



Petersburg Borough

12 South Nordic Drive
Petersburg, AK 99833

Meeting Minutes Borough Assembly Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

6:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

1. Call To Order/Roll Call

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

PRESENT

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

2. Voluntary Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was recited.

3. Approval of Minutes

A. January 6, 2025 Assembly Meeting Minutes

The January 6, 2025 Assembly meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

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

4. Amendment and Approval of Meeting Agenda

The meeting agenda was approved as submitted.

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

5. Public Hearings

There were no public hearings.

6. Bid Awards

A. Pumps and Related Equipment for Pump Station 4 Project Bid Award

By unanimous roll call vote, the Assembly approved award of the Pumps and Related Equipment bid to DPX/Alaska Pump and Supply of Anchorage, for an amount not to exceed \$158,208.

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

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.

Gary Aulbach, representing himself, thanked the Assembly for partnering with the Petersburg Indian Association and the Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority to expand the Airport Subdivision and expressed his hope that the four lots the Borough will sell after the roads and utilities are put in will be affordable. He stated his belief that it is important for the new road in the Airport Subdivision, as well as the road in the proposed Skylark Park, LLC subdivision, to be built to current Borough specifications.

Mr. Aulbach then inquired if the Borough has ever officially recognized or thanked the Petersburg Indian Association for all the money, time and effort they have contributed to Petersburg through the many projects they have designed and/or constructed. He provided an extensive list of PIA's projects which have a total cost of over \$9.6 million, named the annual contributions that benefit Petersburg, to include trail maintenance, the travel van and delivery services for Mountain View Food Service, which cost \$130,000, and listed current PIA projects.

Belinda Chase, representing herself and her husband, Kevin, expressed her disappointment that there wasn't more public notice and information about the Airport Addition Subdivision land conveyance agreement between the Borough and Tlingit Haida Regional Housing Authority. The Chase family owns a lot and home in the Airport Subdivision that is adjacent to one of the lots that will be conveyed to THRHA after the road and utilities are constructed and they had hoped to purchase the adjacent lot themselves. Ms. Chase asked that the Borough keep the subdivision residents and the public informed about what is happening in their neighborhood.

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. Resolution #2025-02 Edit Notification

Clerk Thompson explained that after the adoption of Resolution #2025-02, she and Mayor Jensen were informed that Proposal 242 was not an ADF&G proposal, but was instead drafted by the Territorial Sportsmen, Inc. Clerk Thompson amended the resolution to reflect this before it was signed by Mayor Jensen.

12. Mayor's Report

A. January 21, 2025 Mayor's Report

Mayor Jensen read his report into the record.

13. Manager's Report

A. January 21, 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.

14. Unfinished Business

A. Ordinance #2024-24: An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds of the Borough, in the Principal Amount not to Exceed \$3,500,000, to Pay the Costs of Public School Capital Improvements; Fixing Certain Details of Such Bonds; Authorizing the Sale of Such Bonds; Authorizing the Preparation, Execution, and Delivery of Certain Documents in Connection Therewith; Pledging the Full Faith and Credit of the Borough to the Payment Thereof; and Providing for Related Matters - Third and Final Reading

The Assembly unanimously approved Ordinance #2024-24 in its third and final reading.

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

15. New Business

A. Republic Services Municipal Solid Waste and Transportation and Disposal Contract Extension

The Borough's two-year solid waste contract with Republic Services expires in September of 2025, but has an option to extend the agreement for one year if the Borough notifies Republic Services of the extension by February 1, 2025. Public Works Director and SEASWA Representative Cotta recommends the extension to provide time for SEASWA to conduct a solid waste study to determine how the Southeast region can work together on waste disposal in the future. If the Republic Services contract is not extended and the waste disposal picture is still unclear with SEASWA in September of 2025, the Borough would either need to find another solid waste vendor or obtain our own fleet of containers to use for solid waste shipment via Republic. The monetary value of extending the contract for one year is expected to be between \$425,000 and \$475,000 at a rate of \$192.40/ton starting September 1, 2025.

By unanimous roll call vote, the Assembly approved an extension to the Borough's solid waste contract with Republic Services through August 30, 2026.

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

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

B. Support for Reauthorization of Secure Rural Schools (SRS) Funding

The Petersburg Borough has received approximately \$500,000 annually from the *Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2023* which is used to maintain high quality education services in our local schools and to maintain our municipal roads. A bill to reauthorize and extend the SRS program through 2026 passed the Senate but died in the House in November of 2024. If SRS funding is not reauthorized by the 119th US Congress, the Borough will need to decide to reduce funding to the school district or raise our property tax rate to the maximum allowed by Borough Charter. The attached letter urging reauthorization of the *Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2023* will be sent to Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan, and Representative Begich.

The letter of support for reauthorization of the Secure Rural School program was unanimously approved by the Assembly.

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

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

C. Assembly / School Board Work Session

Borough Charter Section 8.04 provides that the Assembly and School Board shall meet at least once yearly in public session to discuss and coordinate financial planning, capital improvement needs, comprehensive plans for education, and other matters of concern.

The Assembly approved to hold the work session Thursday, February 6, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

D. Appointment to the Planning Commission

Donald Sperl submitted a letter of interest to fill the vacant seat on the Planning Commission until the October 2025 Municipal Election.

Without objection, Mayor Jensen appointed Donald Sperl to the Planning Commission to serve until the October 2025 Municipal Election.

16. Communications

A. Correspondence Received Since January 2, 2025

17. Assembly Discussion Items

A. Assembly Member Comments

Vice Mayor Marsh stated she found the correspondence from Mary Stephenson regarding tour ships in Ketchikan interesting and concerning.

Assembly Member Schwartz agreed with Vice Mayor Marsh, mentioning how Sitka is trying to manage their tour ship issues currently as well.

Assembly Member Valentine said he was glad they were having the conversation.

Mayor Jensen stated the community needs to have a discussion, which is why he is working on organizing a Town Hall Meeting to discuss the future of tourism in Petersburg.

B. Recognitions

There were no recognitions.

18. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

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

Borough Manager's Report
Assembly Meeting 21 January 2025

- ❖ Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is having a meeting on Wednesday, January 22nd at 4pm at the Aquatic Center.
- ❖ Please look at the new Gymnasium and Aquatic schedules around the Community Center now that school is back in session! You can also find the updated schedules on Facebook and our website.
- ❖ The borough was selected to receive a FY 2025 RAISE grant for the Scow Bay Haul-out. The \$8.8 million award, coupled with the \$4.1 million congressional funding received last year, fully funds the proposed project, including expanded uplands, extended breakwater, new concrete plank launch ramp, mooring float, concrete wash-down pad with pre-treatment system, extension of water/sewer/power to site, area lighting, and power pedestals.
- ❖ PMPL is finishing up on the annual FERC license compliance correspondence and reporting. There were no license compliance issues to discuss with our stakeholders for 2024.
- ❖ Crystal Lake continues to receive inflows from rain; however snowpack is minimal.
- ❖ While it was initially a mystery, the outage on December 23rd was confirmed to be caused by a bird strike near the South Nordic/Dock Street area.
- ❖ The department put the new 55' bucket truck into service after a once over by the motor pool. The new digger derrick truck is complete and on its way to Petersburg at the present time. The old-line trucks will be auctioned in the near future, with proceeds from the sales going back into the replacement account.
- ❖ Staff has submitted all required information to the Dept of Energy for the Section 243 grant. The final amount of this grant towards the Blind Slough Hydro project is \$2.815 million. Now we wait to see how long it will take for DOE to issue payment.
- ❖ The Harbor Department reminds their permanent stall holders to return their updated stall contracts that were sent out at the end of the year.
- ❖ I submitted the CAPSIS list through the State's online system and gave each assembly member a copy of the summary. If an Assembly member wants more detailed information on an item on the list, let me know.
- ❖ As you know, Debra Thompson will be retiring from the Borough on April 30th. I have offered the Borough Clerk position to Becky Regula, and she has accepted, beginning on April 1st. This will be brought forward to the Assembly at the February 3rd meeting for approval. We will post the Deputy Clerk position soon for a hopeful start date of April 1 as well.
- ❖ I have completed the draft proposal for Skylark Development. This has been supplied to the developer, and I am expecting their feedback shortly. Once this is resolved, the ordinance and other documents will be brought to the Assembly for approval.

- ❖ Streets Dept personnel operated a small excavator to assist with firefighting efforts at a structure fire on Frederick Point Drive.
- ❖ Martin and crew are ditching and grading at the baler site to mitigate some drainage issues that are present in the loading dock area.
- ❖ Assistant Director Marohl has stepped in to lead the Sanitation Dept in the short term as we are working on finding a permanent Sanitation Supervisor.
- ❖ Siemens will be here starting January 15th to investigate some HVAC issues at the muni building and Library.
- ❖ The maintenance crew is assisting Island Refrigeration with some repairs to the heat pump system at Motor Pool.
- ❖ We are still waiting for the new EPA discharge permit to drop. This is expected sometime in January.
- ❖ The Pump Station 4 and Force Main Replacement project was awarded to Rock-N-Road. An award letter has been sent, and Rock-N-Road is working with the Borough on submittal of the required contract paperwork.