

# Mayor's Report

January 2025

In December I spent a week in Anchorage attending the Alaska Municipal League's training for newly elected officials (NEO) and the Alaska Conference of Mayors (AcoM) on Monday and Tuesday, followed by AML's Annual Conference and business meeting the rest of the week. It was a full week and very worthwhile.

The NEO training included sessions covering Quasi-Judicial Role and Ex-Parte Contact; the Open Meetings Act; Roles and Responsibilities of Municipal Officials; and Parliamentary Procedure.

The AcoM included a session on Workplace Culture (Take-aways: "What you don't deal with, with deal with you", and "You can't fix what you won't face"), Roundtable Discussions and the AcoM annual business meeting. AML introduced a Member Communication Platform using Microsoft Teams for use by mayors throughout Alaska.

The Alaska Conference of Mayors issued the following statement following the business meeting recognizing successes, addressing challenges and policy recommendations:

[2024-ACoM-Conference-Statement.pdf](#)

**Wednesday and Thursday included many breakout sessions.** The following are the ones I attended with some key takeaways.

## Municipal Family of Plans and the Planning Process

-Who are we planning for? What are the problems? What is the origin story?

## Strategic Planning & Being Strategic with CIPs

-Create an Asset Registry and take care of what we already have first

-Asset registry is the starting point for developing CIP

-Seek grants to meet CIP needs rather than for new projects

## Cultivating Strong Planning Programs

-Be honest regarding needs/resources/limitations

-Engage community early and continuously

-Establish clear goals and objectives; "What gets measured, gets done".

Grant Management: What Funding Agencies Want You to Know; this one was helpful to me to understand the grant processes a bit better.

## Public Comment: The Good, The Bad, The Legal

-Many larger communities have big issues relating to public comment-Gustavus is very well behaved!

### Role of Local Government in Child Care Investment

-Some communities use an alcohol and/or tobacco tax to fund childcare and early education programs

- Nikki Love (part time Gustavus resident) at AEYC could be a good resource for Gustavus.

*I am happy to provide any further conference information with anyone – just let me know if you're interested.*

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-Our LGS, Iura Leahu, recommended that we hold regular staff meetings. I am working with Kathy to develop a plan for monthly meetings, hopefully starting in January.

-I attended the Conservation Lands Advisory Committee meeting last Friday.

-I worked with Liesl to update ordinances, wrote my first resolution, met with individual council members and community members and read lots of code, policy and resolutions!

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### ***Friday Afternoon Tea at the Fireweed***

*Please spread the word. I have enjoyed talking to a variety of folks over the past weeks and appreciate them taking time to meet with me.*