



# Petersburg Borough

12 South Nordic Drive  
Petersburg, AK 99833

## Meeting Minutes Borough Assembly Regular Meeting

---

Monday, September 16, 2024

6:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

---

### 1. Call To Order/Roll Call

Vice Mayor Marsh called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

#### PRESENT

Mayor Mark Jensen  
Vice Mayor Donna Marsh  
Assembly Member Thomas Fine-Walsh  
Assembly Member Scott Newman  
Assembly Member Jeigh Stanton Gregor

#### EXCUSED

Assembly Member Bob Lynn  
Assembly Member Rob Schwartz

### 2. Voluntary Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was recited.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

#### A. September 3, 2024 Assembly Meeting Minutes

The September 3, 2024 Assembly meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Motion made by Assembly Member Stanton Gregor, Seconded by Assembly Member Newman.

Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Newman, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor

### 4. Amendment and Approval of Meeting Agenda

The meeting agenda was approved as submitted.

Motion made by Assembly Member Stanton Gregor, Seconded by Mayor Jensen.

Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly

Member Newman, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor

**5. Public Hearings**

There were no public hearings.

**6. Bid Awards**

There were no bid awards.

**7. Persons to be Heard Related to Agenda**

*Persons wishing to share their views on any item on today's agenda may do so at this time.*

No views were shared.

**8. Persons to be Heard Unrelated to Agenda**

*Persons with views on subjects not on today's agenda may share those views at this time.*

Malena Marvin, Petersburg Arts Council President, introduced herself and shared information about the Arts Council and upcoming activities they are sponsoring.

**9. Boards, Commission and Committee Reports**

There were no reports.

**10. Consent Agenda**

There were no consent agenda items.

**11. Report of Other Officers**

**A. Debt Authorization Ballot Proposition Report**

Utility Director Hagerman reported on the possible impacts of the water and wastewater infrastructure projects long-term indebtedness authorization ballot proposition (Proposition #4, Assembly Ordinance #2024-13).

**12. Mayor's Report**

**A. September 16, 2024 Mayor's Report**

Vice Mayor Marsh read the Mayor's Report into the record.

**13. Manager's Report**

**A. September 16, 2024 Manager's Report**

Manager Giesbrecht read his report into the record, a copy of which is attached and made a permanent part of these minutes.

**14. Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

## **15. New Business**

### **A. Approval of Election Officials for the October 1, 2024 Municipal Election**

Clerk Thompson requested Assembly approval of the following local residents willing to perform the duties of Election Official for the Petersburg Borough Municipal Election:

Eric Castro  
Tim Chittenden  
Angela Davis  
Janice Kvernvik  
Mara Lutomski  
Malena Marvin  
Patti Reid  
Tina Sakamoto  
Julianne Thompson  
Yvonne Thynes  
Marina Whitacre  
Cena Worhatch

The proposed Election Officials were unanimously approved by the Assembly.

Motion made by Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Seconded by Assembly Member Newman.

Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Newman, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor

### **B. 2024 Municipal Election Certification Meeting**

By unanimous roll call vote, the Assembly set a special meeting for Friday, October 4, 2024 at 12:00 p.m. to canvass and certify the 2024 Municipal Election.

Motion made by Mayor Jensen, Seconded by Assembly Member Fine-Walsh.  
Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Newman, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor

## **16. Communications**

### **A. Correspondence Received Since August 29, 2024**

## **17. Assembly Discussion Items**

### **A. Assembly Member Comments**

Assembly Member Stanton Gregor encouraged all eligible residents to vote in our municipal election on October 1, reminding everyone that every vote does count.

Mayor Jensen commented regarding Ballot Proposition #4 to authorize incurring debt in the form of loans from the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to fund water and wastewater capital projects, speaking specifically about a large wastewater project being mandated by the State to require disinfection of the wastewater effluent into Frederick Sound that is estimated to cost millions of dollars. Many other Alaska communities are faced with the same unfunded mandate, the largest of which is Anchorage, who estimates a cost in the billions of dollars to fulfill the mandate. Mayor Jensen suggested we need to get Anchorage complaining about the unfunded mandate along with the rest of us.

Vice Mayor Marsh recognized Gary Treffry for supplying both equipment and labor to set up a HAM Radio Station for emergency use at the fire station.

## **B. Recognitions**

There were no recognitions.

## **18. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Motion made by Assembly Member Stanton Gregor, Seconded by Assembly Member Newman.

Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Newman, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor

**Borough Manager's Report**  
**Assembly Meeting 16 September 2024**

- ❖ PVFD will be hosting Junior Fire Fighter program again with sign ups starting Friday, Sept 27<sup>th</sup>. Applicants can call the station (772-3355) or call Capt. Bird at 907-518-4488 for more information. Applicants should bring their parents to help fill out required paperwork and food is provided for the sign-up event.
- ❖ PVFD will be hosting an initial EMT-1 course starting in the middle half of October. Aaron is still working on the course details, which will be announced as soon as available. This is an opportunity to skip ETT and become EMT-1 certified, please call the station if interested.
- ❖ There will be an LEPC meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup> at the Fire Hall at 1pm. The public is welcome to attend.
- ❖ Thanks to a very large donation of both equipment and labor from Gary Treffry, PVFD now has an operational HAM Radio Station for Emergency Use. To maintain proficiency with the equipment, PVFD is starting to work with local HAM operators to start a HAM radio club in town. More information will be available in October.
- ❖ The Mobile Communications Trailer has had its inverter and repeater repaired and is now ready for full service again.
- ❖ Aaron has received the third-party report from Katmai Solutions regarding the borough's emergency plans detailing what is missing or needs to be updated to comply with FEMA standards.
- ❖ The Streets crew is making some repairs to sections of Frederick Drive from the 3 mile point out to the Cabin Creek Dam.
- ❖ Although we intended to present a recommended street sweeper replacement to the Assembly as part of the current supplemental budget process, the initial pricing we received for the desired equipment was \$465,000 which is quite a lot more than anticipated. We are doing some additional research to see if we can identify a suitable sweeper for less cost. We may bring this issue back to the Assembly at a future meeting after some further study and evaluation.
- ❖ Water plant production continues to drop off as the summer fishing season winds to a close. The crew is flushing water lines to keep water in the mains fresh.
- ❖ Aaron and Chris are working with Karl to get the new enterprise fund rate study software fully operational. Once we have it up and running, this software will allow Borough personnel to study various rate scenarios.
- ❖ As part of the work to supply electrical service to the WERC building, we are finalizing the size of transformer needed for the project in advance of procuring one for the project. Staff have cleaned up and painted an inventoried transformer that will be ready to install for temporary service when the project is ready for it.

- ❖ Staff will be holding a work party at the Crystal Lake Dam to cut and burn brush from around the dam and helipad, remove items left over from the hydro project and generally clean up the area.
- ❖ PMPL will be upgrading a downtown transformer that is feeding several buildings and is being pushed beyond its capacity. A short outage will be needed but all affected customers will be notified ahead of time.
- ❖ WW discharge permitting – The department received the draft discharge permit as well as the fact sheet and proposed ADEC water quality certification. Staff is working with our consultant to formulate comments to the draft permit.
- ❖ Derrick and staff are working through some transition issues on the time clocks at Assisted Living.
- ❖ We are working with the hospital staff on their continued support with the Assisted Living billing.
- ❖ Last of the busy tourship season is 9/23, thanks for another good year!
- ❖ Still seeing transient vessels heading south, stopping in for weather etc. The Harbor has a larger than average number of vessels that want to winter over in Petersburg, so staff is actively monitoring permanent stall holder schedules to “sub-let” stalls that are typically empty during the winter months.
- ❖ The fleet is mostly home and Drive Down is BUSY as vessels switch out gear type. The storage at the Drive Down is full and long-term parking limited.
- ❖ Glo has been working with the Borough attorney to prepare code changes for Assembly review concerning stored vessels and resulting issues due to non-operation.
- ❖ I am working with Denali to complete additional paperwork for our grant for Banana Point. This should be completed in a week or two.
- ❖ Our annual financial audit is underway in Finance; with the auditors present all last week.
- ❖ Petersburg walked the most miles per person this year for Walk Southeast / Fly Alaska and is bringing home the trophy! For this friendly competition between SE communities, the trophy will be displayed at the James A. Johnson airport for the next year. Way to walk, hike, and run, Petersburg!
- ❖ The Rainforest Survival Series made its debut this month with a full turnout and demand for more! Hosted and instructed by Petersburg Parks and Recreation with support from Petersburg Search and Rescue Bjorn Stolpe and Brett Uppencamp, USFS Enforcement Joe Boggs, US Coast Guard Master Chief Petty Officer Kay Jones, and Alaska State Trooper Josh Spann, with prizes donated Hammer and Wikan. It was a very successful class with many excited students. Thank you to the community and keep a lookout for more to come. Connect with Parks and Recreation or contact Stephanie Payne for more information.