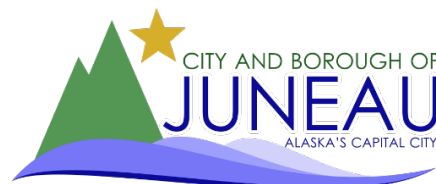


# ASSEMBLY PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES - **DRAFT**



April 21, 2025 at 12:10 PM

Assembly Chambers/Zoom Webinar

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<https://juneau.zoom.us/j/91849897300> or 1-669-900-6833 Webinar ID: 918 4989 7300

## A. CALL TO ORDER

## B. 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

**Members Present In-Person:** Mr. Smith (acting Chair), Ms. Hall, Mr. Kelly

**Members Present Via Zoom:** Chair Hughes-Skandijs

**CBJ Staff Present:** EPW Director Denise Koch, EPW Deputy Director Nate Rumsey, Harbormaster

Matthew Creswell, Environmental Project Specialist Dianna Robinson, Grants Manager Ashley

Heimbigner, Attorney Sherri Layne (Zoom), Streets & Fleet Superintendent Scott Gray (Zoom), City Architect

Jeanne Rynne (Zoom), Architect Lisa EaganLagerquist (Zoom), Facilities Maintenance Supervisor Nate

Abbott (Zoom), Administrative Officer Breckan Hendricks, and Meeting Clerk Kevin Allen.

## D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

## E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. March 17, 2025 - Regular Meeting - Approved with no changes.

## F. AGENDA TOPICS

2. Funds Transfer to On-route Charging (D71-091) from Valley Transit Center (D71-089) - Action Requested

Director Koch explained that they are requesting to transfer the \$25,880 left over from the construction of the Valley Transit Center (D71-089) to Power Upgrades for Electric Buses (D71-091) to upgrade the charging infrastructure for the seven new buses.

Mr. Kelly moved that the Public Works and Facilities Committee forward the transfer of \$25,880 from D71-089 to D71-091 to the Full Assembly for approval. He asked for unanimous consent.

The motion passed.

3. Funds Transfer to Zero Waste Program CIP (D12-103) and Closure of RecycleWorks Consolidated Facility CIP (D77-001) - Action Requested

Director Koch explained that there is an old CIP for the construction of the Household Hazardous Waste Building (D77-001) that was completed a while ago, which has unused funds. She recommended allocating those funds over to the Zero Waste CIP (D12-103), noting the significant progress being made in solid waste planning and emphasizing that Zero Waste is a priority of the Assembly.

Ms. Hall moved that the Public Works and Facilities Committee forward to the Full Assembly for Approval the transfer of the remaining of balance of \$219,806.59 from CIP D77-001 to CIP D12-103. She asked for unanimous consent.

The motion passed.

4. Funds Transfer Request of \$75,000 from P&R Deferred Maintenance CIP (P44-091) to DT/Glacier Mech/Elect Upgrades CIP (F21-041) - Action Requested

Director Koch explained that there is an existing CIP for mechanical and electrical upgrades at the Downtown and Glacier Fire Stations. During the course of this work, it was discovered that the vehicle exhaust system was not functioning properly, creating a safety risk for staff. Although the exhaust system qualifies as a mechanical upgrade, it was not originally included in the scope of the CIP. While some construction funds remain, they are insufficient to cover the cost of addressing the exhaust system. Therefore, she is requesting a transfer of \$75,000 from the Parks and Recreation Deferred Maintenance CIP (P44-091) to the Downtown Glacier Mechanical and Electrical Upgrade CIP (F21-041). She noted that this request was made in consultation with Chief Etheridge of Capital City Fire and Rescue and Nate Abbott from Parks and Recreation.

Mr. Kelly said this sounds like an urgent issue that could affect the health and safety of staff. He asked if there is anything they are doing to mitigate this for staff now or if they are currently using the facility.

Director Koch answered that she is confident that Chief Etheridge is taking his staff's safety into account, but she does not know exactly what those steps are. She will follow up and get back to them.

Ms. Hall moved Public Works and Facilities Committee forward to the Full Assembly for approval the transfer of \$75,000 from CIP P44-091 to CIP F21-041. She asked for unanimous consent.

The motion passed.

5. Water CIP Closeouts and Transfers to Fund Construction of Cope Park Pump Station (W75-070) - Action Requested

Director Koch explained that they are in the process of closing out completed water project CIPs and reallocating the remaining balances to other active projects. Specifically, they are requesting to transfer \$933,000 to the Cope Park Water Pump Station CIP (W75-070), which is a major and high-cost project requiring additional funding.

Mr. Kelly moved that the Public Works and Facilities Committee transfer the listed transfers on page 10 of the packet to the CIP W75-070 and be forwarded to the Full Assembly. He asked for unanimous consent.

The motion passed.

6. Lone Sailor Memorial Statue - Action Requested

Director Koch explained that they discussed this at the last PWFC Meeting, where a request was made to refer this topic to the Historical Resources Advisory Committee (HRAC). She said this was discussed at that Committee and a letter was sent from the Chair. She reminded the Committee that no final location has been determined, but there is a desire to place that statue on the waterfront.

Mr. Kelly asked if the Historic Resources Advisory Committee discussed any of the historical context, especially between the Navy and any indigenous groups that have historically lived in the Juneau area or southeast Alaska.

Director Koch responded that she did not attend that meeting herself, but the minutes did not reflect that sort of discussion specific to the how indigenous groups would feel about that statue.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs voiced that the lack of that discussion at the Committee really highlights another instance of an extremely limited idea of what history means to them. She voiced it is hard to see on the schematic where the desired location is, but she would not want it to end up in the Peratrovich Plaza.

Matthew Creswell, with Docks & Harbors, responded that there has not been a final location set. He said there is the large deck over in the Peratrovich Plaza that would be ideal, but there is a lot of real estate along the seawalk for them to put it; however, they did not want it placed where it would interfere with flow of pedestrians along the seawalk.

Chair Smith asked who will make the final determination of where the statue will be located.

Director Koch answered that her understanding is that there would be a resolution authorizing the installation and maintenance of the statue, but the Assembly can provide direction where they would like the statue placed or who they would like to run point on that project. She noted that so far, Docks & Harbors has been more involved in this project than Engineering and Public Works.

Mr. Creswell added that they have been working with Pioneers and the Navy League, and working it from a few different angles, but once they are given the blessing from the Assembly to go forward, that will allow them to start raising funds and determine the best placement. He noted that they can return to the Assembly for exact placement once they have the preferred alternatives and other locations identified if that is the will of the Assembly.

Chair Smith stated that it says the statue is mobile and could be moved. He asked how much it would cost to do that once it is in, and if they would be paying for it.

Mr. Creswell answered that he would not consider the statue mobile, but it is able to be moved.

Ms. Hall voiced she is uncertain where this goes from here, if it goes to the Full Assembly or if they need to hash this out more. She said this is a project that they should communicate with the Alaska Native Community on to make sure their voices are being considered on the placement. She expressed they want to support the Pioneers and the Navy League, but they also need to be sensitive to the community's consideration. She asked how that could best be addressed.

Mr. Kelly agreed. He commented that he has family who served in the Navy that would be honored to see this statue, but they need to take historical context into consideration. He recommended having this sent to the Systemic Racism Review Committee (SRRRC) before going to the Full Assembly.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs said maybe they could give the direction for a resolution, then maybe the resolution could go to SRRRC before it is in the packet, but she does not know the comfort level of the Committee on that.

Chair Smith agreed that some outreach or coordination by the Pioneers or Navy League with some of our indigenous organizations would be appropriate and would lead us to making sure they do not cause a mess, but he was not sure if they need to send it to SRRRC and send it through a lot more bureaucracy. He suggested adding some language to the resolution directing the manager to ensure that we do some holistic outreach and come to a good place on it. He added that the placement of the statue should be by policy direction and not the Assembly.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs agreed and said they do not want to be the bureaucracy goose chase for this project, but if they are going to pull the City Manager off what she is doing to coordinate some kind of outreach, these groups need to feel very passionate about this project. She stated that maybe it is better to make the Pioneers and Navy League do some of that work.

Chair Smith agreed.

Mr. Kelly moved that they introduce a resolution authorizing the installation of the Lone Sailor Statue along the CBJ Waterfront at the time funding becomes available for a statue, and authorize the City Manager into a Memorandum Agreement with the Pioneers of Alaska for installation and maintenance of the statue, and that when this resolution is forwarded to the Full Assembly, accompanying support from local tribal organizations be included in the packet. He asked for unanimous consent.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs asked Mr. Kelly if he is saying that it needs to have some sort of support. She asked him to restate that part of the motion.

Mr. Kelly clarified that he thought there are tribal organizations that he would like to see their perspectives on this proposal before the Assembly votes to approve it. He said a letter with context would be helpful in our own deliberations when this goes before the Full Assembly.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs objected. She said they are just trying to find a clear path out, but she does not want to cause a major stumbling block if there is no reason for it. She added they are all on the same page of wanting to be sensitive to the history. She expressed she does not want to delay this overly, but wondered if they just let it sit in Committee and Docks & Harbors could reach out and do that work, and when it is done, they can move on with a resolution before making the Manager's Office get involved.

Mr. Kelly expressed that he would be comfortable with Docks & Harbors and the Pioneers receiving these letters through any organization, as long as the information is accurate and authorized by someone with historical knowledge and a vested interest in the matter. He clarified that he is not specifically directing the Manager's Office to provide this information but emphasized that he would like to have it before making a decision.

Chair Smith expressed his concern is that if Pioneers of Alaska talks with the appropriate tribal entities and agrees on a location, he does not want to make them write a letter of support.

(The Committee had a brief at ease)

Chair Smith said they are all aligned on what they want to do and will see the resolution again at the Full Assembly, where they could make some tweaks. He suggested having more broad language and staff can work with the proposers about figuring out a happy pathway that they will see again in a resolution.

Mr. Kelly withdrew his motion.

Mr. Kelly moved that the Public Works and Facilities Committee introduce a resolution authorizing the installation of the Lone Sailor Statue along the CBJ Waterfront at the time the funding becomes available for a statue and authorize the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Pioneers of Alaska for installation and maintenance of the statue after there has been appropriate consultation with local indigenous organization or tribal entities. He asked for unanimous consent.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs objected for a potential amendment. She voiced that Mr. Kelly's motion is fine, but recommended adding "enter into an MOU with Pioneers of Alaska for installation and maintenance of the statue after the Pioneers of Alaska have had appropriate consultation with the relevant groups", just to make it clear who should take the next steps.

No objection to the amendment.

The motion passed as amended.

**7. Mendenhall River Drainage Outfall Culverts Update (Check Valves) - Information Only**

Director Koch expressed this is a discussion of work they have already done, as well as what they are doing going forward. She said it has to do with concerns about the management of water through the

stormwater drainage system during GLOFs. She talked about a memo they received on August 5, 2024, stating that CBJ installed one-way valves on eight culverts in July of 2024 so water would flow out to the river and not into the community. She said they are continuing the work of investigating the existing culverts from the stormwater drainage system to the river and identified an additional seven culverts that they plan to install one-way valves on between the Dimond Park and Brotherhood Bridge area.

Chair Smith asked if they felt that this installation would prevent damage from coming in that direction.

Director Koch answered yes, that is the intent. She noted that when they finished the one-way valve project in July 2024, in advance of the 2024 GLOF, they checked the one-way valves after the GLOF to see how they performed, and all of them were intact and operated as intended.

Mr. Kelly shared that he clarified with staff after they had the open house, where members were saying they saw water coming out of the storm drains, that was not a result of a failure of the check valves, but water that had gotten into the storm drain system during the flood from the street.

Director Koch confirmed that is correct. She stated that check valves were still present and they are confident that they operated as intended. They do know that water in the 2024 GLOF jumped the banks at Killewich and got into the streets, which is how they believe the water got into the storm drainage system.

**8. Juneau Douglas North Crossing (JDNC) Project Update - Information Only**

Director Koch explained that this is an informational item, but they like to keep it before this Committee because, with the exception of the recent GLOFs, the second crossing has been the Assembly's number one capital project on the legislative priorities list. She reminded them that CBJ is a huge proponent of this project and they are collaborating with the State Department of Transportation. She expressed that they are coming to the end of the PEL process and moving forward with finalizing the level 2 PEL (Planning and Environmental Linkages), and the Salmon Creek alignment will remain in the PEL. She noted that the Mendenhall Peninsula was removed as one of the alignments in the PEL process due to a high cost. There will be a final public open house on the PEL process on May 15th, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Mr. Kelly asked how confident they can be in this timeline considering they have not received input from FERC (Federal Energy Regulatory Commission). He also inquired if there is a possibility of getting input from them later that will delay this process or they will still be able to proceed if they do not receive any input at all.

Director Koch responded that they do not anticipate that FERC will hold up this PEL process. She explained that they had previously been on hold during the PEL process because they were hoping to get information from FERC, but when they realized they were not going to that information in a timely manner, the project team decided to move forward with wrapping up the PEL including the Salmon Creek option. The next step will be NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act), and they are hoping FERC will give them information that they can integrate into the NEPA process with respect to the Salmon Creek alignment.

Chair Smith asked what the expected share is that the federal government would cover and what would have to be covered by us, someone else's money, or the State of Alaska.

Director Koch voiced that she is not going to answer that right now, as there is so much flux concerning grants and there is a lot of uncertainty, so she would hate to speculate on what grants may be available in the future, and what the local community cost share would be.

**9. CBJ Grant Strategy Update – Q3 FY2025 - Information Only**

Director Koch stated they are in a period of tremendous uncertainty, and the number of grants that they are aware of, have been awarded, or have been applying for has been a really aggressive effort, but the

landscape is changing with the change in presidential administrations. She said she is unsure what the future will hold, but they have an excellent grants manager.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs thanked staff and gave deep appreciation for the aggressive nature for the grants.

**G. PWFC 2025 ASSEMBLY GOALS**

10. PWFC Milestones

**H. CONTRACTS DIVISION ACTIVITY REPORT**

11. March 13, 2025, to April 11, 2025

Director Koch noted that they have their standard update from the contracts administrator. She shared that they put a bid out for the Mendenhall Wastewater Treatment Plant sequential batch reactor, but no bids were submitted, and they are continuing to have conversations with local contractors to understand why. She stated they have a couple of contracts related to the Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School Fire and necessary follow up work.

Mr. Kelly commented that having just this one committee today gave him the ability to devote more time in getting prepared for the agenda topics. He said there is an advantage to having multiple committees over and done with in one day, but he wondered if they could replicate this one meeting a day in the future so they can devote more time and thoroughness to each agenda topic.

**I. NEXT MEETING DATE**

12. May 5, 2025 at 12:10PM

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

The April 21, 2025 PWFC Meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

ADA accommodations available upon request: Please contact the Clerk's office 36 hours prior to any meeting so arrangements can be made for closed captioning or sign language interpreter services depending on the meeting format. The Clerk's office telephone number is 586-5278, TDD 586-5351, e-mail: [city.clerk@juneau.gov](mailto:city.clerk@juneau.gov).