



Petersburg Borough

12 South Nordic Drive
Petersburg, AK 99833

Meeting Agenda Borough Assembly Special Meeting

Tuesday, June 01, 2021

11:00 AM

Zoom Meeting

Hi there,

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.
When: Jun 1, 2021 11:00 AM Alaska
Topic: Borough Assembly Special Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:
<https://zoom.us/j/97823103785?pwd=clkrMkIFNFJ1cWc3OVJ2WWVOMTZ2Zz09>
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Please register with Clerk Thompson at least one hour prior to the start of the meeting if you wish to speak under Persons to be Heard Related to the Agenda. Email or call: dthompson@petersburgak.gov or 772-5405. Thank you.

1. **Call to Order / Roll Call**
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **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.

4. **New Business**

- A. Resolution #2021-05: Termination of COVID-19 Disaster Emergency as of June 30, 2021**

If approved, Resolution #2021-05 will terminate the current local Disaster Emergency Declaration as of 11:59 p.m. on June 30, 2021.

B. Repeal of Petersburg Borough Public Health Mandate #8 - Face Coverings

IC Hagerman recommends repeal of Public Health Mandate #8 - Face Coverings, effective immediately.

C. EOC Stand Down Plan

IC Hagerman requests approval of the plan to stand down the Emergency Operations Center during the month of June, 2021.

5. Adjourn

**PETERSBURG BOROUGH
RESOLUTION #2021-05**

TERMINATION OF COVID-19 DISASTER EMERGENCY AS OF JUNE 30, 2021

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020 and in accordance with Alaska Statute 26.23.140, the Petersburg Borough ratified a local Disaster Emergency Declaration in response to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Petersburg Borough Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Petersburg Medical Center have since operated as a Unified Command in order to coordinate a Borough response and protect all citizens and visitors from COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, under the excellent efforts of the Petersburg Medical Center staff to organize and effectively vaccinate a large portion of Petersburg’s population, Petersburg is one of the leading communities in the State of Alaska for COVID-19 vaccinations; and

WHEREAS, vaccination for COVID-19 continues to be easily available and free to all Petersburg residents who are aged 12 years and older and is proven to be a highly effective means to protect Petersburg’s population from the transmission and spread of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Petersburg has seen very few cases of COVID-19 within the last month, which is a notable statistic when considering the Little Norway Festival events and the large number of visitors and locals who celebrated over the course of four days; and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska and the federal Center for Disease Control and Prevention have both issued numerous guidelines and recommendations for ongoing mitigation of COVID-19, which should continue to be observed by all Petersburg residents and will take the place of any local mandates upon their repeal; and

WHEREAS, given the high vaccination rates within Petersburg, and the low number of recent cases, the Assembly has determined that the local Disaster Emergency Declaration for the Borough will no longer be necessary after June 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly further finds that the Emergency Operations Center has effectively coordinated the local response to the pandemic and may now commence standing down.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. The local Disaster Emergency Declaration, issued and ratified on March 16, 2020, shall terminate as of 11:59 p.m. on June 30, 2021. Following such termination, the Borough Clerk shall promptly publish a copy of this Resolution and file a copy with the Alaska Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.
2. Upon the termination of the local Disaster Emergency Declaration, any Borough COVID-19 health mandates or orders then remaining in effect shall be considered terminated.
3. The EOC shall begin the process of standing down immediately under the direction of the Incident Commander (IC). The IC’s Stand Down Plan is attached hereto and

hereby approved.


Passed and Approved by the Petersburg Borough Assembly this 1st day of June, 2021.

Mark Jensen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra K. Thompson, Borough Clerk

ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION

TO: MAYOR JENSEN AND BOROUGH ASSEMBLY
FROM: KARL HAGERMAN, EOC INCIDENT COMMANDER 
SUBJECT: LOCAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION AND COVID RESPONSE
DATE: 5/26/2021
CC: STEVE GIESBRECHT, BOROUGH MANAGER
 DEBRA THOMPSON, BOROUGH CLERK

I am extremely please to offer the following recommendations to the Assembly. It has been a long grind since March of 2020 when the EOC and PMC shifted into overdrive, while asking all other citizens to shift into park, to deal with a disease threat that none of us had heard of before. At present, Petersburg has seemingly weathered the largest test of our considerable vaccination success, the annual Little Norway Festival. Although many mitigation plans were submitted prior to the events of the celebratory weekend, the crowds were obviously ready to forego caution and simply have a good time – and who can blame them, it has been a long haul for everyone. Now that we are nearly two weeks past the festival and can see that no outbreak is eminent or ongoing, it is clear that Petersburg is not as vulnerable to the coronavirus as we were during the February outbreak. This fact has allowed me to reflect on the current state of our emergency response and to confidently recommend that the local Emergency Declaration be rescinded and the EOC be disbanded.

To that end, the EOC humbly requests that the Assembly convene a special meeting on June 1, 2021 and recommends the following initial actions be taken by the Assembly at that time:

1. **Rescind the local Emergency Declaration on June 30, 2021.** At this time, there are many functions and programs that have been developed and put in place to help the community and disseminate information. The EOC needs time to retract those efforts and programs and put things back into their normal state. A draft resolution is attached to this memo for consideration by the Assembly. The resolution, if approved, will set the expiration date of the local Emergency Declaration at midnight on June 30, 2021. Over the next month, the EOC will actively work to retract and stand down its presence in the community, including recommendations to the Assembly for repeal of various public health mandates and directives during regular Assembly meetings.
2. **Repeal the local face covering mandate.** This mandate has been controversial for many in the community, but it has also helped to protect us. At this time, and in consideration of the State of Alaska’s Health Advisory #1 that recommends face coverings for non-vaccinated persons, the EOC recommends that the Assembly repeal the mandate and allow residents to choose if they wish to wear a mask in public. Science supports the CDC recommendations for mask wearing of non-vaccinated persons, but our local vaccination rate has proven to be effective in mitigating the spread of the virus. It is time to rely on the State and Federal government’s guidance on this issue, as well as our improving vaccination rate, to keep us safe and healthy. To be clear, the EOC is not recommending all citizens to stop wearing masks, but that citizens should follow State and CDC guidance on the issue.

- 3. **Approve EOC Plan to Stand Down.** Attached to this memo is a plan both for legislative retractions by the Assembly and for operational retractions by the EOC. If approved, this plan will serve as the road map over the next month to transition the community back to a more normal state. The goal is to have all EOC programs, local mandates and services either ended or handed off to appropriate resources by July 1. The plan and timelines offer details on the disposition of various aspects of the EOC's operation.

If these recommendations are accepted and approved by the Assembly, I will start the process of standing down the EOC in keeping with the presented plan.


I believe that the excellent work by the Petersburg Borough EOC, Petersburg Medical Center, Public Health Nurse and many volunteers has protected the community in the face of the pandemic. The lengths at which we have all gone through to inform, protect, guide, advise, trace, treat and finally to vaccinate our citizens has been exhausting, but very rewarding.

I recognize and thank all of the team members for doing their part to keep Petersburg citizens safe and healthy. While COVID-19 has not been eradicated yet, I am very confident that Petersburg can now handle the disease as it arises occasionally and if new variants do create enough concern or disease to warrant a renewed response, a future emergency declaration can be established to handle it.

Please let me know if there are any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Date: May 26, 2021

To: Mayor Jensen and Borough Assembly

From: Karl Hagerman, EOC Incident Commander 

Re: Plan and Recommendations - Standing Down Petersburg Borough Emergency Operations Center and Ending Local Disaster Emergency

Cc: Steve Giesbrecht, Borough Manager
Debra Thompson, Borough Clerk

Upon acceptance and approval of the following plan by the Borough Assembly, the Petersburg Emergency Operations Center (EOC) will coordinate, organize and complete the work of standing down the EOC in preparation for the termination of the local Public Health Disaster Emergency Declaration on June 30, 2021.

Portions of this plan, such as the Airport Testing operation, may require future amendments as dictated by contracts, overriding State of Alaska Health Advisories or staffing considerations. The plan is meant to be a guideline for the EOC Unified Command and to offer transparency to the Assembly and community insofar as the process to stand down and the status of various programs and services once the process is complete.

Local Legislation Plan and Timeline

- May 30 - Expiration of Health Directive 7 for Non-congregate Sheltering (NCS) program.
- June 1 - Recommend resolution rescinding emergency declaration on June 30 and repeal of masking mandate (rely on State Health Advisory) at Special Assembly Meeting.
- June 7 - EOC recommends repeal of travel mandates and alerts. Testing still recommended and available at airport via State of Alaska Health Advisories and Contract.

EOC recommends repeal of mitigation plan mandate.

EOC recommends repeal of public meeting mandate.

EOC recommends repeal of harbor access mandate to be scheduled for June 30.
- June 21 - Update Assembly on stand-down progress. In-person meetings commence.
- June 30 - Local Emergency Declaration expires. EOC unified command ends. Petersburg Borough (PB) Administration assumes control of ongoing response/recovery, if any.
- July 1 - Emergency declaration no longer in place. The provisions of ordinance #2020-19 addressing a period of emergency (PMC 3.72.060) will no longer apply. Assembly reverts to "normal" rules for calling a meeting and determination of quorum. All mandates and health alerts are repealed.

EOC Staffing and Program Transition Plan and Timeline

- June 1 – Command Staff and Section Chiefs remain in place for the month. Section Chiefs will work with any subordinate staff to relieve them of duty and end/transition programs as needed for community continuity. Programs not supported by existing agencies will end by June 30.

NCS program is ended and supplies, food and equipment will be donated or disposed as required by FEMA.

Public Information Officer (PIO) focuses on announcements of EOC transitioning.

Vaccination Incentive drawings commence.
- June 7 - Airport mandates/alerts expire. Airport operation continues dependent upon State of Alaska (SOA) contract and funding. Testing and testing support continues as recommendation to all travelers. Banner removed from Ferry Terminal.
- June 14 - Mask distribution moved from Library to Public Health Nurse office.

Logistics section canvasses Petersburg Medical Center (PMC) and Petersburg School District (PSD) for last 213RR submissions.

Finance programs evaluated for transitioning from EOC to appropriate Borough department.

Community Risk Plan is updated for last time. Will remain in place as a reference and recommendation in the event of an outbreak.
- June 28 - Grand prize drawing for vaccination incentive campaign.
- June 30 - Airport operation continues without screening and greeting services. PMC will offer testing to all travelers dependent upon their staffing and SOA contract. Borough employees at airport are laid off. PMC retains site presence to provide testing at their discretion – move operation to PMC campus as desired.

Last day of harbor access mandate and mandated calls to Medical Officer by cruise ships. Ships will be subject to company internal policies/plans, applicable SOA guidelines and applicable CDC requirements going forward.
- July 1 - EOC disbanded. All positions are relieved of duty. Unified command ceases.

Dashboard is reduced to weekly updates by PMC, is maintained on PMC’s schedule and ended at PMC’s discretion.

Covid Hotline continues at PMC discretion.

Covid Info Hub website remains in place but will not be updated any further.

EOC email address will be accessible but not in use. An auto reply message will direct people to other resources.

Unified Command press releases cease. PMC or PB issues press releases as necessary.

EOC no longer issuing 213RR to SOA or FEMA.

PMC retains control over vaccination presence/advertising/organization/administration in community.

Emergency Services Director maintains airport tent and Point of Contact for State of Alaska contract as needed.

Borough Manager retains control of Borough designated Americann Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and their use.

Finance Chief finalizes EOC accounts and expenses associated with response/recovery.

Vaccination incentive campaign report completed and submitted to AK Chamber.

Incident Response Plan compiled and closed out.

Community banners removed.

Local businesses, clubs, entities, agencies and organizations should follow SOA and CDC guidelines in regard to COVID-19 mitigations.

Local processors and fishers should follow SOA Health Advisories in regard to industry mitigations.

Incident Command Team relieved of duty.

August 31- Airport testing transitions to PMC campus (if still ongoing) and tent is removed from airport property.

EOC email disabled completely.

September 30- Covid Info Hub website pulled down.