



Petersburg Borough

12 South Nordic Drive
Petersburg, AK 99833

Meeting Minutes Borough Assembly Regular Meeting

Monday, July 01, 2024

12:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

1. Call To Order/Roll Call

Vice Mayor Marsh called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

PRESENT

Vice Mayor Donna Marsh
Assembly Member Thomas Fine-Walsh
Assembly Member Bob Lynn
Assembly Member Jeigh Stanton Gregor

EXCUSED

Mayor Mark Jensen
Assembly Member Scott Newman
Assembly Member Rob Schwartz

2. Voluntary Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge was recited.

3. Approval of Minutes

A. June 17, 2024 Assembly Meeting Minutes

The June 17, 2024 Assembly meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Motion made by Assembly Member Lynn, Seconded by Assembly Member Fine-Walsh.

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Lynn, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor

4. Amendment and Approval of Meeting Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Motion made by Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Seconded by Assembly Member Lynn.

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Lynn,

Assembly Member Stanton Gregor

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.

No views were shared.

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.

Heather Conn, Principal of the Rae C. Stedman Elementary School, thanked the Assembly for approving to fund the school district to the maximum amount allowed by state statute.

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 Update

PMC CEO Hofstetter updated the Assembly on Medical Center activities.

B. US Forest Service Update

Petersburg District Ranger Born updated the Assembly on USFS activities.

12. Mayor's Report

A. July 1, 2024 Mayor's Report

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

13. Manager's Report

A. July 1, 2024 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 #2024-11: An Ordinance Proposing an Amendment to the Home Rule Charter of the Petersburg Borough to Remove the Requirement of Voter Ratification of Changes to Sales Tax Exemptions, and Directing that the Proposed Amendment be Submitted to the Qualified Voters of the Borough**

Ordinance #2024-11 failed in its third and final reading by a vote of 1-3.

Motion made by Assembly Member Lynn, Seconded by Assembly Member Fine-Walsh.

Voting Yea: Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Lynn, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor

Voting Nay: Vice Mayor Marsh

15. New Business

- A. Ordinance #2024-12: An Ordinance Providing for the Submission to the Qualified Voters of Petersburg Borough the Question of the Issuance of Not-to-Exceed Four Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$4,500,000) of General Obligation Bonds, to Pay Costs of Public School Capital Improvements in the Borough at the Regular Election Held on October 1, 2024**

Ordinance #2024-12 was amended to change the bond amount from \$4,500,000 to \$3,500,000.

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

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Lynn, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor

The Assembly unanimously approved Ordinance #2024-12, as amended, in its first reading.

Motion made by Assembly Member Lynn, Seconded by Assembly Member Fine-Walsh.

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Lynn, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor

- B. Ordinance #2024-13: An Ordinance Authorizing Long Term Indebtedness in an Amount not to Exceed \$19.3 Million for the Design and Construction of Water and Wastewater Infrastructure in the Borough and Directing that this Matter be Submitted to the Voters for Consideration at the Next Regular Election to be Held on October 1, 2024**

By unanimous roll call vote, the Assembly approved Ordinance #2024-13 in its first reading.

Motion made by Assembly Member Lynn, Seconded by Assembly Member Fine-Walsh.

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Lynn, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor

16. Communications

A. Correspondence Received Since June 13, 2024

17. Assembly Discussion Items

A. Assembly Member Comments

No comments were shared.

B. Recognitions

There were no recognitions.

18. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Motion made by Assembly Member Lynn, Seconded by Assembly Member Fine-Walsh.

Voting Yea: Vice Mayor Marsh, Assembly Member Fine-Walsh, Assembly Member Lynn, Assembly Member Stanton Gregor

Borough Manager's Report Assembly Meeting 01 July 2024

- ❖ Ken Birch has been making progress in replacing the Elderly Housing greenhouse entrance.
- ❖ The Streets Dept installed some storm drain piping to eliminate standing water near the Elementary School.
- ❖ Recent warm weather has allowed us to get dust control treatment down on our dirt streets. We have some dust control solution left but may need to order more before the season is over.
- ❖ Grading and pothole repair continue. Most streets were graded recently, there are a couple in Severson's Subdivision that still need to get done.
- ❖ The crew dug some ditches at the ballfield to facilitate new lighting and other electrical improvements. We are also assisting Petersburg Little League with installation of new fencing. This project is ongoing.
- ❖ Chris is working with the Streets crew to identify a better model of street sweeper for spring sand pickup. The current unit has proven inadequate for this task, and we are unable to increase its performance to satisfactory levels. Once we have a suitable unit identified, we will be approaching the Assembly about budgeting for an early replacement of the current street sweeper.
- ❖ Sanitation is coordinating with the Chamber for garbage service over the 4th of July holiday.
- ❖ The Sanitation Dept is very busy right now with lots of local construction projects ongoing, cruise ships/harbor garbage, and fish processors ramping up for the summer season.
- ❖ As of July 1st, the Water and Wastewater Depts will be incorporated back into Public Works. We are working with Utility Director Hagerman and Departmental staff on the details of the transition, which will likely take several months to fully implement.
- ❖ Chris is working with Borough Administration to finalize an interview schedule for the Assistant Public Works Director position. To date, we have 3 in-house applicants for this position.
- ❖ Harbor Parking is being enforced along Harbor Way and Middle, South Harbor and long term at Drive Down and remind people the parking is very tight so might be wise to have a backup plan for leaving vehicles for long periods of time.
- ❖ Remind boaters of the no wake zone outside all 3 harbors and responsibility for wake is on the owner/operator.
- ❖ Harbor Staff met with ADOT representatives to talk about Scow Bay project and clarify design and ADOT boundaries that was included with an updated application for additional tideland conveyance and submitted to DNR this week.
- ❖ USCG is back with their (2) fast boat response team for the next month or so. They will be on patrol in Fredrick Sound, Wrangell Narrows and on the south end in the Stikine/Wrangell area.

- ❖ The library's summer reading programs are in full swing with over 250 local children, teens and adults participating. Thank you to the many local businesses and individuals whose donations make these programs possible.
- ❖ The Lead Service Line Inventory surveys should be coming to water customers with this month's mailing of utility bills. The utility requests that our customers take the time to complete the survey and submit the information as soon as possible. Thanks to all customers of the water utility!
- ❖ The wastewater dept is still waiting for release of our draft discharge permit from the EPA so that we can make comments on any portion of the permit that doesn't make sense to us.
- ❖ The PS4 project continues to move toward bidding, with a target of this fall to time the bidding period with the seasonality of the construction industry. We should see more bids and better bids as contractors look to fill their schedules for the next construction season.
- ❖ PMPL staff continues to deploy AMI meters in the community. The meters communicate their readings back to the municipal building via a low-power radio frequency and will improve billing accuracy and customer service for electric customers. Questions can be directed to PMPL at 907-772-4203.
- ❖ Thank you to our customers that were able to conserve power during the last billing cycle. The annual SEAPA shutdown went smoothly from the utility's perspective and all power saved by our customers has helped to minimize the diesel fuel adjustment charge included in the utility billing at the end of July.
- ❖ EPS is almost complete with 30% plans and specifications for a design-build bid package for the next Scow Bay generator.
- ❖ The line crew has been cleaning out materials and supplies from the 14th Street pole yard to make room for the Harbor Department's storage needs.
- ❖ Nurse call system is up and running at Assisted Living. Working out a couple kinks in the paging system.
- ❖ Wrapping up the contract with Home Health for the Bingo program.
- ❖ I have talked with the state and have received a TB paper that the staff can fill out and if they answer the questions right then they do not have to get a TB shot and that will save us money on TB Shots every year.
- ❖ Nils from AML will be in Petersburg for the AMLIP (Investment Pool) meeting July 15-17. While here, Nils will host a conversation with community stakeholders about potential projects that line up with some federal grant programs. "Stakeholders" in this case would be both boroughs' staff, school districts, tribes, utilities, ports and harbors. Wrangell has been invited.