

## **Mayor's Report For**

### **August 3, 2020 Assembly Meeting**

- 1. Condolences:** On behalf of the Petersburg community, I wish to extend sincere condolences to the families of the 4 young adults involved in the vehicle accident last week. Words cannot express the heartache. We stand in support with Wrangell during this difficult time.
- 2. Borough Assembly Meeting Quorum:** In response to numerous inquiries that I received, I wanted to address the issue of Assembly Member's in-person versus teleconference appearance at Assembly meetings and provide the public with additional information to address these questions.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the restrictions on public gatherings, the Assembly unanimously adopted, on March 16, 2020, Emergency Ordinance #2020-07, which amended Borough Code section 3.08.080 to establish a quorum of the Assembly by teleconference. On March 20, 2020, the Assembly unanimously adopted Emergency Ordinance #2020-08, which established Civil Emergency Provisions under Chapter 3.72 of the Code. These provisions were continued by Emergency Ordinance #2020-17 (adopted May 18, 2020) and again by Emergency Ordinance #2020-22 (adopted July 24, 2020).

On April 3, 2020, under the authority of the civil emergency provisions of Chapter 3.72.060 of the Borough Code, Incident Commander Hagerman issued Public Health Mandate #3, which suspended in-person participation at Assembly meetings. This applies to both Assembly Members and members of the public. Public Health Mandate #3 was extended on June 1, 2020 and amended on June 15, 2020 to continue suspension of in-person participation by the public but to allow for Assembly Member in-person participation at the discretion of the Member. Public Mandate #3 supersedes any conflicting local ordinance, which would include the ordinance calling for in-person attendance at Assembly meetings by at least four members.

Upon the realization that Ordinance #2020-07, which made the technical amendments to section 3.08.080, had expired on April 30, 2020, the Assembly adopted Emergency Ordinances #2020-20 and #2020-21, which once again make technical amendments to that section. These were adopted to clarify the Assembly's intent in this area; however, Health Mandate #3 already addressed this issue. On July 24, 2020, the Assembly adopted Emergency Ordinance #2020-22, which continued the Civil Emergency Provisions and specifically allows for establishment of a quorum of the

Assembly via teleconference. Ordinance #2020-22 will expire September 21, 2020.

Accordingly, the Borough Assembly did not violate Borough Code by allowing a quorum to be established via teleconference after the expiration of Ordinance #2020-07. During all Assembly meetings, the Assembly fully complied with Health Mandate #3 as well as the Open Meetings Act, and the public was able to participate by email or telephone and certainly did so. This information has been verified with the Borough Attorney.

- 3. Southeast Mayors Meet with Governor Dunleavy:** Mayor Jensen attended a telephonic meeting with other Southeast Mayors and Governor Dunleavy recently to discuss the possibility of additional restrictions (masking, travel, social distancing) issued by the State if positive COVID-19 cases continue to rise in Alaska
- 4. Seeking Letters of Interest:** The Petersburg Borough is seeking letters of interest from qualified Borough residents to serve on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board until the October 6, 2020 Municipal Election.

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Board:** 3 vacant seats

Letters of interest should be submitted to Clerk Thompson at the Borough offices located at 12 S. Nordic Drive; by sending to PO Box 329, Petersburg, AK 99833; or by emailing to [dthompson@petersburgak.gov](mailto:dthompson@petersburgak.gov).