

City and Borough of Juneau
Minutes - Assembly Finance Committee Meeting
Zoom Webinar & Facebook Live Stream
Thursday, July 23, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

The AFC meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM by Loren Jones, Chair.

II. ROLL CALL

Committee Members Participating Virtually: Mayor Beth Weldon; Loren Jones, Chair; Carole Triem, Alicia Hughes-Skandijs, Wade Bryson, Michelle Bonnet Hale, Marie Gladziszewski, Greg Smith

Committee Members Absent: Rob Edwardson

Staff Present Virtually: Mila Cosgrove, Deputy City Manager; Jeff Rogers, Finance Director; Adrien Speegle, Budget Analyst; Rob Palmer, City Attorney; Katie Koester, Public Works and Engineering Director

Others Present Virtually: Linda Thomas, Economic Stabilization Task Force (ESTF) Co-Chair, Amy Skilbred, Executive Director, Juneau Community Foundation

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. The July 8, 2020 minutes were approved as presented.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

- a. **Ordinance 2020-40: An Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of General Obligation Bonds in the Principal Amount of Not to Exceed \$15,000,000 to Finance Capital Improvements to the Facilities of the City and Borough, and Submitting a Proposition or Propositions to the Voters at the Election to Be Held on October 6, 2020.**

Mr. Rogers, Finance Director, presented Ordinance 2020-40, explaining that it was introduced at a Special Assembly meeting on July 20th and held for discussion in the Assembly Finance Committee today. It is up to the Assembly how they would like to move this ordinance forward.

Mayor Weldon proposed removing the West Douglas Pioneer Road extension project from the bond package, and instead asked the Committee to consider a \$5 million bond for streets, infrastructure, and building maintenance, which would include energy efficiency projects. Mayor Weldon noted that her reasoning for this proposal is that it's less controversial than the West Douglas road extension project. Furthermore, she believes it would better stimulate the economy, as a variety of smaller projects gets a broader range of workers back

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to work than one big road construction project would. Mayor Weldon asked Ms. Koester to speak further to this proposal.

Ms. Koester, Public Works and Engineering Director, provided details about street, building maintenance, and energy efficiency projects that could be included in the bond project list.

The Committee discussed options for the bond package.

Mr. Palmer, City Attorney, responded to committee questions.

Mr. Rogers responded to committee questions about the debt service mill levy. He noted that if CBJ takes on additional debt, the debt service mill levy will increase unless the Assembly takes action to subsidize the near-term cost with general funds.

Motion: by Mayor Weldon to move version (b) of bond package Ordinance 2020-40, which would include critical repairs to schools including roofs, repairs and capital improvements to municipal parks and infrastructure and recreation facilities, and street and infrastructure repair and energy efficiency building maintenance projects, to the Assembly for public hearing on August 3rd.

Mr. Rogers recommended the Committee consider changing the term of the bond from 20 to 25 years in version (b) of the ordinance, as 25 years was the term used to calculate the annual debt service payment required.

Amendment: by Mayor Weldon to change the bond term from 20 to 25 years in version (b) of the ordinance.

No objection, motion passed unanimously.

- b. Ordinance 2020-36: An Ordinance Appropriating up to \$3,000,000 to the Manager for a COVID-19 Nonprofit Sustainability Grant Program, Funding Provided by the CARES Act Special Revenue Fund.**

Chair Jones stated that this ordinance is before the Assembly Finance Committee to entertain any committee comments or questions on this topic before it goes to public hearing.

Ms. Skilbred, Juneau Community Foundation Executive Director, Ms. Thomas, ESTF Co-Chair, and Mr. Palmer responded to committee questions.

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Chair Jones requested Ms. Skilbred and Ms. Thomas provide the Committee with statistics on non-profit organizations based on annual revenue to determine how many non-profits may be eligible for each tranche of grant funding.

Chair Jones stated that no additional action is needed on this agenda item at this time, unless there are amendments to the ordinance. The ordinance is up for public hearing at the August 3rd Regular Assembly meeting.

V. NEXT MEETING DATE

- a. Wednesday, August 5th, 2020

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57 PM.