



Petersburg Borough

12 South Nordic Drive
Petersburg AK, 99833

Meeting Minutes Borough Assembly

Monday, July 7, 2014

12:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

1. Call To Order/Roll Call

Vice Mayor Lagoudakis called the regular meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

Present: 4 - Assembly Member John Havrilek, Assembly Member Cindi Lagoudakis, Assembly Member Nancy Strand and Assembly Member Bob Lynn

Excused: 1 - Mayor Mark Jensen

By Phone: 2 - Assembly Member Kurt Wohlhueter and Assembly Member Jeigh Stanton Gregor

2. Voluntary Pledge

The Pledge was recited.

3. Approval of Minutes

A. June 16, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [June 16 Meeting Minutes.pdf](#)

By unanimous Roll Call Vote, the minutes were approved, as submitted.

4. Amendment and Approval of Meeting Agenda

The agenda was approved, as submitted.

5. Public Hearings and Bid Awards

None.

6. Visitors' Views Related to Agenda

None.

7. Visitors' Views Unrelated to Agenda

None.

8. Board, Commission and Committee Reports

None.

9. Consent Agenda

No items.

10. Report of Other Officers**A. Clerk's Report on October 7 Municipal Election**

Attachments: Written Election Report.pdf

Draft Sample Ballot.pdf

Vice Mayor Lagoudakis read the report. The report informed of: the expectant very large ballot for the election; filing and registration dates; critical need for election workers; a thank you to past election workers; and information regarding mandatory filings for State required Public Officials Financial Disclosures.

11. Mayor's Report

Vice Mayor Lagoudakis informed of Susan Thomason's resignation from the Planning Commission due to her move from the community. Appreciation to Ms. Thomason was expressed.

A. Resignation from Planning Commission

Attachments: Thomason resignation.pdf

The Clerk was authorized to solicit letters of interest to fill the vacancy until the October 2014 election.

12. Manager's Report

Manager Giesbrecht reviewed his written report. (Written report attached and made part of these meeting minutes). Giesbrecht added to the written report that PMEA union members (Petersburg Municipal Employees Association) will be voting on the negotiated collective bargaining agreement on July 9. If passed by the bargaining unit, the contract will be brought to the Assembly for action.

A question and answer period regarding the report included: 1) the Borough will need to do further research on the homeless within the community to determine what action needs to be taken and what outside resources may be required; the community has both resident and non-resident homeless; 2) to aid in fighting drugs in the community, consideration may be given to reactivating the Crime Stoppers program; 3) ADOT has decided to combine the South Nordic and Haugen Drive reconstruction projects with this year being the "planning year" and next year "reconstruction". The community had expected construction to begin this summer. The community can not be assured that the project will be performed as completion of the project is dependent on funding. When the project goes forward, the Borough will provide its own inspection work for the sewer lift station; and 4) the Landfill Slope Project appears to be on schedule.

A. 07-07-2014 Report

Attachments: Manager report 07072014

13. Unfinished Business

A. Juneau Appeal of Petersburg Borough Boundaries

Attachments: Motion for stay.pdf

On June 27, Juneau filed for stay of the Superior Court decision which upheld the LBC decision. The motion is unclear to its intent and is untimely. Our legal counsel will be opposing the stay demonstrating how far down the line Petersburg has gone in borough formation. We do not know what Juneau is trying to do. Possibly they are trying to get the court to instruct Petersburg to slow-down in its forward progress. We have no future dates or instructions from the court.

14. New Business

A. Ordinance #2014-12: An Ordinance Limiting Senior Citizen Sales Tax Exemption to Those Who Have Obtained and Maintained an Exemption Based Upon a Qualifying Application Submitted by December 31, 2019

The Ordinance, if passed by the assembly will be presented to the voters at the October 7, 2014 election. If approved by the voters, no senior exemption cards would be issued after December 31, 2019.

Attachments: Ord. 2014-12.pdf

Assembly member Lynn provided additional wording to the proposed ballot question that would aid in making the ballot proposal more clear. The wording will be added for the second reading of the ordinance. Member Stanton Gregor informed that regardless of the assembly's opinion on any of the sales tax ordinances, the matters need to be decided by the voters.

By a Roll Call Vote of 4-2 (Lagoudakis and Lynn opposed) the ordinance was passed in its first reading.

B. Ordinance #2014-13: An Ordinance Eliminating the Senior Citizen Sales Tax Exemption Applicable to Non-borough State Residents

If passed by the assembly, the ordinance will be referred to the voters at the October 7, 2014 municipal election.

Attachments: Ord. 2014-13.pdf

By a unanimous Roll Call Vote, the ordinance was passed.

C. Ordinance #2014-14: An Ordinance Limiting the Senior Citizen Sales Tax Exemption to the Purchase of Groceries and Residential Heating Fuel

If passed by the assembly, the ordinance will be referred to the voters at the October 7, 2014 municipal election.

Attachments: Ord. 2014-14.pdf

The ordinance was unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote.

D. Ordinance #2014-15: An Ordinance Raising the Sales Tax Exemption Cap from \$1200 to \$2000

If passed by the assembly, the ordinance will be referred to the voters at the October 7, 2014 municipal election

Attachments: Ord. 2014-15.pdf

During discussion, it was noted that Wrangell and Sitka have a tax cap at \$1,500 and Juneau's cap is \$7,500. By a very small margin (two votes) our voters turned down a \$1,700 cap in 2012.

By a unanimous Roll Call Vote the ordinance was passed.

E. Ordinance #2014-16: An Ordinance Establishing a One Year Residency and Physical Presence Requirement for Purposes of Obtaining a Senior Citizen Sales Tax Exemption

If passed by the assembly, the ordinance will be referred to the voters at the October 7, 2014 municipal election.

Attachments: Ord. 2014-16.pdf

During discussion it was noted that the eligibility to obtain a permanent fund dividend will be a means of proof of residency within the borough.

The ordinance was passed by unanimous Roll Call Vote.

F. Ordinance #2014-17: An Ordinance Providing to Impose an Excise Tax on Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products

If approved by the assembly, the ordinance will be referred to the voters at the October 7, 2014 municipal election. If approved by the voters, a wholesale excise tax of \$2.00 per pack of cigarettes (plus an annual Consumer Price Index adjustment,) and 45% of the wholesale price on other tobacco products, will be placed on those products that are brought into the Borough to be offered for sale.

Attachments: Ord. 2014-17.pdf

Memo on Municipal Tobacco Excise Tax Samples.pdf

During discussion, it was noted that electronic cigarettes are subject to the tax.

By unanimous Roll Call Vote, the ordinance was approved.

G. Ordinance #2014-18: An Ordinance Providing for Chapter 3.85

(Historic Preservation) of the Municipal Code and Providing for an Appointed Advisory Commission

At the June 2 meeting, the assembly was presented with a petition signed by 50 borough residents requesting that the prior city ordinance #827 be re-adopted as a borough ordinance. The supporters of the petition informed the ordinance would promote and enhance knowledge of the history of Petersburg.

Attachments: [Ord. 2014-18.pdf](#)

[Petition for Historic Preservation Commission.pdf](#)

By unanimous Roll Call Vote, the ordinance was amended to provide that the Historic Preservation Commission established by the ordinance be dissolved if there are no meetings within any two year period. The ordinance, as amended, was unanimously approved by Roll Call Vote.

H. Resolution #2014-09: A Resolution Increasing the Monthly E-911 Surcharge to \$2.00 Per Month

The Borough has an estimated expense of E-911 improvements and maintenance of \$500,000 over the next couple of years with only \$29,700 currently available in the E-911 Emergency Communications Fund.

Attachments: [Res. 2014-09.pdf](#)

By unanimous Roll Call Vote, the resolution was adopted.

15. Communications

Lagoudakis informed that Rivers Without Borders Transboundary Watershed has reminded us to remain aware of mining activities in Canada that have a negative affect on our watersheds.

16. Assembly Discussion Items

A. Recognitions

The following individuals were recognized for their community services: Dave Berg, Marvin King, Rob Thomason and Donn Hayes.

B. SE Transportation Plan

Vice Mayor Lagoudakis informed ADOT has put out a draft SE Alaska Transportation Plan. She encouraged all residents to view the document and comment on the plan. The Plan intends to further reduce ferry service in Southeast which will have a significant impact in the future. She expressed her desire for Petersburg to work with other southeast communities, principally Wrangell, to respond to the proposed Plan that would move resources and money to the more populated areas of the state and discourage travel in southeast. In addition, three mainline ferries are expected to be retired in the next

few years and may not be replaced if funding is further reduced or federal funds are not sought and secured. Consensus was a draft letter should be prepared.

C.

DEC's Intent Not to Change Current Herbicide Regulations

The assembly expressed their desire for officials from DEC and DOT to travel to Petersburg and explain to our residents why the agencies do not intend to change current herbicide regulations.

17. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

Date Approved: _____

Kathy O'Rear, Clerk