



Petersburg Borough

12 South Nordic Drive
Petersburg AK, 99833

Meeting Minutes Borough Assembly

Monday, March 6, 2017

12:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

1. Call To Order/Roll Call

Mayor Jensen called the meeting to order at 12:00, noon.

2. Voluntary Pledge

The Pledge was recited.

3. Approval of Minutes

A. February 27, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [February 27, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes.PDF](#)

The February 27, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Amendment and Approval of Meeting Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

5. Public Hearings

A. Public Hearing for Ordinance #2017-02: An Ordinance Amending Petersburg Municipal Code Chapter 2.44, Initiative and Referendum, To Change The Timing Requirements To Submit Matters Proposed By Initiative Or Referendum To The Qualified Voters Of The Borough So That They Are The Same As Submitting A Proposed Charter Amendment To The Voters, And To Remove Any Mandate of Holding A Special Election

No testimony was given.

6. Bid Awards

None.

7. Visitors' Views Related to Agenda

John Murgas, representing himself and his business, Scow Bay Boat Yard, requested the Assembly add the continued development of the Scow Bay Haul Out project to the 2018 Federal Projects list they are considering under agenda item 14B.

8. Visitors' Views Unrelated to Agenda

Clerk Thompson read into the record an email from Marja Smets and Bo Varsano that urged the Assembly to adopt a resolution against Representative Don Young's H.R. 232, which proposes to transfer two million acres of Tongass National Forest into State control.

9. Board, Commission and Committee Reports

No reports.

10. Consent Agenda

No items.

11. Report of Other Officers

A. Updating the Borough Zoning and Subdivision Code

Community and Economic Development Director Cabrera explained that the Borough's existing zoning and subdivision codes have been in place since 1985 and have had no comprehensive updates since that time. Small changes to the code over the years have caused it to become contradictory to itself in places. Many of the processes (like applying for a Conditional Use Permit, for example) are cumbersome and slow. We currently have some zoning districts that do not conform to what is actually happening on the ground in that area, multiple zones on one piece of property, and different zones on either side of a street, all of which are not valid zoning practices. In addition, our newly adopted Comprehensive Plan contains key issues that will rely on new zoning codes to implement, such as maintaining the downtown attributes that we appreciate (covered sidewalks, business display windows along the sidewalks, local personality, etc.) and creating more moderate priced housing.

A new zoning and subdivision code will have reasonable timelines to streamline the application process, allow staff to handle minor applications, and be more clear. The framework for rewriting the code is a template that is used in small communities in Oregon and will create a code that is more user friendly.

The Planning Commission is currently reviewing portions of the code rewrite. Once the rewritten code is ready for public review, the Planning Commission will hold two public hearings before sending a recommendation to the Assembly for adoption.

B. Petersburg Municipal Power & Light Capital Project Forecast

Attachments: [Power & Light Capital Project Forecast.PDF](#)

Petersburg Power & Light Superintendent Nelson presented a Capital Project Forecast for the utility. Future projects include a rewind of the Crystal Lake hydro generator, a system mapping upgrade, automatic meter reading capability in the harbors, replacement of the Scow Bay #2 stand-by diesel generator, replacement of downtown street lighting, conversion of street light bulbs to LED, replacement of the Libby Strait power poles with an underground line on the uphill side of the highway, replacement of the Sandy Beach pole line, conversion of the airport pole line to underground, and improvement of the power plant grounds to enhance maneuverability and expand parking.

12. Mayor's Report

A. March 6, 2017 Mayor's Report

Attachments: [March 6, 2017 Mayor's Report.PDF](#)

Mayor Jensen read his report into the record and informed of a February 22, 2016 Senate Finance Committee meeting in which Anchorage Senator Anna MacKinnon advocated for severe cuts to the Alaska Marine Highway stating that Southeast residents can fly, drive, or use barges for their transportation options. Mayor Jensen requested permission from the Assembly to send a letter to Senator MacKinnon in response to her comments and shared that Petersburg has asked other Southeast communities to write letters as well. Permission to send the letter was granted.

13. Manager's Report

Manager Giesbrecht read his report into the record, a copy of which has been attached and made a permanent part of these minutes.

14. Unfinished Business

Ordinances for Second Reading

A. Ordinance #2017-02: An Ordinance Amending Petersburg Municipal Code Chapter 2.44, Initiative and Referendum, To Change The Timing Requirements To Submit Matters Proposed By Initiative Or Referendum To The Qualified Voters Of The Borough So That They Are The Same As Submitting A Proposed Charter Amendment To The Voters, And To Remove Any Mandate Of Holding A Special Election

Attachments: [Ordinance #2017-02.PDF](#)

Ordinance #2017-02 was unanimously approved in its second reading.

B. FY 2018 Federal Project Priority List

Attachments: [FY 2018 Federal Projects Priority List.PDF](#)

Motion was made to approve a federal project priority list provided to the Assembly by Manager Giesbrecht that includes the following projects: Hospital, South Harbor ADA Ramps, Airport Bypass Road, Fram Street Retaining Wall and Utilities, Papke's Landing Dock, Housing Development (Airport Addition Infrastructure), Expansion of Emergency Radio System, Kupreanof Dock, Banana Point Improvements, Petersburg/Kake Road, South Harbor Parking Lot, and Pt. Agassi Dock Facilities. The main motion was amended to remove the Petersburg/Kake road from the list; however, the amendment failed by a vote of 4-3, Assembly Members Lagoudakis, Stanton Gregor, and Strand in favor. The main motion was again amended to add the Scow Bay Haul Out project to the list and to not list the projects in a priority order since there is virtually no funding at this time. If funding for a specific type of project comes available and we have such a project on our list, it wouldn't matter where the project fell in the priority list - we would still want to take advantage of the funding if possible. The second amendment was unanimously approved. The main motion, as amended, was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

15. New Business

- A. Resolution #2017-05: A Resolution Authorizing and Directing the Municipal Land Selection Agent to Transmit to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources a Portion of the Borough's Nomination of Municipal Entitlement Lands

Attachments: [Resolution #2017-05.PDF](#)

Resolution #2017-05 was unanimously adopted.

- B. Compact of Mayors

No motion was made on this subject.

16. Communications

Mayor Jensen mentioned some communication regarding H.R. 232 that was received after this meeting agenda was finalized and noted that the subject will be on the March 20, 2017 agenda.

17. Assembly Discussion Items

- A. Recognitions

Assembly Member Castro thanked the 12 individuals who decided to give of their free time and take the 120 hour Fire Fighter 1 course. Assembly Member Strand thanked the instructors of the course, who also volunteer their time for the betterment of our community. Thank You Volunteers!

18. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.