



# CITY OF GUSTAVUS CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, February 23, 2026 at 6:00 PM  
Gustavus City Hall

## COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Sally McLaughlin  
Vice Mayor Lucas Beck  
Council Members: Renee Patrick,  
Justin Marchbanks, Karen Hutten,  
Jim Kearns, Mike Taylor

## CITY HALL

City Administrator – Kathy Leary  
City Clerk – Liesl Barker  
City Treasurer – Ben Sadler  
Phone: 907-697-2451  
[clerk@gustavus-ak.gov](mailto:clerk@gustavus-ak.gov)

## MINUTES- APPROVED

### VIRTUAL MEETING INFORMATION

<https://tinyurl.com/5x32a6uh>

**ID:** 515 501 9406

**PASSCODE:** 5589

**TEL:** 253-215-8782

### ROLL CALL

#### PRESENT

Mayor Sally McLaughlin  
Vice Mayor Lucas Beck  
Council Member Karen Hutten  
Council Member James Kearns  
Council Member Justin Marchbanks

#### ABSENT

Council Member Renee Patrick (unexcused)  
Council Member Mike Taylor (unexcused)

### Reading of the City of Gustavus Mission Statement

Mission statement read by Kearns.

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion on feasibility study regarding formation of borough in the Icy Strait region.

Topics for discussion include:

- Whether or not to collectively hire a consultant to assess the feasibility of a borough including the communities of Elfin Cove, Pelican and Gustavus.
- The study could include information on:
  - the extent of local support for the borough
  - ability to meet Local Boundary Commission standards
  - economic viability and tax revenue
  - ability to provide essential services
  - pros and cons of different borough models



- impacts on the communities involved

- Other considerations

This discussion is just to assess whether the city would like to commission a feasibility study, not on whether the city would like to take action on borough formation, at this time.

Motion by Beck to open discussion on feasibility study regarding formation of borough in the Icy Strait region.

Seconded by Marchbanks

Public Comment: None

Council Debate:

Marchbanks

McLaughlin

Kearns

City Administrator Leary

Hutton

2. Approve hiring a consultant, Kathie Wasserman to conduct a feasibility study regarding formation of borough in the Icy Strait region.

Motion by Hutten to approve to hire a consultant, Kathie Wasserman to conduct a feasibility study regarding formation of borough in the Icy Strait region.

Seconded by Beck

Public Comment:

Whitney Rapp

Clarifying Question: McLaughlin

Susan Warner

Council Debate:

McLaughlin

Kearns

Voting Yea: Mayor McLaughlin, Vice Mayor Beck, Council Member Hutten, Council Member Kearns, Council Member Marchbanks

5 yea/0 nay

Motion Passed

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business and hearing no objections, the meeting was adjourned at 6:22 P.M.

**POSTED ON:** February 11, 2026 at P.O, Library, City Hall & <https://cms.gustavus-ak.gov/>

## **ADA NOTICE**

Any person with a disability who requires accommodations in order to participate in this meeting should telephone the City Clerk's office at (907) 697-2451, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting in order to make a request for a disability related modification or accommodation.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The City of Gustavus is a distinctive Alaskan City that provides high quality public services in a thoughtful, cost effective and professional manner to sustain a safe, beautiful tolerant environment to live, work, and play with respect for individual freedom and each other.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sally A. McLaughlin, Mayor

03-09-2026  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Attest: Liesl M. Barker, City Clerk

03/09/2026  
Date