

CITY OF GUSTAVUS, ALASKA
RESOLUTION CY26-01

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF GUSTAVUS DECLARING A LOCAL DISASTER AND
REQUESTING ASSISTANCE FROM THE STATE OF ALASKA**

WHEREAS, commencing on December 27, 2025, the City of Gustavus, Alaska sustained record breaking non-stop snowfall resulting in overwhelming local heavy equipment and operator capacity, impassable roads and driveways, insufficient space on gravel roads to push additional snow after initial plowing, severe damage to city and personal and real property including collapsed roofs, overhangs and other structures, such as the Disposal and Recycling Center's compost facility and the library storage shed, a mostly sunken boat ramp float, winter road and drainage conditions that threatens life and property from heavy snow loads including lack of access to the only gravel pit in the area; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Gustavus has incurred high storm-related costs exceeding its winter maintenance budget due to extra snow plowings, contracted use of heavy equipment such as loaders to open roads, clear intersections, sand roads, and clear parking areas, and for staff overtime for clearing snow from city building roofs and operating areas; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Gustavus will continue to incur additional extra storm-related costs as it continues to clear city roads, intersections, and facility operating areas; and,

WHEREAS, Gustavus residences, businesses, electric utility and non-profit agencies have incurred and will continue to incur similar storm-related costs; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Gustavus has documented the extra costs expended by the City of Gustavus to date; and,

WHEREAS, those snow loads are now causing flooding of several icy roads with potential damage or destruction on one of the main arterial gravel roads that contain buried transmission lines and transformer boxes, creating conditions which will likely damage utilities, and transportation infrastructure, including the only access to the hydro power plant; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Gustavus is a political subdivision that has jurisdictional boundaries outside of a recognized borough in the Chatham REAA (Rural Education Attendance Area); and,

WHEREAS, the severity and magnitude of the emergency is beyond the timely and effective response capability of local resources; and there are insufficient regularly appropriated funds to cover these expenses.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Gustavus City Council does declare a disaster emergency per AS 26.23.140 to exist in the City of Gustavus and is contained within the

Attachment if any

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boundaries of the Disaster Declaration for the Southeast Winter Storm issued by Governor Dunleavy on January 10, 2026;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is requested that, based on the Governor's Disaster Declaration for the Southeast Winter Storm, the State of Alaska provide disaster assistance to the City of Gustavus in its response and recovery from this event. Specifically, the City of Gustavus requests disaster relief and additional heavy equipment for city roads, drainages and facilities. On behalf of damaged personal, real, and subsistence property, public disaster assistance for emergency protective measures where needed, PFAS testing of flooded drainages, with technical assistance and funding to evaluate the damage to, and perform needed repairs to, the city infrastructure.

PASSED and **APPROVED** by the Gustavus City Council this _____ day of _____, 2026, and effective upon adoption.

Sally A. McLaughlin, Mayor

Attest: Morgan Peterson-Park, Acting Clerk