



# Petersburg Borough

12 South Nordic Drive  
Petersburg, AK 99833

## Meeting Minutes Borough Assembly Regular Meeting

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Monday, March 03, 2025

12:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

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### 1. Call To Order/Roll Call

Vice Mayor Marsh called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

#### PRESENT

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

#### EXCUSED

Mayor Mark Jensen

### 2. Voluntary Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was recited.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

#### A. February 18, 2025 Assembly Meeting Minutes

The February 18, 2025 Assembly Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

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

Voting Yea: 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 agenda was approved as submitted.

Motion made by Assembly Member Lynn, Seconded by Assembly Member Newman.  
Voting Yea: 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**

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.*

Glo Wollen, representing herself, supported adoption of Resolution #2025-05 and the Visitor Industry Management Plan.

Ellie Broschat, representing herself, urged the Assembly to support the American Cruise Lines partnership to ensure the Borough has ownership of the infrastructure and decision-making authority.

Molly Taiber, representing herself, spoke in support of the letter to our Federal Delegation under agenda item 15D.

Linda Slaght, representing herself, shared her support for the letter to our Federal Delegation.

Anthony Taiber, speaking for himself, supports the letter to our federal delegation, but would like to add comments regarding condemning cuts to NOAA and potential tariffs to the letter.

Liz Cabrera, Community & Economic Development Director, encouraged the Assembly to approve Resolution #2025-05 and adopt the Visitor Industry Management Plan as a starting point. She also spoke in support of the letter to our Federal Delegation and requested the Assembly include the Borough's federal funding list as an enclosure to the letter.

Liz Bacom, representing herself, urged the Assembly to approve the letter to our Federal Delegation.

Sarah Fine-Walsh, representing herself, spoke in support of the letter to our Federal Delegation, with the amendments proposed by Anthony Taiber and Liz Cabrera.

## **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.*

No views were shared.

## **9. Boards, Commission and Committee Reports**

There were no reports.

## **10. Consent Agenda**

### **A. Rocky's Marine Tidelands Lease Renewal**

Renewal of the tidelands lease for Rocky's Marine was unanimously approved by the Assembly.

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

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

## **11. Report of Other Officers**

### **A. Petersburg Medical Center**

PMC CEO Hofstetter updated the Assembly on Medical Center activities.

### **B. US Forest Service**

District Ranger Case was unable to attend the meeting.

### **C. BDO Audit Report**

BDO Auditor Bikky Shrestha thanked Finance Director Tow and the Finance Department staff for a smooth and organized audit. Mr. Shrestha reviewed the audit documents with the Assembly, stating that the Petersburg Borough was issued an unmodified opinion on the FY 2024 financial statements, which is the highest level of assurance the auditors can professionally render.

## **12. Mayor's Report**

### **A. March 3, 2025 Mayor's Report**

Vice Mayor Marsh read the Mayor's Report into the record.

## **13. Manager's Report**

### **A. March 3, 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 #2025-01: An Ordinance Amending the Official Zoning Map for Service Area 1 of the Petersburg Borough to Rezone Lot 13B, Plat #2008-15, (Parcel #01-014-700 Located at 1020 Sandy Beach Road) from Rural Residential (R-R) to Single-Family Residential (S-F) - Third and Final Reading**

Ordinance #2025-01 was unanimously approved in its third and final reading.

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

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

**B. Ordinance #2025-02 - An Ordinance Adjusting the FY 2025 Budget for Known Changes - Third and Final Reading**

If approved in three readings, Ordinance #2025-02 will 1) add a Homeland Security Cyber Grant of \$26,736 to the budget; 2) correct the Motor Pool payroll budget with an increase of \$82,595; 3) increase Power & Light's inventory budget by \$45,000 to replenish exhausted power poles and line extension supplies; 4) increase Power & Light's heat pump rebate program budget by \$15,000 to support customer's rebate applications to the end of this fiscal year; and 5) increase Motor Pool's travel and training budget by \$8,697 for CDL licensing.

The Assembly unanimously approved Ordinance #2025-02 in its third and final reading.

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

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

**15. New Business**

**A. Resolution #2025-03: A Resolution Authorizing Temporary Lease of Borough Owned Tidelands at the Scow Bay Turnaround to Andrew Rutherford**

Andrew Rutherford filed an application to temporarily lease 5,000 square feet of Borough-owned tidelands located at the Scow Bay Turnaround for demolition and rebuild of a floating airplane hangar. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the application on February 22, 2025, and recommends the Assembly approve a temporary tideland use permit, with conditions, as outlined in their report and in the resolution.

By unanimous roll call vote, the Assembly approved Resolution #2025-03.

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

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

**B. Resolution #2025-04: A Resolution Authorizing the Sale of Borough-Owned Property Described as: Lot 16, Block 2, State Land Survey 81-7, Wrangell Narrows, According to Plat 82-11 (PID #02-283-130), and Lot 13B, Plat 2008-15 (PID #01-014-700 Located at 1020 Sandy Beach Road) by Public Outcry Auction**

In previous meetings, the Assembly approved the sale of two Borough-owned lots by public outcry auction. Clerk Thompson has suggested the auction be held on Monday, April 21, 2025, at 5:00 p.m., just prior to the 6:00 Assembly meeting.

Resolution #2025-04 was amended to update the assessed value and minimum bid amount to reflect the current assessed value of the property (from \$20,100 to \$23,700 for the assessed value and from \$20,700 to \$24,300 for the minimum bid).

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

The Assembly unanimously approved Resolution #2025-04, as amended.

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

**C. Resolution #2025-05: A Resolution Adopting a Visitor Industry Management Plan for Petersburg Drafted by the Visitor Industry Working Group**

In 2019 and 2020, the Visitor Industry Working Group, which was comprised of 17 local residents, researched and made recommendations on how to best respond to potential visitor industry growth to address the goal of maintaining the balance between Petersburg's quality of life and the visitor economy. The Working Group published a Visitor Industry Management Plan in early 2021 which, if adopted by the Assembly, can serve as a guide in navigating the future of Petersburg's visitor industry.

Buy unanimous roll call vote, the Assembly approved Resolution #2025-05, adopting the Visitor Industry Management Plan for Petersburg.

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

**D. Letter to Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan, and Representative Begich Regarding the Trump Administration's Federal Spending Reduction Plans**

At the request of Assembly Members Stanton-Gregor and Lynn, a letter to our Federal Delegation regarding the recent and proposed cuts to federal departments, employment, and funding has been drafted.

An amendment was approved to add Petersburg's federal funding list as an attachment to the letter to our Federal Delegation.

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

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

An additional amendment to add information about funding cuts to NOAA was unanimously approved.

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

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

The letter to our Federal Delegation was unanimously approved, as amended.

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

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

## **16. Communications**

### **A. Correspondence Received Since February 13, 2025**

## **17. Assembly Discussion Items**

### **A. Fish Box Tax**

The Assembly discussed the idea of instituting a Fish Box Tax or Fee to help raise revenue for the Borough.

### **B. Marine Passenger Fee**

Increasing the Marine Passenger Fee to \$10 was discussed.

### **C. Sales Tax Cap**

The Assembly discussed submitting the question of increasing the sales tax cap to the voters again at this year's municipal election.

### **D. Assembly Member Comments**

There were no comments.

### **E. Recognitions**

Assembly Member Stanton Gregor recognized Hannah Flor, our KFSK reporter, who was attending her last Borough Assembly meeting, for her stellar reporting. Ms. Flor is moving out of Petersburg.

## **18. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

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

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