



Petersburg Borough

12 South Nordic Drive
Petersburg, AK 99833

Meeting Minutes Borough Assembly Regular Meeting

Monday, February 02, 2026

12:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

1. Call To Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lynn at 12:00 noon.

PRESENT

Mayor Bob Lynn
Assembly Member Rob Schwartz
Vice Mayor Jeigh Stanton Gregor
Assembly Member James Valentine
Assembly Member Jeff Meucci
Assembly Member Bob Martin
Assembly Member Scott Newman

2. Voluntary Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was recited.

3. Approval of Minutes

A. The January 20th minutes will be on the February 17th agenda for approval.

4. Amendment and Approval of Meeting Agenda

The agenda of the January 20th meeting was approved as submitted.

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

5. Public Hearings

A. Ordinance #2026-02: An Ordinance of the Petersburg Borough Assembly Vacating a Portion of the Seventh Street Right-Of-Way and Authorizing Conveyance of the Vacated Area to the Borough, to be Consolidated with Adjacent Block 275 to Create a Lot Suitable for Residential Development

No testimony was given.

B. Ordinance #2026-03: An Ordinance Amending Petersburg Municipal Code Chapter 14.20, Entitled “Municipal Harbors”, to Increase Harbor Fees

Anthony Taiber, representing himself, addressed the Assembly regarding the ordinance to increase harbor fees and requested that it not be approved.

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.

Judy Ohmer, representing herself, spoke about a potential land trade for the Rory Road tower location.

Tom Kowalski, representing himself, spoke about an alternative site for the Papke's Landing tower and expressed that a tower is unnecessary given the availability of satellite- based service.

John Murgas, representing himself and his neighbor John Baird, spoke against the cell phone towers because they lower property values and will discourage development in the neighborhood. He would like another location to be found for the Papke's Landing tower.

Dave Beebe, speaking on behalf of himself spoke about the health risks of EMF radiation and the importance of updating EMF emissions monitoring.

Jackie Tyson, representing herself, spoke about the risks of EMF radiation.

Brandon Ware, representing himself, spoke about the federal government granting the 2.5GHz signal to Petersburg Indian Association as a result of tribal sovereignty and that PIA is working with Tidal Network.

Brandon Ware also spoke about the federal review of the subsistence board and that the criteria to serve on the Regional Advisory Council is changing. Mr. Ware encouraged everyone to go to the federal website and comment on the proposed changes to subsistence rights. If anyone has questions they can email him at bware@piatribal.gov.

Becky Knight, representing herself, commented that current cell phone coverage in Petersburg is excellent and affordable. She encouraged the Assembly to use NEPA to challenge the Tidal Network project in Petersburg and requested that the Assembly obtain an unredacted copy of Tidal Network's grant application.

Nicole McMurren, representing herself, thanked the Borough for considering a land swap for the Rory Road location. She asked the assembly to look at other sites within the community. Ms. McMurren also echoed Mr. Ware's comments and encouraged the Assembly to write a letter to the Subsistence Board and state opposition to the proposed changes.

Erika Worhatch, representing herself, expressed concern that new property buyers would be unable to compete with Tidal Network.

Kirsten Dupree, representing herself, spoke regarding the Tlingit & Haida tower application and expressed that Petersburg does not need additional cell towers given existing service.

8. Persons to be Heard Unrelated to Agenda

Tom Kowalski, representing himself, spoke about community opposition to towers and suggested strengthening Borough review procedures and that the Assembly should consider adding staff support.

Judy Ohmer, representing herself, spoke about lack of interaction during recent tower sessions and requested improved transparency and consideration of community input.

Sarah Fine-Walsh, speaking on behalf of herself and as a member of the planning commission, talked about work with Papke's Landing residents and provided an overview of Borough Article 14 provisions for establishing new service areas.

9. Boards, Commission and Committee Reports

A. Recommendation to Assembly from Planning Commission

The Planning Commission provided a recommendation to exchange property for the Rory Road cell tower.

10. Consent Agenda

There were no consent agenda items.

11. Report of Other Officers

A. SEAPA Special Board Meeting Report

Utility Director Hagerman provided a report on the January 22, 2026, SEAPA meeting.

B. Petersburg Medical Center

CEO Hofstetter provided a report.

C. Petersburg School District

Superintendent Taylor provided a report on school district activities.

12. Mayor's Report

A. February 2, 2026 Mayor's Report

Mayor Lynn read his report into the record. A summary from the recent Housing Work Session is attached to this agenda item.

13. Manager's Report

A. February 2, 2026 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

A. Ordinance #2026-01 Supplemental Budget: An Ordinance of the Petersburg Borough Adjusting the FY 2026 Budget for Known Changes - Third Reading

Ordinance #2026-01 was unanimously approved by roll call vote in its third reading.

Motion made by Assembly Member Newman, Seconded by Assembly Member Valentine.

Voting Yea: Mayor Lynn, Assembly Member Schwartz, Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Valentine, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Martin, Assembly Member Newman

B. Ordinance #2026-02: An Ordinance of the Petersburg Borough Assembly Vacating a Portion of the Seventh Street Right-Of-Way and Authorizing Conveyance of the Vacated Area to the Borough, to be Consolidated with Adjacent Block 275 to Create a Lot Suitable for Residential Development - Second Reading

Ordinance #2026-02 was unanimously approved by roll call vote in its second reading.

Motion made by Assembly Member Meucci, Seconded by Assembly Member Valentine.

Voting Yea: Mayor Lynn, Assembly Member Schwartz, Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Valentine, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Martin, Assembly Member Newman

C. Ordinance #2026-03: An Ordinance Amending Petersburg Municipal Code Chapter 14.20, Entitled "Municipal Harbors", to Increase Harbor Fees - Second Reading

Ordinance #2026-03 was unanimously approved by roll call vote in its second reading.

Motion made by Assembly Member Meucci, Seconded by Assembly Member Valentine.

Voting Yea: Mayor Lynn, Assembly Member Schwartz, Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Valentine, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Martin, Assembly Member Newman

D. Proposed Contract of Sale of Borough Land to Tidal Network

Discussion to consider the Tidal Network Contract of sale at the March 16, 2026 meeting.

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

Voting Nay: Mayor Lynn, Assembly Member Schwartz, Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Valentine, Assembly Member Martin, Assembly Member Newman;
Motion failed 6-1

15. Communications

A. Correspondence Received Since 1.16.2026

16. New Business

A. Ordinance #2026-04: An Ordinance Amending the Official Zoning Map for Service Area 1 of the Petersburg Borough to Zone A Parcel of Borough Tideland Industrial (I-1) Within the Marine Industrial Overlay Zone Subdistrict - First Reading

Ordinance #2026-04 was approved by unanimous roll call vote in its first reading.

Motion made by Assembly Member Newman, Seconded by Assembly Member Meucci.

Voting Yea: Mayor Lynn, Assembly Member Schwartz, Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Valentine, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Martin, Assembly Member Newman

B. Resolution #2026-02: A Resolution Authorizing a Special Use Permit for A Portion of the Dolphin Street Right-Of-Way

Resolution #2026-02 was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion made by Assembly Member Meucci, Seconded by Assembly Member Valentine.

Voting Yea: Mayor Lynn, Assembly Member Schwartz, Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Valentine, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Martin, Assembly Member Newman

C. Budget Work Session: Finance Director Tow requests that the Assembly select a date and time for an upcoming budget work session.

The budget work session was set for April 29, 2026 at noon in the assembly chambers.

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

Voting Yea: Mayor Lynn, Assembly Member Schwartz, Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Valentine, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Martin, Assembly Member Newman

17. Assembly Discussion Items

A. Assembly Member Comments

South Harbor Bathrooms at the Crane Dock

Member Valentine requested this item for Assembly discussion regarding the installation of bathrooms at the South Harbor crane dock. Manager Giesbrecht said that he will work on getting pricing and will report back to the Assembly with more information.

B. Recognitions

Member Martin said the Lutefisk dinner went very well.
Member Valentine thanked Ashley Kawashima for her work with Project Connect.
Member Stanton Gregor thanked Britton Erickson and Member Valentine for taking the time to call the basketball games so people can listen on the radio.

18. Executive Session

A. Executive Session: Negotiation Strategy for Land Sale to Tidal Network

A motion was made to adjourn to executive session to discuss the Tidal Network contract. Discussion ensued. Motion failed 4-3.

Motion made by Assembly Member Meucci, Seconded by Assembly Member Valentine.

Voting Yea: Assembly Member Schwartz, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Martin

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

B. Borough Manager Evaluation

The assembly adjourned to executive session to discuss the Borough Manager's evaluation.

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

Voting Yea: Mayor Lynn, Assembly Member Schwartz, Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Valentine, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Martin, Assembly Member Newman

The meeting was called back to order at 3:26 pm. A motion was made to accept the borough manager's evaluation and to add a possible salary increase for the manager to be included in the FY2027 budget.

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

Voting Yea: Mayor Lynn, Assembly Member Schwartz, Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Valentine, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Martin, Assembly Member Newman

19. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:31 pm.