



Petersburg Borough

12 South Nordic Drive
Petersburg, AK 99833

Meeting Minutes Borough Assembly Regular Meeting

Monday, January 05, 2026

12:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

1. Call To Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 pm.

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. Regular Assembly Meeting Minutes December 1, 2025

The minutes of the December 1, 2025 meeting were approved as submitted.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, 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

4. Amendment and Approval of Meeting Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

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

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.

Tom Kowalski, representing himself, spoke against the communications towers being built in Petersburg and about his concerns about diminishing property values and the harm that communication towers can cause to children's health.

Chris Cropley, the director of Tidal Network, said that he would be available to answer any questions during the meeting.

David Beebe, representing himself, spoke about health and safety concerns and private property devaluation resulting from communications towers.

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.

Andy Wright, representing himself, spoke against the communications towers in Petersburg and would like to see zoning code updated.

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. SEAPA Update: Director Hagerman and Mayor Lynn provided a report on the December 3rd SEAPA meeting in Ketchikan. The third turbine project at Tyee Lake was also discussed.

B. Petersburg Medical Center

CEO Hofstetter provided an update on Petersburg Medical Center.

C. Petersburg School District

Superintendent Taylor provided an update on school activities.

12. Mayor's Report

A. January 5, 2026 Mayor's Report

Mayor Lynn read his report into the record.

13. Manager's Report

A. January 5, 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 #2025-16: An Ordinance Amending Chapter 4.04 of the Municipal Code, Entitled “Purchasing”, to Update Bid and Proposal Submission Procedures - Third Reading

If approved in three readings, Ordinance #2025-16 will amend Chapter 4.04 of the Municipal Code to modernize and clarify the Borough’s purchasing requirements by allowing electronic submission of responses to Invitations to Bid and Requests for Proposals.

Ordinance #2025-16 was unanimously approved in its third reading.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, 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

15. New Business

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

If approved in three readings this supplemental budget would make changes to the following funds:

Transfer \$300,000 from the FY2025 General Fund Surplus to the Parks and Recreation Sewer Repair Capital Project. A memo from Director Payne regarding the transfer is attached.

Transfer the remaining General Fund FY2025 surplus of \$131,365 to the Assisted Living Facility Fund that is operating at a deficit.

By unanimous roll call vote, Ordinance #2026-01 was approved in its first reading.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, 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. Resolution #2025-22: A Resolution Establishing Documents Which May Be Submitted to Determine Eligibility by Low-Income Senior Residents for a Senior Sales Tax Exemption

If adopted, Resolution #2025-22 will allow seniors to demonstrate eligibility for a senior sales tax exemption card by providing proof of a pending application for the State of Alaska Senior Benefits Payment program.

By unanimous Roll Call vote, Resolution #2025-22 was approved.

Motion made by Assembly Member Valentine, 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

C. Resolution #2025-23: A Resolution Adopting an Alternative Allocation Method for the FY26 Shared Fisheries Business Tax Program and Certifying that this Allocation Method Fairly Represents the Distribution of Significant Effects of Fisheries Business Activity in FMA 18: Central Southeast Area

Each year the Borough approves a version of this Resolution adopting the alternative allocation method for the current fiscal year's Shared Fisheries Business Tax Program. Finance Director Tow is requesting approval of Resolution #2025-23 for FY26.

By unanimous Roll Call vote, Resolution #2025-23 was approved.

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. Assembly / Hospital Board Work Session

Per Petersburg Borough Code 3.50.090, the hospital board shall meet with the assembly at least annually to discuss and coordinate financial planning, capital improvement needs, comprehensive plans for health care and other issues relating to the hospital and associated facilities.

The Assembly unanimously approved to hold the Assembly/Hospital Board Work Session meeting on January 26, 2026, at 5:30 pm.

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

E. Mayor's Request to Reschedule April Assembly Meeting

The Assembly unanimously approved to move the April 6, 2026 noon Assembly meeting to Monday, April 13, 2026 at noon due to both clerks attending the SHRM conference in Anchorage.

Motion made by Assembly Member Meucci, 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

F. Mayor's Request to Schedule Board of Equalization Hearing

The Assembly unanimously approved to hold the Board of Equalization meeting on April 14, 2026, at 12:00 pm.

Motion made by Assembly Member Meucci, 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

G. Review of Proposed 2026 Capital Projects

Attached to this meeting packet are two spreadsheets detailing the proposed Capital Projects for Petersburg in 2026.

Attachment 1: A prioritized list of the top recommended projects.

Attachment 2: A comprehensive list of all Capital Project requests submitted by borough departments.

The Assembly unanimously approved the proposed Capital Projects list.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, 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

H. FY2027 Federal Priority Projects

The Assembly unanimously approved the FY2027 Federal Priority Projects list.

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

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

I. Appointed Member at Large to the Petersburg Economic Development Council

By unanimous roll call vote, the Assembly appointed Rocio Tejera to the PEDC as the Member at Large for a three-year term that begins January 5, 2026 and ends December 31, 2028.

Motion made by Assembly Member Meucci, 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

J. Borough Manager Performance Evaluation Timeline

The Assembly unanimously approved the Borough Manager performance evaluation timeline.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, 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

K. Appointment of Assembly Member for Borough Manager Evaluation Review

Scott Newman was appointed to assist Mayor Lynn to review the compiled evaluations for the Borough Manager.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, 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

16. Communications

A. Correspondence Received Since 11.27.2025

17. Assembly Discussion Items

A. Discussion on Communications Towers with Tidal Network: *Requested by Member Meucci*

Member Meucci has prepared questions for Tidal Network regarding communications towers.

Member Meucci asked the Assembly if they had additional questions to add to his questions for Tidal Network that were included in the Assembly packet.

Member Stanton Gregor said that Tidal Network has an online survey available.

Tidal Network Director Chris Cropley said that anyone is welcome to contact him with questions about the communications towers directly via phone at 907-538-8255, or via email at chris@tidalnet.com.

After discussion about availability and meeting dates, Chris Cropley indicated that he would be available to come to Petersburg for an in-person meeting on February 2, 2026, for a 6:00 pm meeting.

B. Assembly Member Comments

Member Stanton Gregor thanked Borough staff for all of their hard work removing snow over the holidays. He also reminded everyone that Tidal Network is a private business and has been following the rules in regard to the communication towers.

Member Meucci stated that it's time to discuss updating some outdated zoning and ordinances in Petersburg to be able to include language about communications towers.

Member Maritn spoke about what he learned at the Newly Elected Officials training in Anchorage in December. He would like to see more work sessions with the assembly to make sure that the community has a chance to be heard by the Assembly.

Member Valentine said that the opportunity to hear more input from the community and from Mr. Cropley from Tidal Network is an important opportunity.

Member Schwartz encouraged everyone in the community who is concerned about the communication tower issue to contact Tidal Network using the survey, the phone number and email that Mr. Cropley provided.

Member Meucci thanked everyone who has been clearing snow away from the fire hydrants. He also recommended that an evening meeting would be best for the community to be able to participate in a meeting with Tidal Network.

C. Recognitions

18. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, 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