

Mayor's Report

May 2025

Xunaa Borough Update: The City of Gustavus joined with the cities of Pelican and Tenakee Springs and the Community of Elfin Cove to file a Statement of Points on Appeal Brief and a Motion to Stay in Alaska Superior Court on April 18, 2025. The Points on Appeal lists 47 points that will be further fleshed out in a later brief. The Motion to Stay asks the court to prohibit the Local Boundary Commission from submitting the petition to the voters pending the duration of this judicial appeal. The State took no position on the Motion to Stay. The City of Hoonah has filed an opposition to the Motion to Stay, as expected, and our reply to that is due this Friday. We can expect a ruling on that within the next few weeks. In the meantime, the City of Hoonah is moving forward with an election to take place in July, unless the stay is granted. We will keep you all informed as the process develops.

The legal documents being filed are not as readily available as when we were appealing to the Local Boundary Commission. These are Court records and are public record; while there is a means for accessing those documents via CourtView, it appears that they are having issues with that site. Regardless, documents cannot be downloaded from there so if anyone wishes to see any particular document please contact the Clerk to file a records request and she will provide that to you. In addition, we are working on getting all the documents printed and added to a binder here at City Hall.

Salmon River Harbor Tract B2 and Tidelands: We received notification from the land sales office at DNR saying they received our applications for the two tracts at the harbor. We've been added to the queue for review and will be notified when the review is completed.

Staff Meeting: At the April staff meeting, we briefly discussed employee evaluations. The City Administrator and I are working to get all employees a current evaluation. This is ongoing and I expect it to take several months to complete; then we can get all employees on an annual schedule. The remainder of the staff meeting was focused on training. Staff members had been asked to complete a spreadsheet with all required and/or desired training courses. The department requests will be combined into one spreadsheet with the goal of creating a comprehensive list of training needs and associated costs.

Thank you: Baskets of gratitude to all involved in helping provide spots of color throughout Gustavus this summer. Deb Hemenway cleaned out and replanted the flower boxes at Salmon River Park with donations of perennial plants from Meadow Brook and from my

own garden. They will be filled in with some annuals later in May. Fourteen hanging baskets were planted by Girl Scouts with nasturtiums that they planted in early April, along with generous donations from Jennifer Thompson; additional planting help was provided by Renee Patrick and Liesl Barker. Dave Lesh is allowing us to use his greenhouse for the baskets to grow and bloom until they go outside later in May, and Kenn Magowan has offered to make sure they are watered regularly this summer.

Falls Creek Access: I have little to report. I contacted Mr. Hoyle of FERC a couple weeks ago and was told that AP&T had requested time to confer with their legal team. I have heard nothing since then.

Mayor's Tea: I have discontinued Friday afternoon teatime for meeting with the Mayor for the spring and summer months. However, I am happy to make time to meet with any community, staff or council members any time the need arises. Please email me at mayor@gustavus-ak.gov, call/text me at 907-209-2128 or call City Hall, 907-697-2451 to set up an appointment. In addition, I try to be at City Hall for a few hours each weekday afternoon, but those hours are not consistent.