



CITY OF GUSTAVUS

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR WORK SESSION

Monday, November 03, 2025 at 6:00 PM
Gustavus City Hall

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Sally McLaughlin
Vice Mayor Lucas Beck
Council Members: Renee Patrick,
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

AGENDA

VIRTUAL MEETING INFORMATION

<https://tinyurl.com/4vhzwyvv>

ID: 515 501 9406

PASSCODE: 9921

TEL: 253-215-8782

SUBJECTS INCLUDE:

- i. Senator Kiehl and Representative Story presentation
- ii. Work Shield presentation
- [iii.](#) Xunna Borough Update - Informational Only
- [iv.](#) Review 11-10-2025 Draft General Meeting Agenda and Packet
- v. Council request for future agenda items

POSTED ON: October 29, 2025 at P.O, Library, City Hall & <https://cms.gustavus-ak.gov/>

The public is invited to attend Public comment is not typically taken at Work Sessions. Public comment is taken at Special and General Meetings or an e-mail may be sent to the clerk for distribution to City Council clerk@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.

Summary and Update on the Xunaaa Borough

City Council Work Session

November 3, 2025

For the benefit of new council members and a refresher for others, here is a summary of the steps taken in the past twelve months. This is intended as informational only. Questions regarding the process are welcomed but we will not be discussing the city's position, concerns, or strategies going forward.

* November 12, 2024 - The Local Boundary Commission (LBC) held a decisional meeting and voted in favor of adopting the City of Hoonah's petition to form a non-unified Home Rule Xunaa Borough as presented to the Local Boundary Commission. The commissioners seemed to overlook the LBC staff report that recommended that the LBC not adopt the petition as presented, as well as an abundance of public comment in opposition.

*The final written decision as well as a dissent brief presented by Commissioner Wood and Commissioner Walker were presented at a December meeting.

*We engaged attorney Megan Costello to work with us on filing for reconsideration in a combined effort with Elfin Cove. Megan did an outstanding job in presenting our case. In addition to ours, the City of Tenakee Springs, the City of Pelican and the Gustavus Visitors Association all filed requests for reconsideration.

* February 18, 2025 - A final decisional meeting was held in which the LBC reconsidered two of the standards, Boundaries and Best interests of the state, and ultimately voted to uphold the original decision to grant the petition for the Xunaa Borough. At this point we had no further options for appeal to the LBC.

* The City Council met twice in executive session with attorney Megan Costello to discuss litigation strategies to pursue legal options. A decision was made to direct our attorney to file an administrative appeal to the Alaska Superior Court of the LBC's decision to grant the petition dissolving the City of Hoonah and forming the Xunaa Borough. Tenakee Springs, Pelican and Elfin Cove all made the same determination and the attorneys for all four communities are collaborating on the brief. Gustavus and Elfin Cove continue to share one attorney and to split costs as applicable.

* April 18, 2025 - A Statement of Points on Appeal Brief and a Motion to Stay were filed in Superior Court. The Points on Appeal lists 47 points that are being further fleshed out in the

final brief. The Motion to Stay asked the court to prohibit the Local Boundary Commission from submitting the petition to the voters pending the duration of this judicial appeal.

*Alaska Superior Court granted the motion to stay the Local Boundary Commission's decision approving the formation of the Xunaa Borough, which meant that the LBC couldn't take further steps toward the formation of the Xunaa Borough while the appeal is pending, including the election that had been scheduled for July for Hoonah voters.

*Since July, there has been a series of extensions to due dates and attorney action has been on hold while court records were completed and we are still waiting for a due date to be issued. Once we have a new due date, we will have 30 days to file our brief, the LBC and Hoonah will get to each file a responsive brief, and then the communities will file a reply brief. Then there will be oral argument. After that, the Court has up to six months to make a decision. We will have an opportunity to review the briefs prior to filing and to make comments if we wish.

*For further information on the petition itself, public comment and the city's opposition comments, and records from the LBC's meetings, please visit the LBC website:

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/dcra/LocalBoundaryCommission/CurrentandPastPetitions/2023CityofHoonahPetition.aspx>

Superior Court Records are not as easily obtained on-line but are all public record. I can forward those to anyone who is interested.



CITY OF GUSTAVUS

CITY COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING

Monday, November 10, 2025 at 7:00 PM
Gustavus City Hall

Item #iv.

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Sally McLaughlin
Vice Mayor Lucas Beck
Council Members: Renee Patrick,
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

AGENDA

VIRTUAL MEETING INFORMATION

ID: 515 501 9406

PASSCODE: XXXXXXXX

TEL: 253-215-8782

ROLL CALL

Reading of the City of Gustavus Mission Statement

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MAYOR'S REQUEST FOR AGENDA CHANGES

COMMITTEE / STAFF REPORTS

1. Disposal and Recycling Center Quarterly Report
2. Marine Facilities Quarterly Report
3. City Treasurer Monthly Report
4. City Administrator Monthly Report

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approve Conservation Lands Advisory Committee appointment - Shelley Owens

ORDINANCE FOR PUBLIC HEARING

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

6. FY26-XXNCO Introduction providing for the amendment of city held accounts in fiscal year 2026 - moving funds from checking to savings to accrue interest (Public Hearing 12-08-2025)
7. Amendment of CY25-17 A resolution Establishing a Special Code of Ordinances Review Advisory Committee

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

8. Mayor Monthly Report

CITY COUNCIL QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

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.



A word cloud centered around the word "VOLUNTEER" in large red letters. Other prominent words include "SERVICES", "TIME", "HELPING", "MANAGEMENT", "ADDITIONAL", "AID", "OFFERED", "INVOLVED", "SUPPORT", "REGENERATION", "BUILDS", "AGENCIES", "ADMINISTRATIVE", "BEHAVIOUR", "BECOME", "CAUSE", "ARISE", "BENEFIT", "ABLE", "ALSO", "BORDERS", "CAPITAL", "ABILITY", "ACTION", "ADOPT", "ALLOW", "BREACH", "AIMS", "ADDED", "ACCOUNTABILITY", "AVAILABLE", "BROKER". The words are in various colors (red, green, blue, yellow, orange, purple) and sizes, arranged in a circular pattern around the central word.

0%

Conservation Lands Advisory Committee

Owens

6

Shelley

Residence Address *

41 Parker Drive, Gustavus, AK 99826

Mailing Address *

PO Box 37, Gustavus, AK 99826

Email Address *

junowens@gmail.com

Best Contact Number *

907.500.3553

Can you regularly attend meetings? *

Yes

Committee and Board by-laws may have attendance requirements.

Are you currently affiliated with the City of Gustavus in any way? *

No

If yes, please list how you are affiliated with the City. ***Have you been a member of this Board or Committee before?**

No, although I serve as the Secretary in a volunteer capacity

Reason for interest in committee/board membership: *

Long interest in preservation of natural beach lands

Brief background of experience that would qualify you for the position: *

Involvement with previous beach committee; volunteer secretary for C-LA

Submitted by: *

Shelley Owens

See Preview

ADMINISTRATION

**CITY OF GUSTAVUS, ALASKA
RESOLUTION CY25-17**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF GUSTAVUS ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL CODE OF
ORDINANCES REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

WHEREAS, the City of Gustavus recognizes the need to regularly review, revise and update the Code of Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, a complete review of the Code of Ordinances has not been undertaken in many years and many are outdated; and

WHEREAS, a complete review of the Code of Ordinances may take a considerable amount of time and the City lacks staff to devote to a project of this size; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Gustavus recognizes the value of the inclusion of local residents in decision making procedures; and,

WHEREAS; City of Gustavus Code of Ordinances, Section 2.40.150 - Committees provides for the establishment of special committees, which may advise the City Council or complete tasks in support of specific authorized City functions.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gustavus City Council authorizes establishment of the City of Gustavus Ordinance Review Committee, a special advisory committee of up to six members, comprised of volunteer Gustavus residents and no more than two City Council members, nominated by the Mayor and ratified by the City Council. The City Clerk shall serve as liaison.

As an official advisory committee, the Ordinance Review Committee must comply with the requirements of the Alaska Open Meetings Act, CoG Ordinance 2.40.150, and Resolution CY25-12. The committee shall present monthly updates to the City Council for review. Per CoG 2.40.150 (b), this special committee will automatically terminate upon completion of the committee's assignments. The City Clerk shall support the committee administratively. All committee members shall take an oath of office prior to participation in their first meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Gustavus City Council sets forth the following mission, scope, and directives for the Committee:

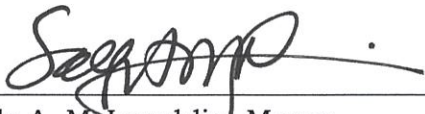
Mission:

To review the City of Gustavus Code of Ordinances and recommend updates to the City Council.

Scope:

- Review current Code of Ordinances to identify any portions that require updating.
- City Clerk will provide the committee with a list of previously identified updates.
- The committee in conjunction with the City Clerk and Mayor will prioritize the list.
- The committee will recommend suggested changes to the Council
- The committee will provide regular monthly updates to the City Council.

PASSED and **APPROVED** by the Gustavus City Council this 11th day of August, 2025, and effective upon adoption.



Sally A. McLaughlin, Mayor



Attest: Liesl M. Barker, City Clerk

