



# Petersburg Borough

12 South Nordic Drive  
Petersburg, AK 99833

## Meeting Minutes Borough Assembly Regular Meeting

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Tuesday, May 02, 2023

12:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

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### 1. Call To Order/Roll Call

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

#### PRESENT

Mayor Mark Jensen  
Vice Mayor Bob Lynn  
Assembly Member Thomas Fine-Walsh  
Assembly Member David Kensinger  
Assembly Member Donna Marsh  
Assembly Member Jeff Meucci  
Assembly Member Scott Newman

### 2. Voluntary Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was recited.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

#### A. April 17, 2023 Assembly Meeting Minutes

The April 17, 2023 meeting minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

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

Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Lynn, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Kensinger, Assembly Member Marsh, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Newman

### 4. Amendment and Approval of Meeting Agenda

The agenda was amended to add Item 17A - Report on the April 27, 2023 Public Safety Advisory Board meeting. The agenda was unanimously approved as submitted.

### 5. Public Hearings

No testimony was given.

## 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.*

RD & Madonna Parks, Julianne Thompson, Mary Clemens, Ted Sandhofer, Kelly O'Soup, Bill Tremblay, Nicole McMurren, Tom Parker, Marsha Sandhofer, Joe Bertagnoli, Tom Abbott, Michelle Parker, Dorothy McBride, Dan Sullivan, and Laura & Craig Buhler each shared their support for a third party review of the Borough's safety and communication practices.

Cindy Lynn stated she did not believe having another agency do an independent review is needed. She urged common sense and suggested the community come together each July to comfort the families who lost their loved ones on July 4, 2016.

Tom Abbott thanked the Borough for including KFSK's funding request in the FY 2024 budget.

Marge Oines urged honesty.

Sarah Holmgrain encouraged the Assembly to approve the full financial request from the school district in the FY 2024 budget.

## 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.*

Cindy Lynn shared her concerns regarding unsecured funding for the new hospital project.

## 9. Boards, Commission and Committee Reports

No reports were given.

## 10. Consent Agenda

There were no consent agenda items.

## 11. Report of Other Officers

### A. Petersburg Medical Center Update

In the absence of PMC CEO Hofstetter, who had an important appointment he was unable to reschedule, Vice Mayor Lynn reminded everyone that on May 10, 2023, PMC will hold a public open house to present and discuss plans to construct a new hospital facility. The open house will be held in the Holy Cross House from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm.

### B. US Forest Service Update

Petersburg District Ranger Born updated the Assembly on Forest Service activities and projects.

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

### **A. May 2, 2023 Mayor's Report**

Mayor Jensen read his report into the record.

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

### **A. May 2, 2023 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 #2023-05: An Ordinance Updating Chapter 17.02 of the Municipal Code, Entitled "Safety Code Adoption" - Third and Final Reading**

If approved, Ordinance #2023-05 will (1) update the local amendment to the International Building Code snow load requirement, and (2) adopt a local amendment to the International Residential Code for new insulation values.

Ordinance #2023-05 was unanimously approved in its third and final reading.

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

Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Lynn, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Kensinger, Assembly Member Marsh, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Newman

## **15. New Business**

### **A. Ordinance #2023-06: An Ordinance Updating Various Sections of Chapter 14.08 of the Municipal Code, Entitled "Sewer Utility"**

If adopted in three readings, Ordinance #2023-06 will change the FY 2024 sewer utility rate increase from 3% to 6%. An annual rate review of the utility indicates this increase is needed to keep up with increased costs and expenses to the Borough.

By unanimous roll call vote, Ordinance #2023-06 was approved in its first reading.

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

Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Lynn, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Kensinger, Assembly Member Marsh, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Newman

**B. Ordinance #2023-07: An Ordinance Amending Sections 14.20.125, 14.20.250 and 14.20.380 of Chapter 14.20, *Municipal Harbors*, of the Petersburg Municipal Code to Address Live-Aboards and Other Residential Uses of Vessels Moored in Municipal Harbors and to Increase the Penalty for Speeding or Excessive Wake**

Adoption of Ordinance #2023-07 in three readings will: (1) update the live-aboard policy to allow no more than 10% of moorage spaces to be utilized by live-aboard vessels; (2) prohibit commercial use of the harbor facilities for rental of vessels for residential purposes; and (3) increase the penalty for speeding or excessive wake in the harbors from \$50 to \$200.

The Assembly unanimously approved Ordinance #2023-07 in its first reading.

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

Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Lynn, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Kensinger, Assembly Member Marsh, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Newman

**C. Ordinance #2023-08: An Ordinance of the Petersburg Borough Adopting the Budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2023 Through June 30, 2024**

Ordinance #2023-08 will set the Petersburg Borough budget for FY 2024 if approved in three readings.

After one motion to amend the ordinance was withdrawn and another amendment to increase the amount budgeted for Mountain View Food Services from \$25,000 to \$43,000, figuring out where the funds to do so will come from later failed, Ordinance #2023-08 was unanimously approved as submitted in its first reading.

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

Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Lynn, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Kensinger, Assembly Member Marsh, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Newman

**D. Ordinance #2023-09: An Ordinance Repealing Chapters 11.48, 11.52, 11.56, and 11.60 of the Former City Code and PMC Chapter 11.96, and Amending PMC Sections 11.12.040, 14.20.360 and 14.20.380**

If approved in three readings, Ordinance #2023-09 will repeal old traffic and parking code, update parking restrictions in current Borough code, allow for the harbor to enforce traffic and parking ordinances at Borough harbor facilities, and establish a \$25 penalty for parking in violation in harbor facilities.

Ordinance #2023-09 was unanimously approved in its first reading.

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

Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Lynn, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Kensinger, Assembly Member Marsh, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Newman

**E. Ordinance #2023-10: An Ordinance Amending Section 12.12.030(A) of Chapter 16.12, *Acquisition and Disposal of Borough Owned Lands*, of the Petersburg Municipal Code to Add Federally Recognized Tribes to the List of Entities that May Purchase Borough Property for Less than Assessed Value if Determined by the Assembly to be in the Best Interest of the Borough**

Ordinance #2023-10, if approved in three readings, will allow the Assembly to determine if it is in the best interest of the Borough to sell Borough-owned land at less than assessed value to federally recognized tribes, as well as to state and federal agencies and nonprofit entities.

The Assembly unanimously approved Ordinance #2023-10 in its first reading.

Motion made by Assembly Member Meucci, Seconded by Vice Mayor Lynn.

Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Lynn, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Kensinger, Assembly Member Marsh, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Newman

**F. In-Kind Services for Disposal of Material**

Petersburg Medical Center's request for in-kind services for disposal of material from off-site construction into the Borough's mud dump, provided PMC is awarded a grant from the Denali Commission for the work, was unanimously approved.

Motion made by Vice Mayor Lynn, Seconded by Assembly Member Meucci.

Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Lynn, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Kensinger, Assembly Member Marsh, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Newman

**G. 2023 Fuel Adjustment Charge for Annual SEAPA Maintenance Shutdown**

By unanimous roll call vote, the Assembly approved implementation of a fuel adjustment charge to all kilowatt hours sold in the billing period of May 27 through June 27, 2023, which includes the annual 10 day SEAPA power line shutdown (during which the diesel generators are used to produce power for Petersburg).

Motion made by Vice Mayor Lynn, Seconded by Assembly Member Meucci.

Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Lynn, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Kensinger, Assembly Member Marsh, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Newman

**H. Community Center Sewer Line Repair Project**

The Assembly unanimously approved sending the Community Center Sewer Line Report Project out to bid.

Motion made by Assembly Member Meucci, Seconded by Vice Mayor Lynn.

Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Lynn, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Kensinger, Assembly Member Marsh, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Newman

**I. Pump Station 4 Update and Final Design Award**

PND Engineers' Pump Station 4 final design contract amendment in the amount of \$245,600 to complete the project design, permitting, survey and platting was unanimously approved.

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

Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Lynn, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Kensinger, Assembly Member Marsh, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Newman

**J. Borough Hiring Procedures Review**

After much discussion and withdrawn or failed motions to amend the original motion, (to direct Borough administration to hire an independent specialist to review the Borough's current hiring procedures), the Assembly unanimously decided to seek proposals from Alaska Public Entity Insurance, The Safety Specialists, and any other safety related business recommended by the Borough Attorney to see what they can offer the Borough with regard to a review of the Borough's safety practices. The proposals will be brought back to the Assembly at a future meeting.

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

Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Lynn, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Kensinger, Assembly Member Marsh, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Newman

**K. Support for SB 132: An Act Imposing an Annual Educational Facilities Maintenance Construction Tax on Net Earnings from Self-Employment and Wages; Relating to the Administration and Enforcement of the Educational Facilities Maintenance and Construction Tax; and Providing for an Effective Date**

The Assembly unanimously opposed sending a letter of support for SB 132.

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

Voting Nay: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Lynn, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Kensinger, Assembly Member Marsh, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Newman

## **16. Communications**

### **A. Correspondence Received Since April 13, 2023**

## **17. Assembly Discussion Items**

### **A. April 27, 2023 Public Safety Advisory Board Meeting Report**

Assembly Member Meucci updated the Assembly on subjects discussed during a recent PSAB meeting, which include: Election of new Chair/Vice Chair; a cross walk at Raven's Roost Trail; Handicap Parking on Dolphin Street; A parabolic mirror on Haugen Drive, and appointment of Dr. Tuccillo as the Board's liaison to the Local Emergency Planning Committee.

### **B. Assembly Member Comments**

Assembly Member Marsh stated her appreciation to Finance Director Tow and the Borough Department Heads for bringing forward a balanced FY 2024 budget.

Assembly Member Kensinger echoed Member Marsh's comments, stating Petersburg is in good financial shape thanks for Finance Director Tow, Manager Giesbrecht and the Borough Department Heads.

### **B. Recognitions**

Utility Director Hagerman thanked Mayor Jensen and Manager Giesbrecht for recognizing Water Operations Supervisor Mike Bell and Wastewater Operations Supervisor Justin Haley for awards recently bestowed upon them by the Alaska Water and Wastewater Management Association. Supervisor Bell was given the Alaska Small System Manager of the Year award and Supervisor Haley was given the Alaska Small Wastewater System Person of the Year award. Director Hagerman stated the awards are well deserved.

Chief Kerr shared that the Police Department received their first Text 911 "call" on Sunday, April 30. The system worked well and the Department Dispatcher was able to text back and forth with a party needing emergency assistance.

## **18. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Motion made by Assembly Member Marsh, Seconded by Assembly Member Kensinger.

Voting Yea: Mayor Jensen, Vice Mayor Lynn, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Kensinger, Assembly Member Marsh, Assembly Member Meucci, Assembly Member Newman