



# Petersburg Borough

12 South Nordic Drive  
Petersburg, AK 99833

## Meeting Minutes Borough Assembly Regular Meeting

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Monday, April 07, 2025

12:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

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### 1. Call To Order/Roll Call

Vice Mayor Marsh called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm.

#### PRESENT

Mayor Mark Jensen  
Vice Mayor Donna Marsh  
Assembly Member Bob Lynn  
Assembly Member Scott Newman  
Assembly Member Jeigh Stanton Gregor  
Assembly Member James Valentine

#### EXCUSED

Assembly Member Rob Schwartz

### 2. Voluntary Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was recited.

### 3. Oath of Office

Clerk Thompson, who will be retiring on April 30th, gave Becky Regula the Oath of Office for her new position as the Borough Clerk/Human Resources Director.

### 4. Board of Equalization

The Assembly, acting as the Board of Equalization, heard the 2025 property tax assessment appeals.

#### A. Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption for Vera Goudima

As of March 31, 2025, Vera Goudima possesses 100% ownership of her property and is eligible for 100% of the senior citizen tax exemption. By unanimous roll call vote, the Assembly approved full senior citizen property tax exemption for Ms. Goudima

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

Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Lynn, Assembly Member Newman, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Valentine

**B. Heather O'Neil, Appeal #2025-03, Parcel ID #01-010-758**

The Assembly unanimously supported the findings of the Assessor regarding Appeal #2025-03.

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

Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Lynn, Assembly Member Newman, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Valentine

**C. Heather O'Neil, Appeal #2025-04, Parcel ID #01-031-516**

The Assembly unanimously supported the findings of the Assessor regarding Appeal #2025-04.

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

Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Lynn, Assembly Member Newman, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Valentine

**5. Approval of Minutes**

**A. March 17, 2025 Assembly Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the March 17, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved.

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

Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Lynn, Assembly Member Newman, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Valentine

**6. Amendment and Approval of Meeting Agenda**

The Agenda was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

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

Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Lynn, Assembly Member Newman, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Valentine

**7. Public Hearings**

There were no public hearings.

**8. Bid Awards**

There were no bid awards.

**9. 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.*

Harbormaster Wollen spoke in support of Agenda item 17B, the Marine Industrial Overlay.

Drew Ayriss, a patrol sergeant for the Petersburg Police Department, spoke in opposition of a dual purpose K9 unit and its effectiveness in Petersburg.

Chief Kerr spoke in favor of a dual purpose K9 unit for the Petersburg Police Department.

Tina Kerr, speaking on behalf of herself, spoke about the benefits of a dual purpose K9 for the Petersburg Police Department.

Jalyn Pomrenke, representing PIA, spoke in support of a dual purpose K9 for the PPD.

Stephanie Aikins spoke in support of a dual purpose K9.

Suzanne Wood, speaking on behalf of herself, spoke against the proposal of a K9 for the PPD.

#### **10. Persons to be Heard Unrelated to Agenda**

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

No views were shared.

#### **11. Boards, Commission and Committee Reports**

#### **12. Consent Agenda**

##### **A. El Zarape Liquor License Renewal**

The Assembly supported the Restaurant Liquor license renewal application for El Zarape LLC.

#### **13. Report of Other Officers**

##### **A. Petersburg Medical Center**

PMC CEO Hofstetter provided an update to the Assembly on hospital activities.

##### **B. US Forest Service**

District Ranger Case provided an update on Forest Service activities.

##### **C. SEAPA Report**

Member Lynn provided a report about the March 27, 2025 SEAPA Board meeting.

##### **D. Petersburg School District**

School Superintendent Robyn Taylor provided an update on School District activities.

#### **14. Mayor's Report**

##### **A. April 7, 2025 Mayor's Report**

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

## **15. Manager's Report**

### **A. April 7, 2025 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.

## **16. Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

## **17. New Business**

### **A. Ordinance #2025-03: An Ordinance Adjusting the FY 2025 Budget for Known Changes**

The Assembly unanimously approved Ordinance #2025-03 to designate 50% of the of the previous year's annual General Fund surplus into the Property Development Fund for the purpose of financing major capital maintenance and repairs. This ordinance will transfer \$292,314 from the General Fund to the Property Development Fund.

Motion made by Mayor Jensen, Seconded by Assembly Member Stanton Gregor.  
Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Lynn, Assembly Member Newman, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Valentine

### **B. Ordinance #2025-04: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 19, Zoning, of the Petersburg Municipal Code to Establish Overlay Zones within Municipal Zoning Regulations, and to Create a Marine Industrial Overlay Zone**

Ordinance #2025-04, amending Chapter 19, Zoning, of the Petersburg Municipal Code to establish overlay zones within Municipal Zoning Regulations, and to create a Marine Industrial Overlay Zone, was unanimously approved.

Motion made by Assembly Member Newman, Seconded by Assembly Member Lynn.  
Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Lynn, Assembly Member Newman, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Valentine

### **C. Resolution #2025-07: A Resolution Requesting the Alaska Legislature Increase the Base Student Allocation and Provide a Sustainable Formula for Education Funding**

Resolution #2025-07, requesting the Alaska Legislature increase the base student allocation and provide a sustainable formula for education funding, was unanimously approved.

Motion made by Assembly Member Newman, Seconded by Assembly Member Valentine.  
Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Lynn, Assembly Member Newman, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Valentine

### **D. K9 Unit**

Vice Mayor Marsh requested that acquisition of a K9 Unit for the Police Department be re-visited. Chief Kerr provided additional information regarding the K9 Unit.

Member Stanton Gregor made a motion to approve the purchase of a K9 unit for the Petersburg Police Department.

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

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Marsh

Voting Nay: Mayor Jensen, Assembly Member Lynn, Assembly Member Newman, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Valentine

**E. Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority (THRHA) / Petersburg Borough Real Property Improvement and Conveyance Agreement Addendum No. 1**

On January 6, 2025, the Assembly approved Resolution #2025-01 which authorized Manager Giesbrecht to enter into a Real Property Improvement and Conveyance Agreement with THRHA, who will provide improvements (roads, electric, water, sewer and storm drainage utilities) to 11 lots in the Airport Addition Subdivision in return for ownership of 7 of the 11 lots. THRHA now requests to provide improvements to an additional 11 lots, for a total of 22 lots, with 13 lots to be owned by THRHA, and 9 lots to be retained by the Borough.

The Assembly unanimously approved Addendum No. 1 to add additional 11 lots for improvement by THRHA.

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

Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Lynn, Assembly Member Newman, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Valentine

**18. Communications**

**A. Correspondence Received Since March 13, 2025**

**19. Assembly Discussion Items**

**A. Assembly Member Comments**

Member Lynn thanked Director Hagerman for applying for a grant three years ago that was received recently and allowed the Borough to purchase a generator. Member Valentine thanked Clerks Thompson and Regula for their help and for their work for the Borough.

**B. Recognitions**

There were no recognitions.

**20. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.

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

Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Lynn, Assembly Member Newman, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Valentine

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Rebecca Regula, Borough Clerk

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Date Approved

**Borough Manager's Report**  
**Assembly Meeting 07 April 2025**

- ❖ PMPL has received all grant funds through the DOE Section 243 Hydroelectric Efficiency Incentives program. \$2,815,428. This money was received into the Blind Slough capital project fund. Excess reserves in that fund were then transferred to the Scow Bay Generation project.
- ❖ PMPL is working on fine tuning the RFP for construction services for the Scow Bay Generation project. The 3.5 megawatt generator that was purchased last year is in storage in Texas until the utility is ready for it to be shipped to Petersburg. We are working with the design engineer on specifications for the generator transformer and switchgear to put that equipment out to bid as soon as possible.
- ❖ The PMPL rate study is progressing and helped with development of the FY26 budget. We are presently pulling historic billing data together so that it can be input into the rate model. This will help with rate design proposals to meet our departmental revenue requirements.
- ❖ PMPL has received word that the annual maintenance shutdown at Tyee Lake will start on, or very near, June 10<sup>th</sup> this year. Contractor schedules have pushed the agency to start the initial shutdown at Swan Lake this year, with Tyee following that work. PMPL will issue public service announcements when the schedule is confirmed, and the shutdown gets closer.
- ❖ Tuesday, April 8, at 6 PM the library is hosting a screening of *Free For All: The Public Library*, a PBS documentary. This special event, hosted by the Friends of Petersburg Libraries, will feature live music, refreshments, and time for engaging activities and conversation. Fun, interactive activities will also be available for children aged 3-8 in the Children's Room. This event is free and open to everyone.
- ❖ Parks and Rec will be hosting an American Red Cross training and recertification session for staff and outside groups from April 10-14. Consequently, there will be a few pool/swim closures during those days. Closures will be posted on Facebook and around the facility.
- ❖ Petersburg Rotary and Parks and Rec will be hosting our annual Sandy Beach Park Clean-up on Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 11-1p in preparation for the Elks annual Easter egg hunt. Volunteers are always welcome! Please dress accordingly and contact Stephanie or Julie at Parks and Rec with any questions.
- ❖ Spring sand pickup continues. We are also washing streets and sidewalks to get things spruced up for the busy season. Street grading as weather permits.
- At Banana Point Boat Launch, the crew installed a small shelter that was repurposed from an old, unused ballfield dugout building. Parks-N-Rec donated the old structure which was then painted and rehabbed using materials that were surplus from past projects. The shelter installation was made with permission from ADNR and was the idea of the Streets crew. Thanks to this creative bit of thinking and coordination with the State, the community now has a covered shelter to use at Banana Point while waiting for water taxi service to/from other islands.

- ❖ While at Banana Point, the crew also retrieved and tied off a breakwater boom that had come loose from its moorings.
- ❖ The local Motor Pool auction of surplus units resulted in the sale of one surplus SUV and one porta potty. Assistant Director Marohl is putting together an online auction for the 3 surplus PMPL line trucks that did not sell locally.
- ❖ Aaron is working with ADEC on renewal of the Borough's landfill permit, which expires this summer.
- ❖ Shawn conducted fire system inspections with Johnson Controls, who have the inspection contract for most Borough facilities.
- ❖ The biosolids disposal permit has been finalized and we are now permitted for disposing of composted solids at the landfill instead of depositing this material at the mud dump.
- ❖ The Pump Station 4 and Force Main Upgrade project is getting closer to construction, with work now scheduled to begin at end of April or early May. A coordination meeting will be held onsite the week of April 7<sup>th</sup> with Contractor and Borough representatives.
- ❖ Staff attended the annual spring meeting with the USCG Captain of the Port, Captain Stanley Fields, and fellow Borough department and waterways agency representatives. Topics included emergency response, homeland security, marine communication, tour ship activity, drug trafficking, cyber security and personal changes. The community appreciates the annual in-person information exchange with Sector Juneau & the 17<sup>th</sup> District Administration.
- ❖ Harbor passed the annual USCG Homeland Security Audit last week, in preparation for the upcoming tour season.
- ❖ Tour ship schedule has firmed up (94 stops) with the first stop on April 25.
- ❖ Glo was interviewed by Stephanie Hernandez McGavin, a student in the University of Washington's Master of Infrastructure Planning and Management studying local government capacity to manage formerly state-owned harbor infrastructure in Alaska.
- ❖ I received word from our federal lobbyist that funding from Denali may be pulled by the DOGE group. This could impact Scow Bay and Banana Point projects.
- ❖ Aaron worked with the school and local contractors to remove the emergency siren from the school roof. We will start looking for grant opportunities to replace the siren at a different location.
- ❖ The large increase in tariffs by the President will have an impact on next year's budget. Unfortunately, we do not know the exact cost to the budget currently.
- ❖ Public Comments are being accepted by ADNR regarding the transfer of tidelands property at Papke's to the Borough.
- ❖ Some Borough staff will be working with IBEW on April 21-22 to negotiate proposed salary changes for IBEW employees.