

CITY NEWSLETTER

City of Gustavus
September 26, 2025



UPCOMING MEETINGS

City Council Work Session Monday October 6th, 2025 at 6pm

Special Election Review Committee Meeting Friday October 10th, 2025 at 6pm

City Council General Meeting Monday October 13th, 2025 at 7pm

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

Elections Update: Election Day is Tuesday October 7th, 2025 at the GCC from 8am -8pm.

Early In-Person Absentee voting is available for City and REAA elections. Come to City Hall Monday – Thursday 10am – 2pm now through October 6th. Remember to bring your ID when voting.

City Election Ballot: This year the city ballot contains voting for our four (4) open city council seats, as well as a proposition. [Click here](#) to view the sample ballot.

Proposition no.1: *Shall the City of Gustavus amend the Code of Ordinances to allow the addition of 3% sales tax to the 4% room rental tax, for total of 7% tax on room rentals?*

Background on proposition no.1: The City of Gustavus is proposing changing sections [04.14.030](#) and [04.15.030](#) of our ordinance. Each currently references not adding retail sales tax to the room tax. The city is proposing to add the 3% sales tax to the 4% room tax for a total of 7% tax on all room rentals. The purpose of increasing tax revenue is to negate some of the effects due to changes in State and Federal funding. The State and Federal funding sources have been decreasing over the last decade, in some cases drying up entirely. This change to our ordinance would allow Gustavus to be more self-sufficient and financially viable, moving into the future.

The City Council passed [CY25-16 a resolution](#) supporting the amendment of ordinances 04.14.030 and 04.15.030 on August 11, 2025. The ordinance amendments will not take effect until approved by the voters in this election.

Volunteer Opportunities:

City Endowment Fund Grant Committee (EFGC): Last winter, a special committee worked many long hours to develop a new [Policy & Procedure](#) for the Endowment Fund Grant program awards process. A substantial change in

City Council Members

Sally McLaughlin—Mayor
Shelley Owens—Vice Mayor
Susan Warner
Geoff Fosse
Lucas Beck
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 12p-7p
Tuesday- 9a-4p
Saturday 12p-4p
907.697.2350

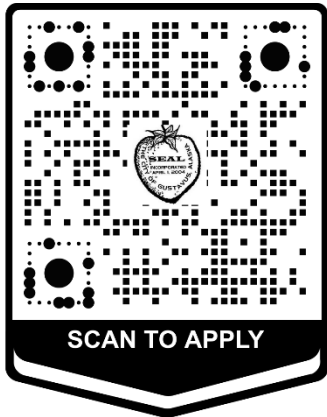
DRC— *winter hours*
Tuesday, Thursday,
Saturday 11a-3p
907.697.2118

Community Chest— *winter hours*
Wednesday 11a-1p
Saturday 11a-2p

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

the procedure is that a committee made up of local residents will review and score the applications; previously this committee was made up of council members. The City Treasurer will remain as an advisor to the committee but will not take part in the scoring process. This citizen committee will score the applications based on criteria outlined in the application packet, using a scoring rubric, and will make their award recommendations to the Council. The Council will then review and approve the recommendations at the December general meeting. If the council wishes to amend any of the recommendations, each award will be considered using the same scoring criteria and rubric used by the committee.

Scan to apply for a committee



The Council expects this to be a great improvement to the overall process and success of the grant program. Please consider serving on this citizen committee, a short-term commitment of just a few meetings. To apply [click here](#).

Code of Ordinances Review Committee: City of Gustavus is looking for individuals willing to help read and review the City's Code of Ordinances and identify any portions that require updating. For more information [click here](#). To apply to be on the committee [click here](#).

Emergency Response planning volunteers wanted. The City of Gustavus is hoping to find individuals with prior experience in EMS/fire/police/military, safety, logistics, communications, planning, mapping, ICS, NIMS or has a passion for emergency and disaster preparedness and response to help Gustavus become more resilient through preparedness. If you are interested in helping, please contact the City Clerk, clerk@gustavus-ak.gov. For more information [click here](#).

Grant Funding Opportunities:

Gustavus Endowment Fund Grant (EFG): The Endowment Fund Grant application period is now open. [Click here](#) for more information. Application deadline is October 31, 2025.

Hometown Grants Opportunities: This might be a viable grant opportunity for communities <50,000 sponsored by T Mobile.

See: <https://www.t-mobile.com/brand/hometown-grants>

This would help fund projects that foster local connections, like technology upgrades, outdoor spaces, the arts, and community centers! Awards up to \$50K. Applications open on a quarterly basis.

Looking for Public Comment

Southeast Alaska Landslide Information and Preparedness (SLIPP):

Fairweather Consulting and Tlingit & Haida have been working hard to put together a [draft Strategic Plan for Landslide Reduction in Southeast Alaska](#). They are asking for public input. Gustavus does not appear to be at high risk for landslides due to our mostly flat topography. The City Administrator, however, has been advised that there is one area of potential risk which is up at the hydro infrastructure. AP&T is aware of the efforts of SLIPP. If you would like more information on how to comment on the draft please read the [letter from the coordinators](#). Although the City of Gustavus, as a rule, does not participate in these meetings, we remain on the list for regional awareness, and updates on response and mitigation efforts.

We are sending this out with the News Bulletin to keep folks informed and in case you wish to provide comments to the draft document or sign up for SLIPP meetings. If anyone is aware of other potential landslide areas in Gustavus (as opposed to flooding or erosion issues), we welcome your insights.

Division of Water:

In accordance with Governor Dunleavy's Administrative Order 360, the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Division of Water (DOW) will hold an informal public comment period to receive input on its regulations. DOW welcomes all recommendations from stakeholders and the public. Additional information about the comment periods, how to join the public meetings, and how to provide written or oral comments can

be found on the DEC's Comment Periods for Public Notices website: [Public Comments | AK Dept. of Environmental Conservation](#) for more information [click here](#).

Department of Environmental Conservation and Spill Prevention and Response Division:

In accordance with Governor Dunleavy's Administrative Order 360, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Spill Prevention and Response Division (SPAR) is opening all of 18 AAC Chapter 75, Oil and Other Hazardous Substances Pollution Control for public input. This is not a formal rulemaking process, and there are no proposed changes at this time. We welcome all recommendations from stakeholders and the public. Public input will help shape future decisions about how the regulations are refined. When commenting, please identify the specific regulation and section that you are providing comment on to ensure your recommendations are evaluated as you intend. For more information [click here](#).

Southcoast Regions Aviation Leasing:

The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is requesting information from stakeholders, industry representatives, and interested parties on potential reforms to State regulations contained in 17 AAC 42 (Airport Administration), and 17 AAC 45 (Airport Leasing and Operations). The purpose of this [Request for Information] (RFI) is to gather constructive input to inform potential amendments or repeals that improve efficiency, clarity, and public benefit. [Request for Information \(RFI\) RFI #2025-DOTPF Aviation Regulations Reform - Alaska Online Public Notices](#)

Alaska Statewide Long Range Transportation Plan 2055:

The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is updating the Statewide Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP), which will guide Alaska's transportation policies and investments through 2055. This 30-year plan will set the course for how people and goods move by road, air, water, rail, bike, and foot, and will shape future priorities across the state. The LRTP will meet all federal and state planning requirements while establishing a long-term vision for an accessible, resilient, and well-connected Alaska. [Alaska Long Range Transportation Plan 2055 - PublicInput](#)

New TAP Guide by DOT:

The Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is pleased to announce that a new draft guidebook for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is now available for review and public comment. TAP is our only program with the DOT&PF that only focuses on the planning, design, engineering, and construction of active transportation facilities.

The new TAP Guidebook streamlines the project selection criteria to four focus areas, including fiscal considerations, economic need, community support, and the proposed scope of work. It provides a step-by-step process for how to apply for funds and how potential projects will be evaluated. Please share the guidebook within your respective networks.

Public review and comment are open until Friday, Oct. 17, 2025.

Comments may be emailed to TAP.dot@alaska.gov.

The TAP guidebook and related information can be found here:

<https://dot.alaska.gov/stwdplng/cip/stip/projects/TAP.shtml>

Additional Information:

Alaska Young Fisherman's Summit:

Registration is now open for the Alaska Young Fishermen's Summit.

AYFS delivers three days of intensive training, information and networking for commercial fishermen early in their careers, building leadership and networking capacity in the Alaska commercial fishing industry. The summit coincides with the start of the Alaska State Legislature's regular session in Juneau.

The early-bird registration fee is \$225. Active Alaska commercial fishermen receive a \$100 registration discount through support from Alaska Sea Grant and AYFS sponsors. Registration for all attendees increases by \$50 after

December 1.

Limited travel scholarships are available by application; [see the website for details.](#)