

SPECIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING 2024-12 **DRAFT MINUTES**

June 03, 2024, at 6:00 PM

Assembly Chambers/Zoom Webinar



Meeting 2024-12: The Special Assembly meeting, held in the Assembly Chambers, was called to order by Mayor Beth Weldon at 6:00pm.

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Ms. Hale provided the following land acknowledgement: “We would like to acknowledge that the City and Borough of Juneau is on Tlingit land and wish to honor the indigenous people of this land. For more than ten thousand years, Alaska Native people have been and continue to be integral to the well-being of our community. We are grateful to be in this place, a part of this community, and to honor the culture, traditions, and resilience of the Tlingit people. Gunalchéesh!”

C. ROLL CALL

Assemblymembers present: Greg Smith, Alicia Hughes-Skandijs, Wade Bryson, Christine Woll, Paul Kelly, Ella Adkison, Deputy Mayor Michelle Hale, Mayor Beth Weldon

Assemblymembers absent: ‘Wáahlaal Gídaag

Staff Present: City Manager Katie Koester, Deputy City Manager Robert Barr, City Attorney Robert Palmer, City Clerk Beth McEwen, Deputy City Clerk Diane Cathcart, Clerk Staff Devin Allen, Tourism Director Alix Pierce, Finance Director Angie Flick, Lands Manager Dan Bleidorn, Ports Director Carl Uchytel, Engineering and Public Works Director Denise Koch, Assistant Attorney Nichole Lynch, Assistant Attorney Sherri Layne, Deputy Police Chief Krag Campbell

D. AGENDA CHANGES/APPROVAL OF AGENDA – *Agenda approved*

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (*Not to Exceed a Total of 20 Minutes, Nor More than Three Minutes for Any Individual*)

Dorene Lorenz, a Valley resident, said she was here as the president of the Juneau Igloo of the Pioneers of Alaska. She said the Juneau chapter was started by Anna Webster. Ms. Lorenz provided some historical information about Anna Webster’s life, including that she moved to Douglas in 1904. Ms. Lorenz said Anna Webster became the head of the Douglas Telephone Exchange, the first woman in the world to hold such a position. She moved to Telephone Hill five years later when she remarried. Ms. Lorenz said she toured this house the previous month and that while the exterior needs some work the interiors of this building are some of the finest in town. She said it is the oldest continuously occupied home in Alaska. She said Anna thought it was important to preserve the history of Juneau and dedicated her life to the betterment of the people of Juneau and Douglas.

Tony Tengs, a downtown resident, said he wanted to speak about Telephone Hill. He said he is against the one-million-dollar appropriation in the budget towards the redevelopment of Telephone Hill. He said two and a half years ago the Assembly voted to add the redevelopment of Telephone Hill to the legislative priority list with no community input or discussion. He disagreed with the Assembly’s previous decision to include funding for Telephone Hill redevelopment in the 1% sales tax ballot measure. He said communities do not get many opportunities to preserve their history, and the Assembly should not develop this project.

Skip Gray, a Twin Lakes resident, said he wanted to speak about the one million dollars in the budget for the redevelopment of Telephone Hill. He said he wanted more details about how that money was going to be spent and on what. He said there are people living on Telephone Hill right now who believe their house will be torn down immediately. He requested more details about how the money would be spent and a timeline for when things are going to happen. He requested that none of the money in this budget be used for demolition.

Page Bridges, a downtown resident, said it took many years to recover from the excavation of Carol Way. She said it was difficult for the public. She requested the Assembly not excavate Telephone Hill. She said it is a wound to the ground, community, and people. She said Juneau would be a less attractive place to live without Telephone Hill. She said history is dead without living examples. She said she would support spending money to restore the properties in Telephone Hill.

William Quayle, a downtown resident, said the State of Alaska business license for pedicabs allows them to operate in any location and at night. He said CBJ restricts operations to just downtown, which means he cannot take tourists to places like Treadwell mine. He said he would like CBJ to update their regulations to allow for electric assist, operate outside of downtown, and to operate at night. He said he would like to have a sit-down discussion to address these changes.

James Houck a Douglas resident, said he has been running a pedicab business since 2016. He said they run four pedicabs per day and his pedicab drivers make lifechanging money. He said he has no issues with Mr. Quayle's requests. He said his company will never operate at night. He said the current rules and regulations work for his company, but he does not object to Mr. Quayle's requests. Ms. Woll asked if there were only two pedicab companies operating in Juneau. Mr. Houck said yes. Mayor Weldon asked about time restrictions. Mr. Houck said the law only said "daylight hours" which he has interpreted to be 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. He said they rarely have early or late passengers.

F. PUBLIC HEARING & ASSEMBLY ACTION

1. Ordinance 2024-03(b) An Ordinance Establishing the Rate of Levy for Property Taxes for Calendar Year 2024 Based Upon the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2025.

This ordinance establishes the mill rates for property taxes for 2024, which funds a significant portion of the City and Borough of Juneau's FY25 operating budget. The Charter requires the Assembly to adopt, by ordinance, the tax levies necessary to fund the budget before June 15.

The mill levies presented in this ordinance support the Manager's FY25 Proposed Budget as amended by the Assembly Finance Committee (AFC). As part of the budget review process, the AFC reviews, amends, and recommends to the Assembly the final mill levies.

For FY25, the AFC recommends a decrease of 0.12 mills from the FY24 Adopted Budget, resulting in a total mill levy of 10.04 mills, the components of which are:

Operating Mill Rate by Service Area

Areawide: 6.20 (flat from FY24 Adopted)

Roaded Service Area: 2.45 (flat from FY24 Adopted)

Fire Service Area: 0.31 (flat from FY24 Adopted)

Operating Total: 8.96 (flat from FY24 Adopted)

Debt Service: 1.08 (a decrease of 0.12 from FY24 Adopted)

Total Millage: 10.04 (a decrease of 0.12 from FY24 Adopted)

An opportunity for public comment was provided at the Regular Assembly meeting on April 29, 2024. The AFC reviewed the mill rate ordinance at its meetings on April 6 and May 22, 2024, referring the amended ordinance to the full Assembly for adoption.

The Systemic Racism Review Committee reviewed the preliminary mill rate during the April 30, 2024, and May 14, 2024, meetings.

The City Manager recommends the Assembly adopt this ordinance, as amended by the Assembly Finance Committee.

Public Comment – None

Assembly Action

MOTON by Ms. Woll to adopt Ordinance 2024-03(b) and asked for unanimous consent.

OBJECTION by Mr. Smith for purposes of a comment. He said a lot of work and discussion went into setting the mill rate and they set the lowest mill rate since 1998. He said this was a compromise rate and removed his objection.

OBJECTION by Ms. Hughes-Skandijis for purposes of a comment. She said it was a compromise, and she advocated for a higher mill rate, especially given the recent information about budget deficits by Bartlett Regional Hospital and Juneau School District. She said she is nervous passing such a low mill rate given these outstanding deficits but removed her objection.

OBJECTION by Ms. Hale for purposes of a comment. She said she was proud of the Assembly for their hard work getting to this point. She removed her objection.

There being no further objection, Ordinance 2024-03(b) passed by unanimous consent.

2. Ordinance 2024-01(b) An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the Treasury for FY25 City and Borough Operations.

This ordinance appropriates \$532,582,700 in expenditure authority for the City and Borough of Juneau's FY25 operating budget, excluding the School District. This ordinance appropriates all transfers between funds that support operations, debt service, and capital projects, as well as the associated expenditures within the funds themselves.

This ordinance also recognizes \$506,937,200 of forecast revenue and transfers-in and decreases fund balances, across all funds, by \$25,645,500. The forecast revenue and draw from fund balance are sufficient to fund the budgeted expenditures.

The original ordinance was introduced at the April 1, 2024, Regular Assembly meeting and referred to the Assembly Finance Committee (AFC) for deliberation. An opportunity for public comment was provided at the Regular Assembly meeting on April 29, 2024. The AFC referred the amended budget ordinance to the full Assembly for adoption at the May 22, 2024, meeting. The Charter requires adoption of the FY25 operating budget by June 15.

The Systemic Racism Review Committee reviewed the preliminary ordinance during the April 30, 2024, and May 14, 2024, meetings.

The City Manager recommends the Assembly adopt this ordinance, as amended by the Assembly Finance Committee.

Public Comment – None

Assembly Action

MOTON by Ms. Woll to adopt Ordinance 2024-01(b) and asked for unanimous consent.

OBJECTION by Mayor Weldon for purposes of a comment. She said the Bartlett Regional Hospital board is working through their public process for reducing or consolidating programs that are losing money, and the Assembly may have to revisit this ordinance depending on the solutions found by the BRH board. She removed her objection.

There being no further objection, Ordinance 2024-01(b) passed by unanimous consent.

3. Resolution 3052(b) A Resolution Adopting the City and Borough Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2030 and Establishing the Capital Improvement Project Priorities for Fiscal Year 2025.

This resolution would adopt the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2025 through 2030, as required by Charter Section 9.4, and lists the capital projects that will be initially appropriated by ordinance in FY25.

The Public Works and Facilities Committee reviewed the preliminary CIP at its March 11, 2024, meeting and forwarded the plan to the Assembly. The Systemic Racism Review Committee reviewed the preliminary CIP during the April 30, 2024, and May 14, 2024, meetings.

The CIP resolution was introduced at the April 1, 2024, Assembly Meeting and referred to the Assembly Finance Committee (AFC) for deliberation. An opportunity for public comment was provided at the Assembly Meeting on April 29, 2024. The AFC referred the amended resolution to the full Assembly for adoption at the May 22, 2024, meeting. The Charter requires adoption of the FY25 CIP by June 15.

The City Manager recommends the Assembly adopt this resolution, as amended by the Assembly Finance Committee.

Public Comment

Joshua Adams, Auke Bay resident, said he worked in the housing industry. He said there is \$1 million from the 1% sales tax dedicated to Telephone Hill redevelopment but only \$.5 million to affordable housing and \$.5 million to childcare. He said he believed people voted for the sales tax bond due to the affordable housing and childcare components. He said Telephone Hill development is a controversial issue and suggested the Assembly move the \$1 million dollars put aside for Telephone Hill into the childcare fund. He said Telephone Hill is currently making the City money from the renters. His other suggestion was to spend this money paying down CBJ's debts.

Assembly Action

MOTION by Ms. Woll to adopt Resolution 3052(b) and asked for unanimous consent.

OBJECTION by Mr. Kelly for purposes of a question. He asked how much money was added to the Affordable Housing fund. Ms. Koester said the Assembly added an additional \$2 million dollars, bringing it to \$4.6 million for FY25. Mr. Kelly withdrew his objection.

There being no further objection, Resolution 3052(b) passed by unanimous consent.

G. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

H. ADJOURNMENT

Having no more business to come before the Assembly, the Special Assembly meeting 2024-12 adjourned at 6:35pm.

Signed: _____

Elizabeth J. McEwen
Municipal Clerk

Signed: _____

Beth A. Weldon
Mayor