



CITY OF GUSTAVUS CITY COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, September 08, 2025 at 7:00 PM
Gustavus City Hall

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Sally McLaughlin
Vice Mayor Shelley Owens
Council Members: Susan Warner, Geoff Fosse,
Jim Kearns, Lucas Beck, Mike Taylor

CITY HALL

City Administrator – Kathy Leary
City Clerk – Liesl Barker
City Treasurer – Ben Sadler
Phone: 907-697-2451 | clerk@gustavus-ak.gov

MINUTES - PENDING

VIRTUAL MEETING INFORMATION

<https://tinyurl.com/kttf259y>

ID: 515 501 9406

PASSCODE: 4685

TEL: 253-215-8782

ROLL CALL

Reading of the City of Gustavus Mission Statement

Mission Statement read by Council Member Kearns.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 08-11-2025 General Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Council Member Kearns to approve by unanimous consent the 08-11-2025 Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Vice Mayor Owens

Public Comment: None

Council Comment: None

Hearing no objections, the 08-11 -2025 General Meeting Minutes were approved by unanimous consent.



MAYOR'S REQUEST FOR AGENDA CHANGES

There were no agenda changes.

Hearing no objections, Mayor McLaughlin announced the agenda set as presented by unanimous consent.

COMMITTEE / STAFF REPORTS

2. Conservation Lands Advisory Committee Quarterly Report

Conservation Lands Advisory Committee chair, Mike Taylor provided a written report and provided an oral summary.

Council Clarifying Questions: None

3. City Treasurer Monthly Report

City of Gustavus City Treasurer, Ben Sadler provided monthly financial documents and gave an oral summary.

Clarifying Questions: None

4. Library Quarterly Report

Library Administrative Director, Melisa Gomb submitted a written report and provided an oral summary.

Council Clarifying Questions:

Vice Mayor Owens

Council Member Kearns

Council Member Warner

5. City Administrator Monthly Report

City of Gustavus City Administrator, Kathy Leary provided a written report.

Clarifying Questions: None

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

David Olney- Asking for clarification

CONSENT AGENDA

6. FY26-05NCO Introduction of the amendment of the city held accounts in fiscal year 2026 for the wildlands fire truck funding not covered by 2024 legislative grant (Public Hearing 10-13-2025)

7. FY26-06NCO Introduction of the amendment of the city held accounts in fiscal year 2026 for the City Council and GVFD Fire Chief computer replacement project. (Public Hearing 10-13-2025)

Motion made by Vice Mayor Owens to adopt the consent agenda by unanimous consent.

Seconded by Council Member Warner

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC HEARING

8. FY26-02 Ordinance providing for the amendment of Title 5 Chapter 10 Section 080 Qualification for City Council (Introduced 08-11-2025)

Mayor McLaughlin opened the public hearing at 7:28 PM.

Public Testimony: None

Mayor McLaughlin closed the public hearing at 7:28 PM.

Motion made by Council Member Kearns to approve FY26-02 Ordinance providing for the amendment of Title 5 Chapter 10 Section 080 Qualification for City Council.

*Point of Order by City Clerk - motion should state its being introduced- not taken, that was last month

Seconded by Council Member Beck

Council Debate: None

Voting Yea: Mayor McLaughlin, Vice Mayor Owens, Council Member Warner, Council Member Beck, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Kearns, Council Member Fosse

7 yea/ 0 nay

Motion Passed.

9. FY26-03 Ordinance providing for the amendment of Title 4 Chapter 14 Section 030 Imposition of Room Rental Tax (Introduced 08-11-2025)

Mayor McLaughlin opened the public hearing at 7:30 PM.

Public Testimony:

David Olney

Mayor McLaughlin closed the public hearing at 7:34 PM.

Motion made by Council Member Taylor to approve FY26-03 Ordinance providing for the amendment of Title 4 Chapter 14 Section 030 Imposition of Room Rental Tax.

Seconded by Council Member Fosse

Council Debate:

Council Member Taylor

Mayor McLaughlin

Motion made by Mayor McLaughlin to amend section c to strike "or other room rental accommodations." and insert "as defined in section 4.14.020."

Seconded by Council Member Beck

Mayor McLaughlin

Council Member Beck

Council Member Kearns

Voting Yea: Mayor McLaughlin, Vice Mayor Owens, Council Member Warner, Council Member Beck, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Kearns, Council Member Fosse

7 yea/ 0 nay

Motion Passed.

Back to main motion as amended debate:

Council Member Kearns

Voting Yea: Mayor McLaughlin, Vice Mayor Owens, Council Member Warner, Council Member Beck, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Kearns, Council Member Fosse

7 yea/ 0 nay

Motion Passed.

10. FY26-04 Ordinance providing for the amendment of Title 4 Chapter 15 Section 030 Imposition of Sales Tax (Introduced 08-11-2025)

Mayor McLaughlin opened the public hearing at 7:41 PM.

Public Testimony: None

Mayor McLaughlin closed the public hearing at 7:41 PM.

Motion made by Council Member Kearns to approve FY26-04 Ordinance providing for the amendment of Title 4 Chapter 15 Section 030 Imposition of Sales Tax.

Seconded by Council Member Fosse

Council Debate:

Council Member Kearns

Voting Yea: Mayor McLaughlin, Vice Mayor Owens, Council Member Warner, Council Member Beck, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Kearns, Council Member Fosse

7 yea/ 0 nay

Motion Passed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

11. CY25-18 Establishing the Endowment Fund Grant Special Advisory Committee (EFGC)

Motion made by Council Member Warner to approve CY25-18 Establishing the Endowment Fund Grant Special Advisory Committee.

Seconded by Council Member Taylor

Public Comment: None

Council Debate: None

Voting Yea: Mayor McLaughlin, Vice Mayor Owens, Council Member Warner, Council Member Beck, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Kearns, Council Member Fosse

7 yea/ 0 nay

Motion Passed.

12. CY25-19 Appointing Election Judges for the 2025 Municipal Election
- Motion made by Council Member Kearns to approve CY25-19 Appointing Election Judges for the 2025 Municipal Election.
- Seconded by Vice Mayor Owens
- Public Comment: None
- Council Debate:
- Vice Mayor Owens
- Mayor McLaughlin
- Voting Yea: Mayor McLaughlin, Vice Mayor Owens, Council Member Warner, Council Member Beck, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Kearns, Council Member Fosse
- 7 yea/ 0 nay
- Motion Passed.
13. CY25-20 Urging the U.S. Department of Agriculture not to rescind the roadless area conservation rule and to enact strong protections for old-growth forests in the Tongass National Forest
- Motion made by Council Member Taylor to approve resolution CY25-20 Urging the U.S. Department of Agriculture not to rescind the roadless area conservation rule and to enact strong protections for old-growth forests in the Tongass National Forest.
- Seconded by Council Member Kearns
- Public Comment: None
- Council Debate:
- Council Member Kearns
- Vice Mayor Owens
- Council Member Taylor
- Mayor McLaughlin
- Voting Yea: Mayor McLaughlin, Vice Mayor Owens, Council Member Warner, Council Member Beck, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Kearns, Council Member Fosse
- 7 yea/ 0 nay
- Motion Passed.
14. Approve Amendment of Policy and Procedure for a Regular Position Employee Performance Evaluation
- Motion made by Council Member Kearns to approve the Amendment of Policy and Procedure for a Regular Position Employee Performance Evaluation.
- Seconded by Council Member Fosse
- Public Comment: None

Council Debate:

Vice Mayor Owens

Voting Yea: Mayor McLaughlin, Vice Mayor Owens, Council Member Warner, Council Member Beck, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Kearns, Council Member Fosse

7 yea/ 0 nay

Motion Passed.

15. Approve Project Scoping Document - City Council and GVFD Fire Chief Computer Replacement Project

Motion made by Vice Mayor Owens to approve Project Scoping Document - City Council and GVFD Fire Chief Computer Replacement Project.

Seconded by Council Member Warner

Public Comment: None

Council Debate:

Council Member Kearns

Voting Yea: Mayor McLaughlin, Vice Mayor Owens, Council Member Warner, Council Member Beck, Council Member Taylor, Council Member Kearns, Council Member Fosse

7 yea/ 0 nay

Motion Passed.

16. Approve Project Scoping Document - Firefighter One Department Wide Training

Motion made by Council Member Fosse to approve Project Scoping Document - Firefighter One Department Wide Training.

Seconded by Council Member Taylor

Public Comment: None

Council Debate:

Vice Mayor Owens

Fire Chief Martinez

Council Member Warner

Motion made by Council Member Warner to postpone approving project scoping document for firefighter one department wide training until time certain of the October General Council Meeting.

Seconded by Vice Mayor Owens

Council Debate:

Council Member Warner

Council Member Beck

Fire Chief Martinez

Council Member Taylor

Vice Mayor Owens

Council Member Kearns

Council Member Fosse

Fire Chief Martinez

Council Member Warner - clarification

Mayor McLaughlin

Council Member Warner

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Owens, Council Member Warner, Council Member Kearns, Council Member Fosse

Voting Nay: Mayor McLaughlin, Council Member Beck, Council Member Taylor

4 yea/3 nay

Motion Passed.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Council Member Taylor - Old Post Office building update

17. DHS&EM Seismic Tsunami Operations Workshop Report

Vice Mayor Owens provided an oral summary of the Seismic Tsunami Operations Workshop she attended.

Council Member Taylor

Council Member Beck

Vice Mayor Owens

18. Mayor Monthly Report

Mayor McLaughlin submitted a written report and provided an oral summary.

Clarifying Questions:

Vice Mayor Owens

Council Member Kearns

CITY COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

None

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business and hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36PM.

POSTED ON: September 3, 2025 at P.O, Library, City Hall & <https://cms.gustavus-ak.gov/>

ADA NOTICE

Any person with a disability who requires accommodations in order to participate in this meeting should telephone the City Clerk's office at (907) 697-2451, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting in order to make a request for a disability related modification or accommodation.

MISSION STATEMENT

The City of Gustavus is a distinctive Alaskan City that provides high quality public services in a thoughtful, cost effective and professional manner to sustain a safe, beautiful tolerant environment to live, work, and play with respect for individual freedom and each other.

Sally A. McLaughlin, Mayor

Date

Attest: Liesl M. Barker, City Clerk

Date