

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Municipal Clerk

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# MUNICIPALITY OF ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY MEMORANDUM

No. AM 37-2026

Meeting Date: January 13, 2026

1 **From: Assembly Vice Chair Brawley**

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3 **Subject: AN ORDINANCE OF THE ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY**  
4 **AMENDING ANCHORAGE MUNICIPAL CODE SECTIONS**  
5 **4.60.090, 27.30.080 AND 27.30.085 TO ESTABLISH A REVIEW**  
6 **AND COMMENT PROCEDURE BY AN ADVISORY COMMISSION**  
7 **FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS WITHIN THE**  
8 **CHUGACH STATE PARK ACCESS SERVICE AREA (CASA).**  
9

10 This proposed ordinance will establish a prerequisite for advisory board review and  
11 recommendation on all capital projects to be funded by the Chugach State Park  
12 Access Service Area (CASA). Since its establishment by voter approval at the April  
13 2023 regular Municipal election, the CASA has catalyzed some preliminary work to  
14 identify eligible capital projects and insert them in the six-year capital improvement  
15 program (CIP), but the Municipality has not yet adopted an official list of projects  
16 beyond those proposed for a ballot proposition in 2026 (AO 2026-6, introduced  
17 January 13, 2026). Since its inception, there has been robust community debate  
18 and some disagreement about what CASA projects to prioritize in the CIP and  
19 capital improvement budget (CIB) in the annual budget proceedings, with some  
20 Assembly Members emphasizing the need for more inclusive public process for  
21 CASA project selection with input from the spectrum of residents and voters who  
22 reside throughout the CASA.  
23

24 At the November 18 Assembly meeting during deliberations on amendments for the  
25 FY2026 capital improvement budget, the Assembly approved an amendment  
26 adding Section 4 to AO 2025-107, As Amended, with an uncodified directive which  
27 states:  
28

29 **Section 4. The Administration shall convene an advisory group with**  
30 **representation from ARDSA and service areas that provide roads**  
31 **and/or drainage services that are within the Chugach State Park**  
32 **Access SA (CASA) boundaries shall develop a six-year Capital**  
33 **Improvement Program with a comprehensive list of projects for CASA**  
34 **improvements and submit to the Assembly by information**  
35 **memorandum no later than March 31, 2026.**  
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37 This process is underway and expected to produce a draft CIP for consideration for  
38 the 2027-2032 six-year cycle in early spring, which will serve as the basis for  
39 developing the first official CASA CIP beyond 2026 projects. The intent of this  
40 ordinance is to maintain the current directive, that the community group completes  
41 its work and the proposed CIP move through the review process. However, there is  
42 a need to thoughtfully consider how the CIP should be developed and reviewed  
43 going forward in future years, and benefits to codifying this process rather than  
44 relying on an ad hoc process going forward.

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2 Given the clear relationship between parks and recreational facilities and the types  
3 of projects envisioned for CASA, and the fact that there is a commission whose  
4 function relates to the existing APRSA (commonly referred to as the Anchorage  
5 Parks Commission), this ordinance proposes expanding the scope of this  
6 commission to include matters relating to both service areas. The current  
7 commission is not a service area supervisory board, and this proposed ordinance  
8 does not change this fact. It simply utilizes the existing commission  
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10 By expanding the commission to encompass both service areas, both the name and  
11 the necessary composition of the body would need to change, because current code  
12 requires that commissioners represent the service area's geography as broadly as  
13 possible. It is likely that the current membership composition has only members from  
14 within APRSA, and does not yet have representation from the few areas of CASA  
15 that are outside the APRSA boundaries. Those areas are depicted in the attached  
16 graphics taken from the Municipal GIS mapping applications. If this ordinance is  
17 adopted, new commission appointments would need to include one or more  
18 members from the CASA who are outside APRSA, which can be accomplished  
19 through future appointments, and/or expanding the number of commissioner seats  
20 to accommodate additional members; the latter is not contemplated in this version,  
21 but documented here for further discussion. The proposed ordinance also includes  
22 language making clear that no current commissioners would be removed, but that  
23 members within CASA but not within APRSA could be added through filling  
24 vacancies over time to update the commission's composition. Overall, the efficiency  
25 of utilizing the existing advisory commission and its staffing, including expanding  
26 commission membership to gradually include persons residing outside APRSA over  
27 time, will have little to no actual costs to implement. Thus, no summary of economic  
28 effects is necessary.  
29

30 The sponsor intends to seek input and recommendation from the impacted  
31 commission, because it would expand their scope and membership. The ordinance  
32 is being referred to the APRSA Commission for review and comment at their next  
33 meeting, currently scheduled for February 12, 2026, so the public hearing date will  
34 be requested for a regular Assembly meeting after that date.  
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36 **I request your support for the ordinance.**  
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38 Prepared by: Office of Assembly Counsel  
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40 Respectfully submitted: Anna Brawley, Assembly Vice Chair  
41 District 3 – West Anchorage  
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43 Attachments: Maps depicting service area boundaries  
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1. Map image showing park service areas (ERCPRSA in tan, APRSA in olive green, GVSA in blue) and CASA (in red outline and shading) boundaries.



