

Mayor's Monthly Report

February 2026

Xunaa Borough: *No new updates to report, but I am leaving last month's here in case anyone missed it.* An Appellant's Opening Brief was filed in Alaska Superior Court on December 19, 2025. There will now be time for both Hoonah and the LBC to file response briefs and then the communities can respond to those. Hoonah has filed a Notice of Routine Extension and was granted a new due date of February 27, 2026; the due date to file our response is March 19, 2026. The next step will be oral arguments in Court and then the Court has up to six months to make their decision.

Welcome Back, Liesl! We missed our marvelous Clerk while she was on extended leave. As Acting "Deputy Junior" Clerk, Morgan did an outstanding job filling in for Liesl, but we are happy to have Liesl back at her post and cleaning up the messes we made in her absence. City Hall is now fully staffed again with Kathy back as well.

Staff Meeting: The January staff meeting took place on January 14th; departments reported on the following regarding the snow event: *What was your biggest challenge? What went well? What losses did your department suffer? What can you or the City do to be better prepared in the future?* This was a good discussion, and notes were taken which can be used in future planning efforts. I'm pleased to report that good communication was mentioned by all departments.

Kudos to the Conservation Lands Advisory Committee! Committee members are dedicated and committed to their task. The display they arranged for the Gateway Gallery at the GCC was very well done, informative and professional looking. Unfortunately, after all their hard work to hang the maps and information during the heavy snow and lousy road conditions, they had to postpone their opening reception until three weeks later. I hope that many people took the time to look at the maps and familiarize themselves with the many parcels of public lands in Gustavus, and to admire the work of the committee members.

Other: It was a full schedule for meetings this month; re-scheduled regular meetings backed up to our Capital Improvement Plan Work Session which was then immediately followed by our February regular meetings.

Additionally, I spent time this past month on:

- Mugs & Matters at the Fireweed, Fridays at 11
- Met with Vice Mayor Beck prior to his departure for vacation
- Met with the City Administrator for a 6-month review regarding the ¾ time status of her position
- Regular Friday meetings with the City Administrator
- Worked on amendments to the Endowment Fund Policy & Procedure

- Developed a draft Policy & Procedure for city travel to review with staff this month
- Worked with Ben to schedule upcoming budget-related meetings
- Met with Liesl to discuss Policy Updates and Ordinance Review
- Met with Liesl, Morgan and Kathy to review the status of the new website
- Had a couple of conversations with Pelican Mayor, Barry Bryant
- Worked with the US Census worker in town to assist in assessing vacant properties
- Attended the CLAC Opening Reception at the GCC on January 30th

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!

Sally McLaughlin, Mayor