



Petersburg Borough

12 South Nordic Drive
Petersburg, AK 99833

Meeting Minutes Borough Assembly Regular Meeting

Monday, May 18, 2026

6:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

1. Call To Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lynn at 6:00 pm.

PRESENT

Mayor Bob Lynn
Assembly Member Rob Schwartz
Vice Mayor Jleigh 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 April 20, 2026

The minutes of the April 20, 2026 meeting were unanimously 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

B. Regular Assembly Meeting Minutes May 4, 2026

The minutes of the May 4, 2026 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

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

4. Amendment and Approval of Meeting Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

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

5. Public Hearings

A. Ordinance #2026-06: An Ordinance Amending Petersburg Municipal Code Title 20, Entitled “Watershed Management”, To Update Language and to Account for Borough Incorporation

No testimony was given.

B. Ordinance #2026-07: An Ordinance Amending Petersburg Municipal Code Chapter 4.80 To Adjust the Marine Passenger Fee to Address Increased Borough Costs Associated with Services to and Infrastructure for Marine Passenger Vessels and Their Passengers

No testimony was given.

C. Ordinance #2026-08: An Ordinance Updating Chapter 14.16 of the Municipal Code, Entitled “Electric Utility”

No testimony was given.

D. Ordinance #2026-09: An Ordinance of the Petersburg Borough Adopting the Budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 Through June 30, 2027

Stuart Whyte, Development Director and Interim General Manager of KFSK, testified in support of continued Borough funding through the Community Service Grant Program.

Bill Tremblay, Treasurer for the KFSK Board of Directors, testified in support of funding for KFSK.

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.

Bill Tremblay, the President of the Petersburg Volunteer Fire Department Association, spoke in support of Resolution 2026-14, noting the Association's intent to assume ownership of antique fire vehicles and its ongoing investment in their restoration and maintenance.

Judy Ohmer, speaking for herself and reading comments from Kirsten Dupree, encouraged the Assembly to review broader research regarding telecommunications infrastructure and data centers. She raised concerns about environmental, financial, and community impacts, as well as the need for additional information, safeguards, and caution before proceeding with related projects.

Becky Knight, speaking for herself, expressed opposition to cell towers and data center development, citing concerns about long-term impacts, privacy, and artificial intelligence.

Dominique Davis, speaking for herself, expressed concern regarding increasing taxes and rates. She encouraged consideration of alternatives to tax increases and suggested exploring community-supported solutions.

Raleigh Cook, speaking for himself, commented on Ordinance 2026-10, stating support for changes to the sales tax cap. He also offered to assist with relocating a training tower, suggesting costs may be lower than currently projected, and expressed concern regarding rising property taxes.

David Beebe, speaking for himself, addressed concerns related to additional cell towers and proposed data center development. He cited potential public health, privacy, and community impacts and advocated for a moratorium or public referendum.

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

No board reports.

10. Consent Agenda

There were no consent agenda items.

11. Report of Other Officers

There were no reports.

12. Mayor's Report

A. May 18, 2026 Mayor's Report

Mayor Lynn read his report into the record.

13. Manager's Report

A. No manager's report for this meeting.

There was no written manager's report. Manager Giesbrecht updated the Assembly on the status of the Tidal Network contract.

14. Unfinished Business

A. **Ordinance #2026-06: An Ordinance Amending Petersburg Municipal Code Title 20, Entitled “Watershed Management”, To Update Language and to Account for Borough Incorporation - Second Reading**

If approved in three readings, this ordinance would update and codify existing watershed management regulations into the borough code, reflect borough formation, and continue protections for the City Creek and Cabin Creek water supply watersheds to safeguard water quality and quantity for Service Area 1.

By unanimous roll call vote, Ordinance #2026-06 was approved in its second reading.

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

B. **Ordinance #2026-07: An Ordinance Amending Petersburg Municipal Code Chapter 4.80 To Adjust the Marine Passenger Fee to Address Increased Borough Costs Associated with Services to and Infrastructure for Marine Passenger Vessels and Their Passengers - Second Reading**

If approved in three readings, this ordinance would amend the Marine Passenger Fee by increasing the per- passenger charge to address rising costs for public safety, harbor operations, sanitation, emergency response, and other Borough services and infrastructure impacted by marine passenger vessels, while codifying the change in the municipal code with the increase effective January 1, 2027.

By unanimous roll call vote, Ordinance #2026-07 was approved in its second reading.

Motion made by Assembly Member Valentine, Seconded by Assembly Member Martin.

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

C. **Ordinance #2026-08: An Ordinance Updating Chapter 14.16 of the Municipal Code, Entitled “Electric Utility” - Second Reading**

If approved in three readings, this ordinance would update electric utility rates and charges for FY 2027 to ensure Petersburg Municipal Power & Light can fully cover operating expenses, inflation, capital needs, reserve requirements, and debt coverage obligations, while maintaining reliable electric service and codifying the revised rates and fees in the municipal code. A memo from Director Hagerman is attached.

By unanimous roll call vote, Ordinance #2026-08 was approved in its second reading.

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. Ordinance #2026-09: An Ordinance of the Petersburg Borough Adopting the Budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 Through June 30, 2027 - Second Reading

If approved in three readings, this ordinance would adopt the Fiscal Year 2027 operating budget for the Petersburg Borough.

By unanimous roll call vote, Ordinance #2026-09 was approved in its second reading.

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

15. New Business

A. Ordinance #2026-10: An Ordinance Amending Section 4.28.120 of the Petersburg Municipal Code, To Increase the Amount of the Single Purchase Sales Tax Cap from \$1,200 To \$5,000, and Directing That the Proposed Amendment Be Submitted to the Qualified Voters of the Borough - First Reading

If approved in three readings, Ordinance #2026-10 would increase the maximum single purchase amount subject to the borough sales tax from \$1,200 to \$5,000 and submit the change to borough voters at the October 6, 2026 regular election. The increase would raise the maximum sales tax on a single transaction from \$72 to \$300, modernize a cap that has changed only once since 1959, and help generate additional revenue to support essential borough services, including the Petersburg School District, while still remaining among the lowest caps in Southeast Alaska.

Ordinance #2026-10 was approved by a vote of 6 – 1 in its first reading.

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
Voting Nay: Assembly Member Newman

B. Ordinance #2026-11: An Ordinance Updating Chapter 14.08 of The Municipal Code, Entitled “Sewer Utility” - First Reading

If approved in three readings, Ordinance #2026-11 would update sewer utility service rates for FY2027 through FY2030 based on the annual rate review, reflecting higher projected operating costs and planned capital needs. The changes amend Section 14.08.320A of the Municipal Code to establish updated service charges and commodity rates to support long-term financial sustainability of the Sewer Utility.

By unanimous roll call vote, Ordinance #2026-11 was approved in its first reading.

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

C. Ordinance #2026-12: An Ordinance Amending Title 19 Zoning, of the Petersburg Municipal Code to Regulate Wireless Communication Facilities (WCF) And Other Towers and Transmitters - First Reading

If approved in three readings, this ordinance would establish zoning and permitting standards for wireless communication facilities and other towers. It requires these facilities to be reviewed as conditional uses, providing public notice and Planning Commission review and approval, while remaining consistent with the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 and related regulations.

The ordinance creates a new chapter of the municipal code governing wireless facilities, prioritizes collocation and use of existing structures, and sets development standards addressing location, safety, visual impacts, and FCC compliance. It is intended to balance the community's need for reliable wireless and other communication services with public safety and aesthetic concerns.

By unanimous roll call vote, Ordinance #2026-12 was approved in its first reading.

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

D. Resolution #2026-13: A Resolution of the Petersburg Borough Setting the Millage Rates for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 Through June 30, 2027

If approved, this resolution would establish the property tax millage rates for the fiscal year July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, based on final assessed property values and in accordance with Borough code and charter limits. The adopted rates fund area-wide services, education, voter- approved general obligation bond debt, and Service Area 1 services, and set the due date for 2026 property taxes.

By unanimous roll call vote, Resolution #2026-13 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

E. Resolution #2026-14: A Resolution Authorizing the Borough Manager to Transfer Ownership of Certain Antique Fire Apparatus to the Petersburg Volunteer Fire Department Association

If approved, this resolution would allow the Petersburg Volunteer Fire Department Association to take ownership of three antique fire apparatus it has restored and maintained. The Association will assume all insurance and maintenance responsibilities, continue to make the vehicles available for public display, and return ownership to the Borough if the Association dissolves.

By unanimous roll call vote, Resolution #2026-14 was approved.

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

F. Resolution #2026-15: A Resolution of the Petersburg Borough Assembly Approving the Sale of a Borough Owned Parcel to Taylor Jensen

If approved, Resolution #2026- 15 would authorize the sale of a Borough- owned parcel at 505 Mill Street to Taylor Jensen under the negotiated Contract of Sale.

By unanimous roll call vote, Resolution #2026-15 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

G. Land Purchase Application

The Borough has received an application from Robert Funk to purchase Borough- owned property at 502 Lumber Street. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on April 14, 2026, as required by PMC § 16.12.080, and recommends approval of the sale of the property to the applicant. The assessed value of the property is \$33,100.

The assembly unanimously approved that the Borough Manager negotiate a direct sale of 502 Lumber Street to Robert Funk.

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

H. Letter of Interest for Planning Commission

The Assembly received a letter of interest from Jim Floyd expressing his willingness to serve on the Planning Commission. His letter was presented for Assembly review and consideration for appointment.

Mayor Lynn appointed Jim Floyd to serve on the Planning Commission until October 2026.

I. Scow Bay Fire Station Training Props Relocation Plan

This agenda item requested by Member Meucci

Consider directing the Borough Manager to develop a plan to relocate the Scow Bay Fire Station training props to a site adjacent to Fire Station One.

The plan shall include a proposed timeline for the move, detailed cost estimates for relocating the training vans, burn tower, and associated gear, estimated engineering and construction costs for a suitable pad at the Fire Station One site, and identification of potential funding options. The plan shall also include coordination with and required approval from the Department of Transportation (DOT). If DOT does not grant approval for the proposed location, staff shall immediately begin evaluation and planning for an alternative site.

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

Discussion focused on site evaluation status, cost differences (Fire Station 1 vs. 14th Street), lack of funding, and the need for further analysis by staff.

An amendment to cease consideration of the 14th Street site failed (2–5).

Motion made by Assembly Member Martin, Seconded by Assembly Member Schwartz.
Voting Yea: Assembly Member Schwartz, Assembly Member Valentine, Assembly Member Meucci

Voting Nay: Mayor Lynn, Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Martin, Assembly Member Newman

The main motion failed (3–4).

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

Voting Yea: Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Martin

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

Staff will continue evaluating options and return with additional information; a future work session may be scheduled.

J. Formation of a Housing Task Force

This agenda item requested by Member Meucci

Consider the formation of a Housing Task Force.

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

Discussion included differing views on timing and need. Some members supported forming a task force to engage the public and develop recommendations on housing issues. Others noted recent housing efforts, existing studies, and projects underway, and expressed a preference to allow staff to continue current work and gather more data before establishing a new group. Motion to form a housing task force failed (2-5).

Voting Yea: Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Martin

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

16. Communications

A. Correspondence Received Since April 20, 2026

17. Assembly Discussion Items

A. Arctic Security Cutter Homeport Consideration

This discussion item requested by Member Meucci

Discussion regarding the potential for Petersburg to be considered as a home port for Arctic Security Coast Guard cutters. The Borough Manager reported that due to harbor depth, infrastructure requirements, and housing limitations, Petersburg is not currently a viable location for large icebreakers. Efforts are instead focused on retaining and expanding smaller Coast Guard assets, including buoy tenders and cutters. The Assembly discussed prior outreach efforts and the possibility of a future resolution expressing interest.

B. Former South Mitkof Ferry Terminal

This discussion item requested by Member Meucci

The Borough Manager reported that discussions with the Department of Transportation are ongoing regarding ownership, potential transfer to the Borough, and allowable future uses. No determinations have been made at this time.

C. Power and Light Ordinances (Large Commercial Users)

This discussion item requested by Member Meucci

Discussion was held regarding updates to power and light ordinances to address large commercial power users. Director Harbour reported he is working with the borough attorney to develop updated rate classifications and regulatory frameworks to better manage high-demand users, ensure cost recovery, and protect existing ratepayers while allowing for future growth. The Assembly discussed the need for clear guidelines, equitable treatment, and flexibility for future development.

D. Assembly Member Comments

Member Valentine spoke about community concerns regarding housing affordability and workforce income levels made suggestions to improve public understanding of homebuying processes and financial resources.

Member Martin acknowledged the success of the Little Norway Festival and expressed appreciation for volunteers help at the festival.

E. Recognitions

Member Schwartz congratulated Sig and Ambre Burrell who were this year's Norwegian American award recipients.

18. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

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