



# Petersburg Borough

12 South Nordic Drive  
Petersburg AK, 99833

## Meeting Minutes Borough Assembly

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Monday, December 18, 2017

6:00 PM

Assembly Chambers

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### 1. Call To Order/Roll Call

Mayor Jensen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: 7 - Mayor Mark Jensen, Assembly Member Eric Castro, Assembly Member Brandi Marohl, Assembly Member Jeffrey Meucci, Assembly Member Jeigh Stanton Gregor, Assembly Member Nancy Strand and Assembly Member Kurt Wohlhueter

### 2. Voluntary Pledge

The Pledge was recited.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

There were no minutes available for approval.

### 4. Amendment and Approval of Meeting Agenda

The agenda was approved as submitted.

### 5. Public Hearings

There were no public hearings.

### 6. Bid Awards

There were no awards.

### 7. Visitors' Views Related to Agenda

No views were shared.

### 8. Visitors' Views Unrelated to Agenda

No views were shared.

### 9. Board, Commission and Committee Reports

#### A. Local Emergency Planning Committee Update

Assembly Member Meucci, the Borough's elected official on the LEPC, provided an update on current events of the LEPC.

## **10. Consent Agenda**

- A. Approval of the Petersburg Volunteer Fire Department's (PVFD) 2018 State of Alaska Gaming Permit

Attachments:     [Approval Request Letter from PVFD.PDF](#)

The Assembly unanimously approved the PVFD's 2018 State of Alaska Gaming Permit application.

## **11. Report of Other Officers**

No reports.

## **12. Mayor's Report**

- A. December 18, 2017 Mayor's Report

Attachments:     [December 18, 2017 Mayor's Report.PDF](#)

Mayor Jensen read his report aloud. The Assembly chose a date and time of January 12, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. to possibly hold a work session with the Hospital Board.

## **13. Manager's Report**

- A. December 18, 2017 Manager's Report

Attachments:     [Manager Report 12182017](#)

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. Travel to Washington, D.C. to Meet with Federal Delegation

Attachments:     [Email from Federal Lobbyist Brad Gilman.PDF](#)  
                              [2018 US Legislative Session Schedule.PDF](#)  
                              [Status of Assembly Travel Account .PDF](#)

By a vote of 5-2, Assembly Members Meucci and Strand opposed, a trip to Washington, D.C. was approved

for Mayor Jensen and Manager Giesbrecht, possibly for the week of January 29, 2018.

**B. Marine Passenger Fee Work Session**

The Assembly unanimously scheduled a work session regarding the Marine Passenger Fee for January 8, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. A draft ordinance will be provided prior to the work session and the public is encouraged to attend and give input on the issue.

**15. New Business**

**A. Letter of Interest to Serve on Hospital Board**

**Attachments:**     [J. Roberts Letter of Interest.PDF](#)

Mayor Jensen, with unanimous approval of the Assembly, appointed James W. Roberts III to the Hospital Board.

**B. Alaska Municipal League / Alaska Conference of Mayors Winter Legislative Conference**

**Attachments:**     [AML Draft Agenda.PDF](#)

The Assembly discussed Mayor Jensen's travel to Juneau for the AML Winter Legislative Conference.

**C. 2018 Renewal of Professional Services Contract with State Lobbyist Ray Matiashowski & Associates**

**Attachments:**     [Professional Services Contract - State Lobbyist.PDF](#)

Renewal of the Borough's State lobbyist contract with Ray Matiashowski & Associates was unanimously approved.

**D. FY 2019 Federal Legislative Projects & Priorities**

**Attachments:**     [12.14.2017 Washington Update.PDF](#)

[Top Federal Priorities and Projects List for FY 2018.PDF](#)

Motion was made to draft a federal project and priorities list. Suggestions were: SRS, PILT, Section 107 Army Corps of Engineers (dredging), US Coast Guard, Transboundary Waters, President Trump's Infrastructure Program, which could include the Scow Bay Project or the Airport Bypass Road, and Essential Air Service. The Assembly decided to wait to finalize the list until after speaking with the Borough's Federal lobbyist, Brad Gilman, at the January 2, 2018 meeting.

**16. Communications**

**A. Marine Mammal Protection Act Correspondence**

Attachments:     [Marine Mammal Protection Act .PDF](#)

The Assembly decided to ask for input from regional fishermen, local sea otter harvesters, and regional native groups regarding the Marine Mammal Protection Act as it relates to sea otters.

B.     US Forest Service Maps Price Increase

Assembly Member Castro shared that the US Forest Service map prices will increase on January 1, 2018.

**17.   Assembly Discussion Items**

A.     Recognitions

Assembly Member Castro reminded the community about Life Med Alaska's First Responder Contest and encouraged the public to vote for their favorite local First Responder.

Mayor Jensen recognized Representative Kreiss-Tomkins for holding the recent opioid forum in Petersburg.

B.     Skype Option With Federal and State Elected Officials and Lobbyists

Assembly Member Meucci wondered if the Assembly can use Skype to keep in touch with the Borough's State and Federal delegations, their staff, and/or lobbyists, maybe on a quarterly basis. After some discussion, some members of the Assembly thought they should try Skyping with Borough lobbyists first.

C.     History of Senior Sales Tax Exemption

Assembly Member Meucci discussed his research, with the help of Borough staff, on the Senior Citizens Sales Tax Exemption and how it was created (by ordinance, not by a vote of the people). He shared that currently the Borough has 550 active exemption cards. Assembly Member Wohlhueter shared that the original ordinance that created the exemption specifically states that if you were age 65, this ordinance was "to alleviate financial hardship". He feels the Assembly should define what alleviating financial hardship means. Assembly Member Marohl requested Jody provide an estimate, including untaxed utilities, of the sales tax the Borough is currently missing out on.

D.     Administrative Fee for Senior Sales Tax Exemption Participants

Assembly Member Meucci discussed the reasons for wanting to restructure the Senior Citizen Sales Tax Exemption, and stated that an administrative fee might dissuade some seniors that don't really have a financial need for the exemption from applying. He hoped the Assembly and community could have a discussion about a possible future administrative fee for issuing the exemption cards.

E.     Questionnaire Circulated to the Public by Assembly Member Meucci

Discussion was held regarding Assembly Member Meucci's questionnaire he has circulating in the community asking for input from the public on Borough issues. Member Meucci stated the information he is gathering is for him to use regarding what issues are important to the community so that he can bring them

forward if need be. He also stated that speaking with the community is a good way to hear new ideas.

**18. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.