Petersburg Borough

12 South Nordic Drive
Petersburg, AK 99833

Meeting Minutes

Borough Assembly Regular Meeting

Monday, July 06, 2026 | **6:00 PM** | **Assembly Chambers**

1. Call To Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lynn at 6:00 pm.

PRESENT
Mayor Bob Lynn
Vice Mayor Jeigh Stanton Gregor
Assembly Member Jeff Meucci
Assembly Member Bob Martin
Assembly Member Scott Newman

EXCUSED
Assembly Member Rob Schwartz
Assembly Member James Valentine

2. Voluntary Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was recited.

3. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Assembly Meeting Minutes June 15, 2026

The minutes of the June 15, 2026 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, Seconded by Assembly Member Newman.
Voting Yea: Mayor Lynn, Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Martin, Assembly Member Newman

4. Amendment and Approval of Meeting Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, Seconded by Assembly Member Newman.
Voting Yea: Mayor Lynn, Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Martin, Assembly Member Newman

5. Public Hearings

A. Ordinance 2026-13: An Ordinance Authorizing the Borough to Issue Electric Utility Revenue Bonds in the Aggregate Principal Amount of Not-to-Exceed

Three Million Three Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars ($3,315,000) to Finance the Scow Bay Standby Generation Project and Directing That This Matter Be Submitted to the Qualified Voters for Consideration at the Next Regular Election to Be Held on October 6, 2026

No testimony was given.

B. Ordinance #2026-14A: An Ordinance Amending Title 19 Zoning, of the Petersburg Municipal Code to Regulate Wireless Communication Facilities (WCF) and Other Towers and Transmitters

Dana Thynes, representing herself, expressed concern over telecommunication providers opposing the ordinance, and encouraged the assembly to retain decision making authority over communication towers in Petersburg.

John Murgas, representing himself, asked the assembly to consider creating a mechanism to limit the number of communication towers that can be built in Petersburg.

Mika Cline, representing herself, spoke about the amendments to the ordinance and requested clarification of amendment six. She asked the assembly to consider what is best for the community.

Luke Short, representing himself, spoke about his concerns about health risks from communication towers. He requested that a moratorium on any new communication towers until more studies have been done.

Tom Kowalske, representing himself, also asked for a moratorium on communication towers and spoke about his concerns about safety relating to communication towers.

Becky Knight, representing herself, asked the assembly not to adopt the amendments to the ordinance and her concerns about oversight by the FCC. She also spoke against the setback amendments that were made during the first reading of the ordinance.

Judy Ohmer, representing herself, spoke about health concerns related to communication towers and the potential for additional communication towers in the near future.

Dave Beebe, speaking for himself, asked for a moratorium on cell phone towers in Petersburg and his concerns about health and safety related to communication towers. He also stated that the ordinance is not in the Borough's best interest.

Kirsten Dupree, speaking for herself, said that Petersburg has sufficient coverage in town and that more towers are not needed. She also spoke about health concerns related to towers.

Nicole McMurren, speaking for herself, asked for clarification on the ordinance and asked the assembly to consider the community members concerns first.

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.

Utility Director Steve Harbour reported on the SEAPA shutdown and said that it went well and that they would not need to pass a surcharge along to the customers.

Dave Kensinger, representing himself, spoke in support of Resolution #2026-15 and encouraged the assembly to accept ownership of the Papke's Landing dock and tidelands.

Becky Knight, representing herself, spoke against the proposed amendments to Ordinance #2026-14A and asked for more public notification regarding wireless facility applications. She also asked that the assembly write a letter to state representatives to advocate for change to federal telecommunications policies.

Judy Ohmer, representing herself, spoke about the statement of concern signed by community members and health concerns related to communication towers.

Dave Beebe, representing himself, questioned the need for more wireless infrastructure and expressed concerns about potential health effects related to 5G technology.

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.

Tom Kowalske, representing himself, encouraged the Assembly to represent resident's concerns. He also announced the formation of *Alaskans for Safe Tech.*

Eric Wolf, speaking on behalf of PMEA, thanked the Assembly for their support of HB78 and for the relationship between PMEA and the Borough.

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. PMC CEO Hofstetter provided a written report.

12. Mayor's Report

A. July 7, 2026 Mayor's Report

Mayor Lynn read his report into the record.

13. Manager's Report

A. July 7, 2026 Manager's Report

Manager Giesbrecht read his report into the record.

14. Unfinished Business

A. Ordinance 2026-13: An Ordinance Authorizing the Borough to Issue Electric Utility Revenue Bonds in the Aggregate Principal Amount of Not-to-Exceed Three Million Three Hundred Fifteen Thousand Dollars ($3,315,000) to Finance the Scow Bay Standby Generation Project and Directing That This Matter Be Submitted to the Qualified Voters for Consideration at the Next Regular Election to Be Held on October 6, 2026 - Second Reading

PMPL is requesting approval of Ordinance #2026-13 authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds in the amount of $3,315,000 for the completion of the Scow Bay Standby Generation project. Construction cost increases since the project's initiation caused a dramatic budget shortfall that would be funded through this bond issuance. If approved by the Assembly in three readings, the question of issuing the revenue bond debt will be placed on the October 6, 2026, local ballot for consideration by Petersburg voters.

Ordinance #2026-13 was unanimously approved in its first reading.

By unanimous roll call vote, Ordinance #2026-13 was approved in its second reading.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, Seconded by Assembly Member Newman.
Voting Yea: Mayor Lynn, Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Martin, Assembly Member Newman

B. Ordinance #2026-14A: An Ordinance Amending Title 19 Zoning, of the Petersburg Municipal Code to Regulate Wireless Communication Facilities (WCF) and Other Towers and Transmitters - Second Reading

If approved in three readings, this ordinance would establish zoning and permitting standards for wireless communication facilities and other towers. It requires these facilities to be reviewed as conditional uses, providing public notice and Planning Commission review and approval, while remaining consistent with the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 and related regulations.

The ordinance creates a new chapter of the municipal code governing wireless facilities. It would prioritize collocation, sets development standards, and provides a waiver procedure if strict adherence to the development standards would require technically impossible designs, cause structural instability, or result in an inability to close a significant coverage gap or leave a coverage area functionally unable to handle emergency calls. It is intended to balance the community’s need for reliable wireless and other communication services with public safety and aesthetic concerns.

A memo from Director Cabrera, a list of proposed amendments, and supporting maps are attached.

Ordinance #2026-14 was approved, as amended, in its first reading.

A motion was made to amend Ordinance 2026-14A by adopting the ten (10) amendments proposed in Director Cabrera's memorandum dated July 6, 2026. Discussion ensued.

By unanimous roll call vote, Ordinance #2026-14A was approved as amended in its second reading.

Motion made by Assembly Member Newman, Seconded by Assembly Member Meucci.
Voting Yea: Mayor Lynn, Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Martin, Assembly Member Newman

Amendment #1: 19.58.050A(2) After *"Sensitive area setback".* Add "*To create a buffer in the event of an equipment fire or other failure,*" and change *1500 feet* to *500 feet.*

Amendment #2: 19.58.050B After the word S*eparation*, add *"To mitigate visual clutter"*

Amendment #3: 19.58.050C Strike through all of section C that begins with *"Minimum number of antenna arrays."*

Amendment #4: 19.58.050H Strike through all of section H *"Protrusion Limit."*

Amendment #5: 19.58.050L Strike through "a carrier" and replace with *"the applicant's".*
19.58.090A(1) Add *"the applicant's"* after "radio frequency engineer to fill *'the applicant's'* significant coverage gap.
19.58.070A(2) In the first sentence, add the word *"applicant's"* after "demonstrate the *'applicant's'* significant coverage gap". 19.58.070A(3) In the first sentence, add *"the applicant's"* after "chosen by the applicant to fill *'the applicant's'* significant coverage gap...".

Amendment #6: 19.58.060B Strike through the second sentence that begins with *"Based on the results of the technical review…"*

Amendment #7: 19.58.070A(3) Strike through *"verification that no existing sites or structures are available for equipment and* add *"a"* before the word summary.

Amendment #8: 19.58.090A(3) Add *"Require a commercially impractical or unavailable result.* Strike through the second sentence that begins with *"Jeopardize public health, safety, and welfare…"*

Amendment #9: 19.58.110A Strike through *"and the parcel returned to its prior condition,"*
19.58.110AC Strike through *"and returning the parcel to its original condition, but in no event less than the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars and No Cents ($150,000)"*

Amendment #10: 19.58.110C Add *"as determined by a good faith estimate provided by the applicant." a*t the end of the first sentence.

15. New Business

A. Resolution #2026-18: A Resolution Accepting Conveyance from the State of Alaska of Approximately 8.8 Acres of Tide and Submerged Land at Papke's Landing (ADL 109287), Including the Associated Dock and Boat Launch Infrastructure, and Authorizing the Borough Manager to Execute All Documents Necessary to Complete the Conveyance

If approved, this resolution will accept conveyance of the Papke's Landing dock and related tide and submerged lands from the State of Alaska.

Resolution #2026-18 was unanimously approved.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, Seconded by Assembly Member Newman.
Voting Yea: Mayor Lynn, Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Martin, Assembly Member Newman

B. Replacement of Sanitation Unit #117

Public Works recommends replacing Sanitation Unit #117, a refuse truck nearing the end of its service life, with a new unit from Alaska Municipal Equipment LLC via Sourcewell for $385,758.38. A memo from Director Marohl and a quote is attached.

By unanimous roll call vote, the assembly approved the purchase of a new refuse truck not to exceed $385,758.38.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, Seconded by Assembly Member Newman.
Voting Yea: Mayor Lynn, Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Martin, Assembly Member Newman

C. Letter to Alaska DOT Regarding Snow Removal

Mayor Lynn has prepared a letter to the Alaska Department of Transportation requesting additional snow removal services within the community to improve public safety and accessibility in the winter months.

By unanimous roll call vote, the letter to DOT was approved.

Motion made by Assembly Member Meucci, Seconded by Assembly Member Newman.
Voting Yea: Mayor Lynn, Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Martin, Assembly Member Newman

16. Communications

A. Correspondence Received Since June 10, 2026

17. Assembly Discussion Items

A. Airport Subdivision

This discussion item requested by Member Meucci
Member Meucci introduced a discussion regarding the sale of nine Borough-owned lots in the Airport Subdivision and requested Assembly guidance on sales methods and possible restrictions.

During discussion, the Borough Manager recommended an outcry auction for the lots and noted that staff has discussed various options and restrictions. Member Stanton-Gregor clarified that formal Assembly action would be needed to establish criteria and procedures for the sales, which the Borough Manager confirmed.

The Mayor stated that the Assembly's primary goal should be to encourage development of the lots and increase housing opportunities in the community. The Borough Manager agreed and said he would provide the Assembly with information and recommendations for future consideration.

B. Assembly Member Comments

Member Meucci thanked community members and Borough staff for their work and involvement regarding the Wireless Communications Facilities Ordinance. He will continue working toward revisions that will better reflect the concerns of the Assembly and the community.

C. Recognitions

Member Stanton-Gregor thanked all volunteers, organizations, and participants involved in the community's Fourth of July celebrations, noting the significant effort required to organize the successful events. He also recognized community member Thomas Cumps of Belgium, congratulating him on Belgium's victory over the United States in a World Cup match.

18. Executive Session

In accordance with Alaska Statute 44.62.310(C), upon motion of the Assembly, the assembly will adjourn to discuss with members of the Borough negotiating team the status of the wage negotiations in the labor agreement between the Borough and PMEA, including the parties' proposals.

The Assembly adjourned to Executive Session at 7:48 pm.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, Seconded by Assembly Member Newman.
Voting Yea: Mayor Lynn, Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Martin, Assembly Member Newman

19. Adjourn

The assembly readjourned from Executive Session at 8:51 pm.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, Seconded by Assembly Member Newman.
Voting Yea: Mayor Lynn, Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Martin, Assembly Member Newman