

**PETERSBURG BOROUGH
ORDINANCE #2020-13**

**AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FY 19/20 BUDGET TO APPROVE
AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION OF \$100,000 FROM THE ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT FUND TO THE PETERSBURG ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL INC TO MITIGATE LOCAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS RELATED TO THE
COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 virus a pandemic; and

WHEREAS, numerous cases of COVID-19 within the State of Alaska have been identified, and the Borough Assembly declared a Declaration of Local Disaster Emergency in Petersburg on March 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, Governor Michael Dunleavy imposed a state health mandate (#011) requiring every Alaskan to remain at their place of residence and practice social distancing unless engaged in an essential business activity, and ordering the closure of non-essential businesses; and

WHEREAS, while these measures are critical in mitigating the rate of spread of the COVID-19 virus, they are having significant negative economic effects on small businesses and workers; and

WHEREAS, disruptions to workers and small businesses are detrimental to both individuals and to the Borough, as small businesses are the backbone of Petersburg's economy, and provide the foundation of employment, services for the community, and revenue for the municipality to continue to provide essential services for the public welfare and benefit; and

WHEREAS, small business plays a vital role in the overall health and welfare of Petersburg's citizens and resources are necessary to help small businesses survive and certain small businesses reasonably require financial assistance to survive; and

WHEREAS, the Petersburg Economic Development Council, Inc. (PEDC) is tasked with leading economic development activities within the Petersburg Borough and informed the Borough Assembly that response to the Covid-19 pandemic is having significant impact on the business community, including the state-mandated closures; and

WHEREAS, the need to respond to the economic impact was unanticipated and not included in the budget adopted by the Borough in June of 2019, and thus requires a budget amendment and an emergency appropriation; and

WHEREAS, providing immediate resources for the PEDC for services during this declaration of emergency, and enabling the PEDC to respond quickly to the business community's needs is critical; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly determines that the appropriation of funds provided for herein will serve a public purpose and the general welfare of the community of Petersburg by relieving

economic distress caused by the COVID-19 health crisis; and

WHEREAS, Borough Charter Section 3.03 provides for Emergency Ordinances that in the judgment of the Assembly are necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health or safety; and

WHEREAS, an emergency exists as it is vital that the Borough and PEDC be able to respond rapidly and efficiently to the evolving economic situation which exists and there is insufficient time to follow ordinary ordinance adoption procedures in the existing time frame.

THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Petersburg Borough Assembly, that the Borough FY 2019-2020 budget is hereby amended to transfer \$100,000 from the Economic Fund to the Petersburg Economic Development Council, Inc. to use to mitigate economic impacts on Petersburg-based businesses, particularly those businesses deemed non-essential and closed to the public by state or borough mandate.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that the funds appropriated shall be distributed by PEDC in accordance with the eligibility and priority criteria set out in Attachment A.

Classification: This Emergency Ordinance is of a non-permanent nature and shall not be codified in the Petersburg Borough Code.

Effective Date: This Ordinance shall be effective immediately upon adoption.

Passed and approved by the Petersburg Borough Assembly, Petersburg, Alaska this 20th day of April, 2020.

Attest:

Mark Jensen, Mayor

Debra K. Thompson, Borough Clerk

Adopted:
Published:
Effective: