



MAYOR'S REPORT AUGUST 12, 2024

Grants. It has been a super busy month with a number of grants in progress, including the Disposal and Recycling Center balefill expansion project; the GVFD truck and skid unit; the National League of Cities heat pump incentive grant; the Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation Village Safe Water planning project to develop alternatives to long-term septic needs for Gustavus; the Salmon River Park playground boardwalk project; and other grant applications in progress.

Road Maintenance. We've been busy with issues regarding a continuing source of gravel, developing projects for clearing ditches, adding culverts, and adding material to existing roads. We've met with residents regarding the Same Old Road ditch project. We are grateful for their feedback and input, and will communicate with them as we seek solutions to issues of road flooding in the area.

Offering Condolences. We offer our heartfelt condolences to the families of Jon Howell and Greg Streveler. The City is grateful to have had the contributions of these two men as members of the City Council. The City and we as individuals are fortunate for having known them.

Public Access on the Hydro Road. The dispute resolution process with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) continues. The City submitted a proposal on behalf of the community on June 27th and awaits a response from the parties.

The Xunaa Borough Petition. The Local Boundary Commission has released its final report on the petition to dissolve the City of Hoonah and incorporate the Xunaa Borough. As in the preliminary report, LBC staff did not recommend adopting the petition in its current form. A public hearing will take place on Thursday, September 5, 2024 at the Hoonah City Council chambers and will be available by Zoom. LBC website: <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/dcra/LocalBoundaryCommission>

Farewell and Welcome. Larry Platt resigned as Marine Facilities Coordinator effective August 2nd. We thank him for his service to Gustavus and wish him well, and we are pleased to announce that Kenn Magowan has been hired to fill the position. You may recognize Kenn from his work on the dock measuring and recording fish catch sizes for Alaska Fish and Game, from Covid testing at the airport, or from his bicycle repair shop in the old post office. He joins us after a long career as a kayak guide, including in Antarctica. We welcome Kenn aboard.

Finally, please drive carefully. We have received concerns about vans and vehicles speeding on Glen's Ditch Road to Nagoonberry Trail. Please let visitors know it is a narrow road without an exit at the end, and to drive carefully and respectfully.

Shelley