



SPECIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING 2026-09 MINUTES

April 29, 2026 at 5:30 PM

Assembly Chambers/Zoom Webinar

A. CALL TO ORDER

MEETING NO. 2026-09: The Special Assembly Meeting of the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly was called to order at 5:36 p.m. by Mayor Weldon. The meeting was conducted as a hybrid format, allowing for both in-person attendance and virtual participation.

Opening Remarks: Mayor Weldon welcomed attendees, acknowledged the birthday of Patti Sanford, wife of former Mayor Merrill Sanford, and outlined the public testimony process for the FY27 budget, noting all testimony would be taken at the beginning of the meeting due to attendance.

B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT – Led by Ms. Hall

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: Mayor Beth Weldon; Deputy Mayor Smith (*via Zoom*); Assemblymembers Alicia Hughes-Skandijs, Christine Woll (*via Zoom*), Paul R. Kelly (*via Zoom*), Ella Adkison, Neil Steininger, Maureen Hall, and Nathaniel (Nano) Brooks.

Assemblymembers Absent: None

Staff Present: City Manager Katie Koester; Deputy City Manager Robert Barr; Municipal Clerk Breckan Hendricks; and Meeting Tech Kevin Allen.

D. MANAGER'S REQUEST FOR AGENDA CHANGES/APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA - 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.) The public may participate in person or via Zoom webinar. Testimony time will be limited by the Mayor based on the number of participants.

Conor Sullivan, Valley resident, spoke in support of funding Juneau's public pools, citing their importance for water safety, recreation, and community programs.

Brock Tabor, Downtown resident, expressed concern that proposed budget reductions could negatively affect community livability and encouraged the Assembly to consider additional revenue options.

Tom Williams, Auke Bay resident, opposed proposed reductions affecting youth recreation facilities, including pools, the ice rink, and the field house, arguing that the CBJ has sufficient financial resources and should prioritize those services.

Anabelle Sullivan, Valley resident, spoke in support of funding both public pools, citing their importance for youth recreation, swimming programs, and community access to year-round physical activity.

Ed Schoenfeld, Douglas resident, spoke in support of continued funding for the Juneau-Douglas City Museum and expressed concern that proposed reductions affecting Douglas facilities, including the Treadwell Ice Arena and Mt. Jumbo Gym, would be disproportionate.

Joanna Forst, Valley resident, spoke in opposition to proposed reductions affecting parks and recreation services and urged the Assembly to prioritize transparency, community engagement, and core family services during the budget process.

Eric Shook, Auke Bay resident, spoke in support of continued funding for the public pools and field house, citing their importance for recreation, health, education, and local businesses.

KC Kregar, North Douglas resident, expressed concerns about CBJ management decisions and spending, including Eaglecrest-related projects, and opposed reductions to recreational facilities, urging greater public accountability and engagement.

Bob Foy, Auke Bay resident, spoke in support of maintaining CBJ pools, citing public health, drowning prevention, and community programming benefits, and noted their economic and safety value.

Renae Nemec, Mendenhall Valley resident, spoke in opposition to proposed reductions affecting community services, particularly pools, and urged the Assembly to align budget decisions with community priorities identified in the budget survey.

Zack Ritter, Valley resident, spoke in support of Eaglecrest and youth recreation programs, emphasizing their importance to community, safety, and youth opportunities.

Bob Janes, Mountainside resident, expressed general support for the Assembly and appreciation for Juneau's community and opportunities, noting his personal and professional ties to residents who choose to live and stay in Juneau.

Niamh Dardis, Douglas resident, urged continued funding and full operations for Treadwell Ice Arena, citing its importance to the Juneau Skating Club and broader community recreation opportunities.

Shawn Eisele, Downtown resident, expressed support for maintaining public ownership of Eaglecrest and opposed privatization, emphasizing its role in community recreation and accessibility.

Lia Domke, Auke Bay resident, spoke in opposition to proposed reductions to CBJ recreational and cultural facilities, citing their importance to community livability, youth development, and data-driven decision-making.

Terri Lauterbach spoke in support of maintaining both public pools and urged consideration of alternative budget priorities or cost-saving measures to preserve existing recreation facilities.

Kelly Cates, Douglas resident and Capital City Soccer League representative, spoke in support of continued investment in the Field House, citing high usage, capacity constraints, and its role in youth, adult, and public recreation programs.

Daniel Wiersma, Auke Bay resident and Aukeman Triathlon race director, spoke in support of continued pool funding, citing their importance for lifeguard training, triathlon programming, and youth development.

Ren Scott, Valley resident, spoke in support of Parks and Recreation facilities, including pools and the Field House, citing their importance to community affordability and quality of life.

Cheryl Fellman, Downtown resident, urged caution on proposed cuts to major recreational facilities, stating they are essential to community livability and retention.

Emily Treston, Auke Bay resident, opposed closing a pool, citing impacts to swim training, youth development, and access to water safety programming.

Elysia Aldrich, Valley resident, opposed closing pools, citing impacts on military families, youth programs, safety training, and swim competition opportunities.

Kaden Aldrich, Valley resident, spoke in opposition to closing pools, citing their importance for youth development, consistency during life transitions, and community health and recreation access.

Kirk Smith, Valley resident, spoke in support of preserving the Juneau-Douglas City Museum, citing its role in community memory and visitor education.

Janet McAllister, Douglas resident, spoke in support of preserving the Juneau-Douglas City Museum, emphasizing its importance to community memory.

Daemon Vargas, Douglas resident, spoke in support of continued pool funding, citing their role in youth programs, after-school activities, and competitive swimming opportunities.

Keagan Andrews, Valley resident, spoke in opposition to closing pools, citing impacts on youth recreation, public health, and community access.

Ellen Johnston, Valley resident, spoke in support of maintaining multiple pools, citing high

demand, program capacity limits, and broad community use.

Mary Ann Tweedie, Valley resident, spoke in opposition to reducing recreational services, citing the benefits of swimming for youth development, safety, and community well-being.

Malcolm Davidson, Valley resident, spoke in opposition to closing pools, citing broad community usage and concerns about capacity if facilities are reduced.

Wren Dihle, Auke Bay resident, spoke in support of maintaining the Field House and pools, citing their importance for youth sports, health, and community recreation.

Mary Catharine Martin, resident and parent, urged continued funding for pools and the Field House, citing their importance to families, youth recreation, and community livability.

Abby Jahn, cross-country coach and resident, supported maintaining CBJ recreational facilities, citing the need for adequate space for youth sports and warning that further reductions would limit access and opportunities for community recreation.

Barb Lindh, resident, spoke in support of Eaglecrest, emphasizing its long-standing role as Juneau's primary winter recreation facility and its importance to local ski culture and outdoor recreation.

Brooks Horan, resident, supported Eaglecrest and continued recreation funding, citing its importance to attracting families and young adults to Juneau and suggesting seasonal sales tax adjustments as a revenue option.

April Renzendes, resident and parent, emphasized the importance of pools and recreation facilities for mental health, family life, and community connection, expressing concern that privatization would reduce accessibility due to cost and limited availability.

Ron Somerville, resident, commented on CBJ budgeting and fiscal management, urging the Assembly to rebuild public trust and consider operational efficiencies rather than eliminating public facilities.

Giselle Miller, resident and parent, supported maintaining both pools, citing lifelong personal use and current family use, and emphasizing their importance for recreation, health, and quality of life.

Acacia Forbes, resident, urged maintaining pool access, citing friendship, exercise, and the importance of recreation spaces for youth health, development, and opportunity.

The Assembly took an at-ease from 7:04 p.m. to 7:14 p.m.

Patricia Young, Valley resident, supported continued funding for the Juneau-Douglas City Museum, citing its role in preserving local history and providing an accessible cultural experience for visitors.

Carol Bookless, Douglas resident, criticized Assembly spending priorities and argued that recent ballot measures and capital projects should be reconsidered to address the budget shortfall without reducing services.

Mona Stevick, Valley resident and museum volunteer, supported preserving the Juneau-Douglas City Museum, highlighting the historic significance of its building and its role in protecting Juneau's cultural heritage.

Savona Kiessling, Montana Creek resident and swim coach, urged keeping both public pools open, citing high demand, youth development, and the importance of aquatic programs for schools and the community.

Carlos Cadiente, Downtown resident, called for closer scrutiny of capital and public safety spending, questioning the cost of the radio communications project and requesting greater accountability in public safety systems.

Rebecca Freeman, resident and disability support worker, supported maintaining recreation facilities, emphasizing their importance for health, inclusion, and accessible year-round opportunities for all ages.

Linda Kruger, West Juneau resident and instructor, supported preserving community facilities including pools, field house, museum, and library, citing their role in health, rehabilitation, and social connection.

Elizabeth Brennell, North Douglas resident, teacher, and swimmer, supported keeping both pools open, emphasizing the importance of school swim programs and the life-saving value of aquatic instruction.

Laury Scandling, longtime resident, supported preserving the City Museum, citing its historical collections, volunteer contributions, and importance in preserving Juneau's heritage.

John Wendel, Valley resident, urged reduction of Eaglecrest subsidies, arguing funds should prioritize more accessible and affordable recreational services.

Kris Benson, Downtown resident, urged prioritizing revenue increases over cuts and warned against closing Augustus Brown Pool and reducing funding to the Arboretum.

Chris Mertl, former Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee chair, emphasized the importance of maintaining recreation facilities and called for balanced solutions instead of service cuts.

Ryan Savine, EMS professional, supported funding for pools, citing drowning prevention, equitable access to swim lessons, and broad health benefits.

Jim Stey, Downtown resident, urged keeping Augustus Brown Pool open and called for shared, balanced approaches to addressing the budget shortfall.

Cindy Garcia, Juneau Soccer Club board member, advocated for continued funding for the Field House and recreation facilities supporting youth sports and winter access.

Dave Hanna, resident, urged delaying cuts and exploring alternative revenues and efficiencies before reducing services.

Noah Klein, resident and soccer club board member, supported maintaining recreation facilities and emphasized the Field House's accessibility and youth programming value.

Otto Klein, youth soccer player, urged keeping the Field House open to preserve access to sports and recreation for kids.

Jill Still, parent, emphasized the importance of recreation facilities for families and urged avoiding repeated service cuts over time.

The Assembly took an at-ease from 7:58 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Tracy Morrison, Valley resident, urged reinstating the Aquatics Board and restoring dedicated community oversight of Juneau's public pools.

David Morris, Valley resident, emphasized the pools' medical, educational, and rehabilitative value and urged continued support for aquatic facilities.

Rochele Rodman, Douglas resident, advocated for maintaining recreation facilities and prioritizing services that support youth physical and mental health.

Erin Youngstrom, Valley resident, supported continued funding for pools, Eaglecrest, the Arboretum, arts programs, the museum, and the Field House.

Stahly Sheehan, North Douglas resident, urged preservation of the Treadwell Ice Arena, citing its importance to youth hockey and community development.

Avery Smith, Valley resident and lifeguard, opposed reducing pool access and emphasized impacts on youth swim programs and community sports.

Katie Bausler, Douglas resident, supported funding for Eaglecrest, highlighting its broad community value and role in youth and family life.

Annie Bartholomew, Auke Bay resident, supported arts and culture funding and individual artist grants, citing their long-term economic and cultural benefits.

Sen. Jesse Bjorkman, Alaska State Senator, presented state legislation aimed at stabilizing property tax assessments and school funding contributions.

Nancy Mead, Anchorage resident, supported continued funding for recreation facilities, citing benefits for public health, social connection, and reducing negative behaviors.

Michael Reidier, out-of-area resident, supported public pools and Field House, urged careful evaluation of facility usage and avoidance of broad service cuts.

Dixie Clough, Anchorage resident and Museums Alaska director, urged continued funding for the museum and Arboretum and noted legal and ethical constraints on closing museums.

Kim Metcalfe, Juneau resident, proposed cruise ship naming rights sponsorships for city facilities and cautioned against selling key downtown parking assets.

The Assembly took an at-ease from 8:33 p.m. to 8:39 p.m.

F. CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Public Request for Consent Agenda Changes Other Than Ordinances for Introduction - None**
- 2. Assembly Request for Consent Agenda Changes - None**
- 3. Assembly Action**

MOTION by Ms. Hughes-Skandijs to adopt the Consent Agenda and asked for unanimous consent. ***Hearing no objection, the Consent Agenda was adopted.***

A) Ordinances for Introduction

- 1) Ordinance 2026-18 An Ordinance Authorizing the Manager to Enter Negotiations to Terminate the Revised Revenue Sharing Agreement Authorized by Ordinance 2023-08.**

This ordinance authorizes the City Manager to terminate the Revised Revenue Sharing Agreement (RSA) with Goldbelt, Inc., related to the gondola project at Eaglecrest Ski Area.

The project is not feasible to complete with public funds due to significant cost increases. Under the terms of the RSA, the City and Borough may terminate the agreement, provided that notice is given and the \$10 million capital contribution, along with just short of three years of interest at 7%, is repaid in accordance with the agreement.

At the [April 1, 2026, Assembly Finance Committee meeting](#), direction was given

to terminate the RSA. The Assembly Committee of the Whole reviewed this ordinance at its [April 13, 2026, meeting](#) and forwarded it for introduction.

The City Manager recommends this ordinance be introduced, set for public hearing at the next regular Assembly meeting, and forwarded to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

- 2) Ordinance 2025-01(b)(AL) An Ordinance Appropriating up to \$12,200,000 to the Manager to Repay Goldbelt, Inc. for the Installation and Associated Infrastructure of a Gondola at the Eaglecrest Ski Area, and Deappropriating \$2,700,000 from the Manager for the Eaglecrest Gondola Capital Improvement Project; Funding Provided by General Funds and Goldbelt, Inc. Investment Funds.**

Ordinance 2026-18, introduced on April 29, 2026, would authorize the City Manager to terminate the revised revenue sharing agreement between the City and Borough of Juneau and Goldbelt, Inc. As part of the termination, CBJ is required to repay Goldbelt's \$10 million investment plus interest. This ordinance appropriates up to \$12.2 million for Goldbelt's repayment. Funding is provided by the following sources: \$2.7 million in deappropriated funds from the Eaglecrest Gondola CIP and \$9.5 million in unrestricted general funds.

The City Manager recommends this ordinance be introduced, set for public hearing at the next regular Assembly meeting, and forwarded to the Committee of the Whole for further discussion.

G. PUBLIC HEARING

- 1. Ordinance 2026-03 An Ordinance Establishing the Rate of Levy for Property Taxes for Calendar Year 2026 Based Upon the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2027.**

This ordinance establishes the mill rates for property taxes for 2026, which funds a significant portion of the City and Borough of Juneau's FY27 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 FY27 Proposed 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 FY27, the operating mill rate is proposed to decrease 0.32 mills for a total proposed mill levy of 9.92 mills, the components of which are:

FY2027 Proposed Mill Rate

Areawide: 6.24 (a decrease of 0.16 from FY26 Adopted)

Roaded Service Area: 2.45 (flat from FY26 Adopted)

Fire Service Area: 0.31 (flat from FY26 Adopted)

Debt Service: 0.92 (a decrease of 0.16 from FY26 Adopted)

Total FY27 Proposed Mill Rate: 9.92 (a decrease of 0.32 from FY26 Adopted)

The Systemic Racism Review Committee reviewed this ordinance at its [April 7, 2026, meeting](#). An opportunity for public comment on the proposed mill rate will be provided during the Special Assembly meeting on April 29, 2026.

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. Brooks to refer Ordinance 2026-03 to the Assembly Finance Committee and asked for unanimous consent. *Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted by unanimous consent.*

2. Ordinance 2026-01 An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the Treasury for FY27 City and Borough Operations

This ordinance appropriates \$551,169,100 in expenditure authority for the City and Borough of Juneau's FY27 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 \$527,511,000 of forecast revenue and transfers-in and decreases fund balances, across all funds, by \$23,658,100. 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 Systemic Racism Review Committee reviewed this ordinance at its [April 7, 2026, meeting](#). The Charter requires that a public hearing be held on the FY27 operating budget by May 1, 2026, and the ordinance be adopted by June 15, 2026.

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 refer Ordinance 2026-01 to the Assembly Finance Committee and

asked for unanimous consent. ***Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted by unanimous consent.***

3. Ordinance 2026-02 An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the Treasury for FY27 School District Operations.

This ordinance will appropriate to the School District an FY27 operating budget of \$97,248,400. This is an overall increase in the budget of \$3,079,700 from the FY26 Amended Budget. The FY27 school budget is supported with a combination of funding sources including CBJ local funding of \$37,910,900 state and federal funding of \$47,554,500. The local funding consists of \$35,801,900 for general operations and \$2,109,000 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, 2026.

The Systemic Racism Review Committee reviewed this ordinance at its [April 7, 2026, meeting](#). On April 29, 2026, 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 Ms. Woll to set the amount of local funding for school district operations at \$35,801,900, the cap for Ordinance 2026-02, an ordinance appropriating funds from the Treasury for FY27 School District Operations and refer the ordinance back to the Assembly Finance Committee for further review and asked for unanimous consent. ***Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted by unanimous consent.***

4. Resolution 4044 A Resolution Adopting the City and Borough of Juneau Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2027 through 2032, and

Establishing the Capital Improvement Project Priorities for Fiscal Year 2027.

This resolution would adopt the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2027 through 2032, as required by Charter Section 9.4, and lists the capital projects that will be initially appropriated by ordinance in FY27.

The Public Works and Facilities Committee reviewed the draft CIP at its [March 16, 2026 meeting](#). The Systemic Racism Review Committee reviewed this resolution at its [April 7, 2026, meeting](#).

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 Mr. Steininger to refer Resolution 4044 to the Assembly Finance Committee and asked for unanimous consent. ***Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted by unanimous consent.***

5. Resolution 4040 A Resolution Reserving up to \$2,307,100 of the Restricted Budget Reserve for the Eaglecrest FY27 Budget Deficit.

During the FY26 biennial budget cycle, the Assembly took action to reserve funds in the Restricted Budget Reserve to cover Eaglecrest's operational deficit, as required per Charter. This resolution reserves \$2,307,100 for the Eaglecrest FY27 budget deficit. These funds will remain in the Restricted Budget Reserve until either the deficit is resolved through positive operations (repayment of the deficit) or until the Assembly determines the deficit will never be resolved and the reserve pays off the deficit. Combined with the FY26 reserved amount, the total reserved balance of the Restricted Budget Reserve for Eaglecrest operations would amount to \$5,352,900 upon adoption of this resolution.

The Systemic Racism Review Committee reviewed this resolution at its [April 7, 2026, meeting](#).

The City Manager recommends the Assembly take public testimony 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 refer Resolution 4040 to the Assembly Finance Committee for further review and asked for unanimous consent. ***Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted by unanimous consent.***

H. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

I. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

J. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Assembly, the meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Signed: _____

Breckan L. Hendricks,
Municipal Clerk

Signed: _____

Beth A. Weldon,
Mayor