

CITY NEWSLETTER

City of Gustavus
April 2nd, 2026



UPCOMING MEETINGS

- City Council Work Session Monday April 6th, 2026 at 6 pm.
Meeting Packet: [MEET-Packet-e3ab3d0960b94529ab5f0d4d78943c50.pdf](#)
Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/4hbm26t>
Zoom ID: 515 501 9406 **Zoom Passcode:** 1236 **Zoom Tel:** 253-215-8782
- City Council Special Townhall Budget Meeting – FY27 Budget Wednesday April 8th, 2026 at 6pm.
Meeting Packet: [MEET-Packet-995b38105d364bd3b6e14949cb9770c3.pdf](#)
Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/3hmy5xvt>
Zoom ID: 515 501 9406 **Zoom Passcode:** 1236 **Zoom Tel:** 253-215-8782
- City Council General Meeting Monday April 13th, 2026 at 7 pm.

All are welcome to join in person at City Hall or via zoom. Agenda and packet information will be posted 5 days prior to the meeting.

Missed a meeting? View recordings of all meetings [here](#).

UPDATES

Looking for photos of Gustavus

The city is currently working on designing a new website. If you are willing to donate your photo for use on the website (photo credit will be given) please email the photos to clerk@gustavus-ak.gov. We would like to show off this beautiful town that we all love and call home.

Updated Tax Form

With the change to the City's tax ordinance providing for the retail sales amount of 3% to be added to all room sales, the City has updated its tax form to help you account for the tax remitted properly. All room sales reserved after January 1st 2026 are subject to the new tax structure.

The main change to the form that will affect anyone remitting room tax is line 9, which now is "Retail Sales Tax on Room Sales". If you are using the fillable version of the form, when you enter your room sales data, it will populate the 3% for you. If you are doing it manually, you will have to enter the 3% yourself in line 9.

What the City does not want is for you to enter 7% into line 4. The City needs everyone collecting room and retail sales tax to document these two amounts separately, and for ease we have created two lines, one for 3% collected from retail sales not related to room sales, and one for 3% collected from room sales.

The new form is on the [website](#), and in the near future we will be moving to webforms on the website to make the process easier for everyone involved. If you have any questions or need help understanding the change to the form or the new tax structure, please let me know.

City Council Members

Sally McLaughlin—Mayor
Lucas Beck—Vice Mayor
Renee Patrick
Justin Marchbanks
Karen Hutten
Mike Taylor
James Kearns

City Hall Staff

City Administrator—Kathy Leary
City Treasurer—Ben Sadler
City Clerk—Liesl Barker

Department Hours

City Hall— Monday -
Thursday 9am-3pm
907.697.2451

Library—
Monday 4p-7p
Tuesday- 9a-4p
Wednesday - Saturday 12p-4p
907.697.2350

DRC— *winter hours*
Tuesday, Thursday,
Saturday 11a-3p
907.697.2118

Community Chest— *winter hours*
Wednesday 11a-1p
Saturday 11a-2p
Drop of donations during any
open hours.

GVFD—24/7 and only a phone
call away (911)

Fish Box Flat Rate Tax Input Wanted

Dear Community of Gustavus,

The Fish Box Flat-Rate Tax is an important source of revenue for the city, which contributes to infrastructure and services that support our quality of life. Currently there is not a formal written policy and procedure to guide the implementation of the tax established and described in ordinance. Therefore, the City Council has decided to write that policy and procedure.

The goal of this policy and procedure is to make it as clear as possible which products are subject to the tax and to make compliance with the tax as easy as possible for businesses and their clients. Therefore, we need your help! We are seeking input from the community, especially those involved in charter fishing and fish processing, regarding any points of friction or confusion in the application of the Fish Box Tax. Please send your feedback to clerk@gustavus-ak.gov with the Subject line "Fish Box Tax". Please note that in this effort we are not rewriting the ordinance or seeking to establish any new taxes. Thank you for making Gustavus a wonderful place to live and for your willingness to help our community be the best it can be!

Best regards,

Vice-mayor Beck on Behalf of the Gustavus City Council

Was your property damaged during the winter storm? The city is gathering information about damages from the winter storm to help create a central repository. Reporting damages here is not a guarantee of assistance. For more information check out the form <https://airtable.com/appFPw2txjx3cFKcp/pagK2fKauBhB90Gjf/form>

Heat Pump incentive information from AP&T - Great news that \$4k to \$8.5k per household is now available for installation of residential heat pumps in AP&T's SE Alaska service areas, thanks to the [ACES program](#) by SE Conference and Alaska Heat Smart. Every household is eligible for at least \$4k regardless of income! Please help inform others in your community of this news by sharing far and wide! Access to clean, affordable heat is more economically viable than ever before! **The waitlist is now open. Here is a link to the application:** <https://airtable.com/appqnRy3vQydpeAO7/pago2qH8YlKiSeeS5/form> Note that you will need to apply and receive approval through the ACES program before installation of your heat pump. On a side-note, the State-administered [Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\)](#) is currently available to low-income households to help pay for the ongoing cost of electric heat. Plus, AP&T's customers get the benefit of the State's power cost equalization program, up to 750 kWh per month! *Info from the ACES Website: Learn more about incentive levels and community eligibility [here!](#)*

Alaska Aquaculture Opportunity Atlas Rollout & Webtool Planning Workshop - The NOAA Fisheries Alaska Regional Office invites you to attend the Alaska Aquaculture Opportunity Atlas Rollout and Webtool Planning Workshop, as part of the [Alaska Aquaculture Opportunity Area process](#). There will be three identical one-day workshops which will be hosted at Juneau (4/15/26) and Kodiak (4/17/26). Limited travel fund are available. For more information [Summary - Alaska Aquaculture Opportunity Atlas Rollout & Webtool Planning Workshop](#)

Septage Study: If you are interested in commenting on the Final Engineering Report (PER) on Gustavus Septage Management improvements/alternatives use the link provided below to review. At some point we will need to have a work session or town hall on this issue, hopefully along with an ADEC representative. If this is an important issue for you I encourage you to review this document.

Link: [gst0001_20251230_ww_septagemgmt_per-final_unsigned.pdf](https://www.gustavus-ak.gov/gst0001_20251230_ww_septagemgmt_per-final_unsigned.pdf)

As part of ADEC's Capital Improvement Projects program process, at some point VSW would like to receive a resolution from the City indicating its disposition regarding the alternatives and recommendations in the PER. We as a City are going to have to have a serious conversation about whether or not to take on water/wastewater authority – which will be expensive and beyond our current revenue stream.

Own/Operate a Business? [Please take a quick 5-minute survey.](#) This annual survey tracks the economic health of the Southeast Alaska business sector. The survey data will be used to determine regional and statewide priorities and will guide policy makers on how to best support industries and communities. This information will also help guide our trajectory for the region in FY27.

All responses are 100% confidential. Questions? meilani@raincoastdata.com



Not receiving the City Newsletter, email clerk@gustavus-ak.gov to be added.