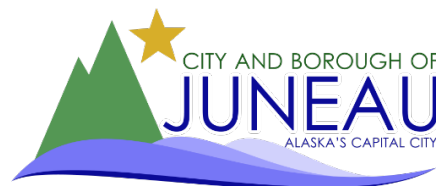


SPECIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING 2025-08 MINUTES

April 30, 2025 at 5:30 PM

Assembly Chambers/Zoom Webinar



<https://juneau.zoom.us/j/93917915176> or 1-253-215-8782 Webinar ID: 939 1791 5176

[Immediately followed by Assembly Finance Committee Meeting]

A. CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Weldon called the Special Assembly Meeting No. 2025-08 to order in the Assembly Chambers and via Zoom at 5:32 p.m.

B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – Read by Assemblymember Steininger

We would like to acknowledge that the City & 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: Mayor Beth Weldon, Deputy Mayor Greg Smith, Wade Bryson, Alicia Hughes-Skandijs (Zoom), Christine Woll (Zoom), Paul Kelly (Zoom), Ella Adkison, Neil Steininger, and Maureen Hall

Assemblymembers Absent: None

Staff Present: City Manager Katie Koester, Deputy Manager Robert Barr, City Attorney Emily Wright, Deputy Clerk Di Cathcart, Minutes/Tech Clerk Kevin Allen, Finance Director Angie Flick, Budget Manager Adrien Wendel, and Engineering/Public Works Director Denise Koch

D. MANAGER'S REQUEST FOR AGENDA CHANGES - None

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (Limited to no more than 20 minutes, with each speaker limited to a length of time set by the Mayor not to exceed three minutes.)

Nathan Reddekopp, Mendenhall Valley resident, stated his main concern was if the Mill Rate goes up it would hurt the younger generation coming up in the workforce. CBJ wages are not comparable to sustaining a good workforce and have not kept up with workforce labor and inflation in general. While he appreciated CBJ (and works for CBJ) he was worried that CBJ won't get qualified people applying for or accepting positions in the future.

F. CONSENT AGENDA

Public Request for Consent Agenda Changes, Other than Ordinances for Introduction - None

Assembly Request for Consent Agenda Changes - None

Assembly Action

MOTION: by Deputy Mayor Smith to approve the consent agenda as presented and asked for unanimous consent. **Hearing no objection, motion passed.**

I. Ordinances for Introduction

1. Ordinance 2025-24 An Ordinance Providing for the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Bonds in One or More Series to Provide Not to Exceed \$22,750,000 in Net Proceeds; and Providing for the Form and Terms of the Bonds and for Unlimited Tax Levies to Pay the Bonds.

This ordinance authorizes the sale of \$22.75 million of general obligation bonds as authorized by voters in the October 1, 2024 municipal election. Per the authorizing ballot measure, \$12.75 million of bond funds will be used for the improvement of public safety communication infrastructure, including, but

not limited to, replacing the outdated communication system with a system that will be Alaska Land Mobile Radio compliant. \$10 million of bond funds will be used for the replacement of the wastewater clarifier building at the Juneau Douglas Treatment Plant that services Thane, Downtown, and Douglas. The bonds will be fully repaid within ten years at an expected annual cost of approximately \$12,750,000 million and \$10,000,000 million for the public safety communication infrastructure and wastewater clarifier building bonds, respectively. Issuance of these bonds will not increase the debt service mill rate from its current level.

The City Manager recommends this ordinance be introduced and set for public hearing at the next regular Assembly meeting.

2. Ordinance 2025-01(b)(A) An Ordinance Appropriating \$12,750,000 to the Manager for the Public Safety Communication Infrastructure Capital Improvement Project; Funding Provided by General Obligation Bond Proceeds.

This ordinance would appropriate \$12.75 million of general obligation bond proceeds for the Public Safety Communication Infrastructure Capital Improvement Project. This project would provide for the acquisition and installation of a replacement radio communication system. This is an FY26 appropriation to align with the timing of bond issuance.

This appropriation of project funding is consistent with the intent of the \$12.75 million general obligation bond package approved by voters in the October 1, 2024 municipal election.

The City Manager recommends this ordinance be introduced and set for public hearing at the next regular Assembly meeting.

G. PUBLIC HEARING

3. Ordinance 2025-03 An Ordinance Establishing the Rate of Levy for Property Taxes for Calendar Year 2025 Based Upon the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026.

This ordinance establishes the mill rates for property taxes for 2025, which funds a significant portion of the City and Borough of Juneau's FY26 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 FY26 Revised Budget that will be reviewed 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 FY26, the operating mill rate is proposed to increase 0.15 mills for a total proposed mill levy of 10.19 mills, the components of which are:

FY2026 Proposed Mill Rate

Areawide: 6.35 (an increase of 0.15 from FY25 Adopted)

Roaded Service Area: 2.45 (flat from FY25 Adopted)

Fire Service Area: 0.31 (flat from FY25 Adopted)

Debt Service: 1.08 (flat from FY25 Adopted)

Total FY26 Proposed Mill Rate: 10.19 (an increase of 0.15 from FY25 Adopted)

An opportunity for public comment on the proposed mill rate will be provided during the Special Assembly meeting on April 30, 2025.

The City Manager recommends holding the charter required public hearing for this ordinance, followed by referral back to the Assembly Finance Committee for further review.

Public Comment

None

Assembly Action

MOTION: by Ms. Adkison to move *Ordinance 2025-03 An Ordinance Establishing the Rate of Levy for Property Taxes for Calendar Year 2025 Based Upon the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2026* back to the Assembly Finance Committee for further review and asked for unanimous consent. **Hearing no objection, motion passed.**

4. Ordinance 2025-02 An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the Treasury for FY26 School District Operations.

This ordinance will appropriate to the School District an FY26 operating budget of \$94,977,500. This is an overall increase in the budget of \$9,580,100 from the FY25 Amended Budget. The FY26 school budget is supported with a combination of funding sources including CBJ local funding of \$37,044,700 and state and federal funding of \$49,011,800. The local funding consists of \$35,004,700 for general operations and \$2,040,000 for programs and activities not subject to the state funding cap.

State statute requires the Assembly to determine the total amount of local educational funding support to be provided and provide notification of the support to the School Board within 30 days of the School District's budget submission. To meet this timing provision, it is necessary for the Assembly to determine the amount of funding and provide notice in the month of April. This amount cannot subsequently be reduced, unless the amount exceeds the State funding cap, but it can be increased. If the Assembly does not set the amount and furnish the School Board with notice within 30 days, the amount requested by the School District is automatically approved. By Charter, the Assembly is required to appropriate the School District's budget no later than May 31, 2025.

On April 30, 2025, a meeting is scheduled for the Assembly to state, by motion, the amount of local funding to be provided to the School District.

The City Manager recommends holding the charter required public hearing for this ordinance, followed by a motion to set the amount of minimum local funding to be provided to the school district, and then referral of the ordinance back to the Assembly Finance Committee for additional review.

Public Comment

None

Assembly Action

MOTION: by Mr. Bryson to set the amount of local funding to the School District operations at \$35,004,700 which is funding to the cap for *Ordinance 2025-02 An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the Treasury for FY26 School District Operations* and refer the ordinance back to the Assembly Finance Committee for further review and asked for unanimous consent. **Hearing no objection, motion passed.**

5. Ordinance 2025-01 An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the Treasury for FY26 City and Borough Operations.

This ordinance appropriates \$536,715,800 in expenditure authority for the City and Borough of Juneau's FY26 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 \$517,079,600 of forecast revenue and transfers-in and decreases fund balances across all funds, by \$19,636,200. The forecast revenue and draw from fund balance are sufficient to fund the budgeted expenditures. Budgeted expenditures and revenues will be reviewed in detail with the Finance Committee during the budget process in April and May.

The Charter requires that a public hearing be held on the FY26 operating budget by May 1, 2025, and the ordinance be adopted by June 15, 2025.

The City Manager recommends holding the charter required public hearing for this ordinance, followed by referral back to the Assembly Finance Committee for further review.

Public Comment

None

Assembly Action

MOTION: by Mr. Steininger to move *Ordinance 2025-01 An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the Treasury for FY26 City and Borough Operations* back to the Assembly Finance Committee for further review and asked for unanimous consent. ***Hearing no objections, motion passed.***

6. Resolution 3090 A Resolution Adopting the City and Borough Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2026 through 2031 and Establishing the Capital Improvement Project Priorities for Fiscal Year 2026.

This resolution would adopt the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2026 through 2031, as required by Charter Section 9.4, and lists the capital projects that will be initially appropriated by ordinance in FY26.

The Public Works and Facilities Committee reviewed the preliminary CIP at its March 17, 2025 meeting and forwarded the plan to the Assembly.

The City Manager recommends holding the charter required public hearing for this resolution, followed by referral back to the Assembly Finance Committee for further review.

Public Comment

None

Assembly Action

MOTION: by Ms. Hall to move *Resolution 3090 A Resolution Adopting the City and Borough Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2026 through 2031 and Establishing the Capital Improvement Project Priorities for Fiscal Year 2026* back to the Assembly Finance Committee for further review and asked for unanimous consent. ***Hearing no objection, motion passed.***

H. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS - None

I. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Assembly, the special meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Signed: _____

Diane Cathcart, Deputy Municipal Clerk

Signed: _____

Beth Weldon, Mayor