SPECIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Meeting Minutes - March 7, 2016

MEETING NO. 2016-13: The Special Meeting of the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly, held in the Assembly Chambers of the Municipal Building, was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mayor Mary Becker.

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Assembly Present: Mary Becker, Jamie Bursell, Maria Gladziszewski, Loren Jones, Jesse Kiehl, Jerry Nankervis, and Debbie White.

Assembly Absent: Barbara Sheinberg, Kate Troll.

School Board Present: Brian Holst, President, Josh Keaton, Emil Mackey, Sean O'Brien, Andi Story, Barbara Thurston, Lisa Worl.

School Board Absent: None.

Staff Present: Kim Kiefer, City Manager; Mila Cosgrove, Deputy City Manager; Amy Mead, Municipal Attorney; Laurie Sica, Municipal Clerk; Rorie Watt, Engineering and Public Works Director; Bob Bartholomew, Finance Director; Rob Steedle, Community Development Director; Mark Miller, JSD Superintendent; David Means, JSD Director of Administrative Services.

II. AGENDA TOPICS

A. Joint Discussions with the Assembly and School Board

Superintendent Mark Miller presented information to the Assembly through a power point presentation. He thanked the assembly for the retroactive funding to JSD to the cap for FY15, for funding to the cap for FY16, and for restoring activities funding for FY16. He said that the Juneau School District (JSD) has the highest participation rate, the highest student attendance rate and the highest graduation rate in the state.

The Board has made major changes to the way it is budgeting by using "zero" based budgeting. They have used local site leadership and school site councils to provide input. The administration started with a bottom line budget that would do the minimum of keeping the doors open. There was some disagreement of what was included in the base line level, and Mr. Miller and Ms. Story explained some of the reasoning behind the base line. After hearing public input, and input from the the superintendent's cabinet, including David Means, Director of Administrative Services; Kristin Bartlett, Chief of Staff; and Ted VanBronkhorst, Director of Human Resources. The board reviewed and approved the budget submission.

There are two scenarios based on the outcome of the rate of base student allocation (BSA). The Governor and the House of Representatives are so far supporting $5880, but there is a possibility of an increase to that and they are working hard to support that.

Brian Holst said the first reading of this budget was at the next evening's School Board meeting and this was the first opportunity that the School Board had to see the information as a group.

David Means walked the Assembly and School Board through the budget documents provided. He said the majority of the budget was based on staff salaries. The district has broken out the budget into defining mandatory items and prioritization of additional needs based on the funding level received. Mr. Miller said cuts must be made with a scalpel, not a chainsaw, and they have to be kept away from the classroom, so the kids do not see the cuts if possible. What you teach, how you teach, and how to provide support are the basic elements of how to view an approach to education. He reviewed a list of prioritized spending, including low class sizes, technology refreshing, instructional coaching, on-line learning, and the top priorities included getting more teachers into the classroom.

Mr. Miller explained that no current sports team has borrowed funds from the school district and he explained past borrowing that had some teams owing funds back to the district and the practice has ended of allowing teams to borrow funds. The current teams owe the fund for previous teams and they are not being supported for travel, so this has been very difficult for the teams.

Mr. Means said the request from the school district to CBJ for funding was $25 million. For funding beyond the cap the district may request funds for the school lunch program, however, the board has not had significant discussion on this yet.

Mr. Kiehl asked how the CBJ's contribution of the use of the Law Department's services was viewed in the budget and Mr. Means said it would be seen as in kind contributions and be under the cap.

Mr. Jones asked what funding was available for grants for early education and outside of the K-12 funding formula. Mr. Means explained the line item in the budget "other funds," which included grants, including the art grant, and he explained reductions in other state programs outside of the base allocation such as Alaska Pre-K funds of $400,000 for Juneau that was not in the governor's budget as before.

Mr. Holst said he appreciated the questions and knew that some were interested in providing maximum funding to the school. There are some items in the budget that a reasonable case could be made to be funded outside of the cap and the Board would be very pleased to get that assistance. There was a discussion about preschool and whether or not it was within or outside of the cap. Mr. Mackey talked about a method of looking at the budget in which the school focuses on K-12 education and other programs that have been offered in the school for efficiency of delivery may be able to continue with funding from outside of the cap. There was a discussion about the cost and difficulty to provide Career Training Education (the school building program) because there is a lower pupil to teacher ratios (PTR). There has not been a significant return on the sale of the home to refund the cost of the teacher.

Mr. Holst thanked the Assembly for the strong support of education. Mayor Becker thanked the board members for their presence at this meeting.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Potential Land Acquisition of 3101 Nowell Ave.

MOTION, by Kiehl, to recess into executive session, the immediate knowledge of which may have a detrimental affect on the finances of the City and Borough of Juneau - namely, the potential to aquire land at 3101 Nowell Avenue.

Hearing no objection, the Assembly recessed into executive session at 7:55 p.m. and returned to regular session at 8:20 p.m.

Mr. Kiehl said that during executive session, the Assembly provided direction to staff regarding the matter noticed on the agenda.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Assembly, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Signed:__________________________
Laurie Sica, Municipal Clerk

Signed:______________________________
Mary E. Becker, Mayor