



Petersburg Borough

12 South Nordic Drive
Petersburg, AK 99833

Meeting Minutes Borough Assembly Regular Meeting

Monday, April 13, 2026

12:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

1. Call To Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Lynn at 12:00 noon.

PRESENT

Assembly Member Rob Schwartz
Vice Mayor Jeigh Stanton Gregor
Assembly Member James Valentine
Assembly Member Jeff Meucci
Assembly Member Bob Martin
Assembly Member Scott Newman

EXCUSED

Mayor Bob Lynn

2. Voluntary Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was recited.

3. Approval of Minutes

A. Regular Assembly Meeting Minutes March 16, 2026

The minutes of the March 16, 2026 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

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

Voting Yea: 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

A motion was made by Member Meucci to add to Report of Other Officers a Clerk's report on the Human Resources conference.

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

The agenda was approved as amended.

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

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.

Molly Taiber, representing herself, spoke in support of the resolution for HB78, to return to a defined benefit plan for retirement.

Tom Kowalske, speaking for 300 people who signed a statement of concern regarding towers, recommended hiring someone to come to town to measure radio frequencies. He also wants the assembly to consider power needs before allowing data centers to come to town.

Joshua Adams, speaking for himself, said the planning commission is developing a communications tower overlay for state and federal lands. With the overlay they can work with the communication tower companies to help find better locations for towers.

Dana Thynes, representing herself, asked the Assembly to educate themselves about communications towers and their health impacts.

Tim Shumway, speaking for himself and the Associated Teachers of Petersburg, asked the Assembly to support House Bill 78 in its original form to restore a defined benefit program for public employees.

Eric Wolf, representing himself, spoke in support of HB78 and asked the Assembly to support it as written prior to the amendment.

Tara Lucas, speaking for herself, opposed the communications towers and data centers, citing health concerns.

Chad Carvey, speaking for himself, urged the Assembly to consider alternative sites for communications towers away from populated areas.

John Murgas, speaking for himself, addressed the cancellation of leases at the Scow Bay turnaround. He thanked the borough for leasing the spaces to him for the past 15 years and asked the Assembly to work with Taylor Pullar to let him keep his lease space.

Judy Ohmer, speaking for herself, commented on GCI's proposal to install four communications towers in Petersburg and expressed a desire to see local ordinances updated to better protect the community from tower impacts.

Mike Corl, representing himself, requested that the Assembly consider allowing Taylor Pullar to keep his lease space because of the value of his business for boat haul-outs.

Luke Short, representing himself, spoke against communication towers citing health concerns.

Carolyn Carvey, representing herself, spoke about living at Papke's and her concerns about potential health effects for people living near communications towers.

Heather O'Neil, representing herself, shared health concerns about living near a communications tower and the associated risks. She encouraged the Assembly to find alternative locations for the communications tower away from residences.

Mika Cline, representing herself, expressed support for ordinance language regulating the placement of communication towers. She urged the Assembly to move forward with new ordinance language to protect property values and preserve the aesthetics of Petersburg.

Jackie Tyson, representing herself, discussed alternatives to communication towers, including the use of underground and underwater cables to provide connectivity.

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.

Thomas Kowalske, representing himself, spoke about the comprehensive plan that was written in 2016 and urged the Assembly to hire a grant writer to help apply for grants to pay to update the plan.

Mike Corl, representing himself, spoke about the Scow Bay turnaround and his support for the project but that he also has questions about how the borough will manage the water filtration system and the businesses providing services.

9. Boards, Commission and Committee Reports

There were no reports.

10. Consent Agenda

There were no consent agenda items.

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 provided an update on Forest Service activities.

C. Petersburg School District

Superintendent Taylor provided an update on School District activities.

D. SEAPA Report

Utility Director and SEAPA Board Member Hagerman, provided a report on the March 26, 2026 SEAPA Board Meeting.

E. Clerk Update Clerk Regula thanked the Assembly for rescheduling the meeting to today to allow her and Deputy Clerk Glass to attend the SHRM Conference in Anchorage.

12. Mayor's Report

A. April 13, 2026 Mayor's Report

Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor read the Mayor's Report into the record.

13. Manager's Report

A. April 13, 2026 Manager's Report

Manager Giesbrecht read his report into the record.

14. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

15. New Business

A. Ordinance #2026-05: An Ordinance of the Petersburg Borough Adjusting the FY 2026 Budget for Known Changes - First Reading

If approved in three readings, this ordinance would make changes to the following funds:

Secure Rural Schools Revenue: The federal government approved the Secure Rural Schools Reauthorization Act of 2025 on December 18, 2025. The Borough received its FY24 payment on March 23, 2026, in the amount of \$722,484 for Title I Schools and Roads. A letter from the State of Alaska is attached.

Elderly Housing – Fund 470: Funds are proposed for replacement of Elderly Housing's 44- year- old dry sprinkler system valve and air compressor, which have exceeded their useful life. Details are included in the attached memorandum.

Fire Department: To complete the funding of new SCBA tanks and masks to replace expiring equipment. This expenditure was authorized by Resolution 2026- 05, approved March 16, 2026. The resolution is attached.

Waste Water Outfall Repair Project – Fund 764: This adds \$275,000 in loan funding from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) as well as a \$275,000 expense for the project.

By unanimous roll call vote, the Assembly approved Ordinance #2026-05 in its third and final reading.

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

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

B. Resolution #2026-07: A Resolution of the Petersburg Borough Assembly Approving the Sale of Two Borough- Owned Parcels To 13 Rentals LLC

If approved, Resolution #2026- 07 will authorize the sale of two Borough- owned parcels at 805 and 807 Haugen Drive to 13 Rentals LLC, a sole member LLC owned by Dave Ohmer, under the negotiated Contract of Sale, for the purposes of construction of two residential duplexes.

The Planning Commission recommended approval after a July 8, 2025, public hearing, and the Assembly later authorized direct negotiations. The parcels are not needed for municipal use, and PMC 16.12.160(C) requires Assembly approval by resolution for their disposal.

The Contract of Sale is attached to this agenda item.

Resolution #2026-07 was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

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

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

C. Resolution #2026-08: A Resolution Authorizing the Application for, and Execution of, a State Revolving Fund Loan

If approved, Resolution #2026-08 will authorize the Borough Manager to apply for and execute a State Revolving Fund loan from the Alaska Clean Water Fund in an amount up to \$275,000 to finance the Frederick Sound wastewater outfall repair project. Loan repayment would occur over a term not to exceed 20 years and is within the voter- approved wastewater enterprise fund debt authorization.

Resolution #2026-08 was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

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

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

D. Resolution #2026-09: A Resolution Declaring That Four Leases at Scow Bay May Be Terminated as the Properties Are Needed to Allow Construction of the New Haulout and Boatyard Project

If approved, this resolution will determine that certain Borough-owned leased premises at the Scow Bay project site are needed for a public purpose and authorize termination of four existing leases to allow construction of a fully funded boat haulout and work yard project.

Resolution #2026-09 was approved by unanimous roll call vote.

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

E. Resolution #2026-10: A Resolution in Support of a Return to a Defined Benefit Retirement System for Public Employees, Including House Bill 78

If passed, this resolution will formally express the Petersburg Borough Assembly's support for House Bill 78, which would allow eligible public employees to return to a defined benefit retirement system.

An amendment was adopted to insert the phrase "prior to the adoption of Amendment 1" in the final section of Resolution #2026- 10.

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

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

Resolution #2026-10 was unanimously approved as amended.

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

F. Land Purchase Application

The Borough has received an application from Taylor Jensen to purchase Borough- owned property at 505 Mill Street. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on March 10, 2026, as required by PMC § 16.12.080, and recommends approval of the sale subject to the applicant either consolidating the parcel with an adjacent lot they own or granting a utility easement. The assessed value of the property is \$7,500.

The Assembly unanimously approved Taylor Jensen's application to purchase Borough- owned property located at 505 Mill Street and approved the sale of the property by direct sale.

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

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

G. Communications Tower Site Alternatives

Requested by Assembly Member Meucci

The Assembly discussed directing the Borough Manager to work with Tidal Network to identify alternative locations for the communications tower currently proposed adjacent to the Fire Station. The motion failed by a vote of 0–6.

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

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

H. Bicycle and Pedestrian Path Maintenance and DOT Coordination

Requested by Assembly Member Meucci

The Assembly discussed directing the Borough Manager to work with the State of Alaska Department of Transportation to create a memorandum of understanding to coordinate snow removal from the bike and pedestrian path between the cemetery and the 2.5-mile marker during the winter months. The motion failed by a vote of 0–6.

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

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

I. Research and Evaluation of a Fish Box Fee

Requested by Assembly Member Meucci

The Assembly discussed a motion directing the Borough Manager to research implementing a \$10.00 fish box fee similar to the one in Sitka. The motion failed by a vote of 1–5.

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

Voting Yea: Assembly Member Meucci

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

J. Letter of Support for Tidal Network Extension Request

Requested by Assembly Member Meucci

The Assembly unanimously approved a letter of support for Tidal Network related to its request for an extension of its Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program award.

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

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

16. Communications

A. Correspondence Received Since 3.11.2026

17. Assembly Discussion Items

A. Board of Equalization Summary

Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor requested this discussion item.

Vice Mayor Stanton Gregor reminded the Assembly of its duties and responsibilities when acting as the Board of Equalization. The hearing will be held on April 14th.

B. Assembly Member Comments

Member Valentine asked if Public Works could add two trash cans on Libby Straits where the DOT and Borough lines meet.

C. Recognitions

Emergency Services Director Hankins recognized four members of the volunteer fire department who attended the Southeast EMS Regional Conference, where they earned first place in the Pediatric CPR competition. Those recognized included EMS Coordinator Ryan Gilkey, Lieutenant Sarah Wright, Michael Burnett, and Katie Pearson.

18. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

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