

# Mayor's Monthly Report

December 2025

**Xunaa Borough:** We had been given a due date of November 19, 2025 to file the brief, but the attorneys requested a routine extension until December 19 to review the large volume of records the State sent to complete the record in court. The attorneys are now reviewing a draft brief; Attorney Megan Costello will send a more complete draft for review and approval. Following the filing, there will be time for both Hoonah and the LBC to file response briefs and then for the communities' response to those, followed by oral arguments. Then, the Court has up to six months to make their decision.

**Staff Meeting:** At the November staff meeting we began the process of developing a Policy & Procedure for staff travel. We had a good discussion and staff members had great input. Vice Mayor Beck and I discussed this, and we will be working on developing the P&P over the next few months. If any other council members are willing to assist, please let me know.

**Communication with ACS:** I emailed Heather Kavanaugh with ACS regarding the lack of caller ID on local phones and the subsequent issues when calls are labeled as "spam risk". Because Gustavus does not transmit a calling line ID, these calls are marked as SPAM. She responded that ACS had reached out last year to GCI and AT&T Alascom, who handle all long-distance calls, to resolve this but their efforts were not successful. I will reach out to AT&T once again to ask if they will revisit the issue, however it does not appear that this will be easily resolved.

**Salmon River Harbor Tract B-2 and submerged lands:** In April of this year, I worked with Council Member Taylor to apply to Department of Natural Resources to procure Tract B-2 at the harbor along with the adjacent submerged lands which comprise the central portion of the Salmon River Boat Harbor area. We currently own the surrounding tracts. A resolution (CY24-09) and scoping document were approved by the Council in March 2024, but no further action was taken at that time. The process includes DNR staff reviewing the documents and then notifying us of cost estimates and advising whether further action is needed. We have recently been contacted to provide an updated resolution indicating our approval to fund and conduct a tideland survey of the area, as well as an updated statement of eligibility which need to be submitted to complete the application. Mike wrote up the new resolution which is on tonight's agenda for approval. No further action will be taken until we have been provided with cost estimates at which point the Council may consider if we wish to proceed. I very much appreciate Mike's assistance with this project, which he initiated.

**Looking Ahead:** Vice Mayor Beck, Clerk Barker and City Administrator Kathy will be attending conferences in Anchorage all next week. With Kathy's encouragement to apply for stipends, over \$5,000 was awarded to assist with their expenses, which is a great help!

Also, please welcome Deputy Clerk Morgan Park as she steps in to assist while Clerk Barker is on extended leave. During the time that Liesl is away, and Kathy is out of the office over the Christmas and New Year period, there may be times when City Hall is understaffed, or not staffed, and unexpected closures may occur. We will do our best to prevent this from happening and appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

**Other:**

I spent time this past month on:

- Mugs & Matters at the Fireweed, Fridays at 11
- Regular monthly meeting with Vice Mayor Beck
- Worked on preparations for the December Saturday Market display
- Attended the Conservation Lands Committee meeting on November 7
- Attended via Zoom the EFGC meeting at which applicants presented their projects
- Regular Friday meetings with the City Administrator

*As always, community members, council members and city staff are encouraged to contact me if you have concerns or want to share thoughts or ideas.*

*Or join me at the Fireweed, Fridays at 11!*

*I hope you all have a wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to welcoming the return of the light!*

*Sally McLaughlin, Mayor*