

CITY NEWSLETTER

City of Gustavus

March 6, 2025

Dear Community Members,

We are excited to present the newly revamped format of our City Newsletter. We hope this fresh layout improves your reading experience and provides valuable insights into the happenings around our city. Your feedback is important to us as we continue to improve and better serve you.

MEETINGS

Conservation Lands Advisory Committee—Meeting Tomorrow Friday March 7, 2025 at 1pm. All are welcome to join in person or view the recording on the website afterwards. [03-07-2025clacmeetingnotice.pdf](#)

City Council General Meeting - Monday March 10, 2025 at 7pm. All are welcome to join in person or via zoom. Zoom info is at the top of the agenda. [mccmeetings.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/gustavusak-pubu/MEET-Packet-74c5105c0c3b44d499cfcf511d2ebc1f.pdf](#)

City Council Special Meeting - Wednesday March 12, 2025 at 5pm. All are welcome to join in person or via zoom. Zoom info is at the top of the agenda. The meeting is to discuss the Xunaa Borough there will be an executive session [MEET-Packet-06032454cb2d4a05877503b19e384150.pdf](#)

City Council Special Budget Work Session - Wednesday March 12, 2025 at 6pm. All are welcome to join in person or via zoom. Zoom info is at the top of the agenda. [MEET-Packet-25a45245965345e8b0f1bd4c9cd21dab.pdf](#)

XUNAA BOROUGH UPDATE

The Local Boundary Commission met on November 12, 2024 and voted in favor of adopting the City of Hoonah's petition to dissolve the City of Hoonah and to form a non-unified Home Rule Xunaa Borough as presented to the Local Boundary Commission, seeming to overlook the LBC staff report that recommended the LBC not adopt the petition as presented, as well as an abundance of public comment in opposition.

The final written decision as well as a dissent brief presented by Commissioner Wood and Commissioner Walker were presented at a December meeting. These documents are available on the LBC website, under the "Decision" tab.

At that point we had an opportunity to file a request for reconsideration. We engaged attorney Megan Costello, on recommendation from our city attorney, to work with us on filing for reconsideration. Elfin Cove also engaged Megan, and we combined our efforts into one request. Megan did an outstanding job in presenting our case! In addition to ours, the City of Tenakee Springs, the City of Pelican and the Gustavus Visitors Association all filed requests. These documents are also available on the LBC website, under the "Public Meetings" tab.

A final decisional meeting was held on February 18 in which the LBC reconsidered two of the standards-Boundaries and Best interests of the State- and ultimately voted to uphold the original decision to grant the petition for the Xunaa Borough. A written decision is due within 30 days (by March 18) and will be the final decision. We have no further avenues for appealing to the LBC. However, there is an avenue available to appeal to the Alaska Superior Court.

At the March 3rd Special City Council Meeting we met with Megan Costello in an executive session to discuss strategies and options for appeal. No formal action was taken at that time; however, another special meeting will be scheduled soon to make a formal decision.

Information can be found on the Local Boundary Commission website:

[2023 City of Hoonah for Incorporation of The Xunaa Borough as a Home Rule Borough, and Dissolution of The City of Hoonah Petition](#)

[Public Meetings, Local Boundary Commission, Division of Community and Regional Affairs](#)

OTHER UPDATES

City staff is looking for your input on the septage project planning documents. Please email any comments to clerk@gustavus-ak.gov by end of day Tuesday 02.11.2025.

[02-27-2025 SEPTAGE MANAGMENT NEWSLETTER.PDF](#)



CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Sally McLaughlin—Mayor
Shelley Owens—Vice Mayor
Susan Warner
Rachel Patrick
Lucas Beck
Mike Taylor

CITY HALL STAFF

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

DEPARTMENT HOURS

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

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

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

Community Chest— Wednesday 11a-1p
and Saturday 11a-2p

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