

City and Borough of Juneau
Minutes - Assembly Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 12, 2019, 5:30 PM

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Loren Jones, Chair.

II. Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Alicia Hughes-Skandijs, Wade Bryson, Carole Triem, Mary Becker, Loren Jones, Chair; Maria Gladziszewski, Michelle Bonnet Hale, Rob Edwardson and Mayor Beth Weldon.

Committee Members Participating Telephonically: None.

Committee Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Mila Cosgrove, Deputy City Manager; Bob Bartholomew, Finance Director; Jeff Rogers, Finance Director; Patty Wahto, Airport Manager; Dallas Hargrave, Human Resources Director; John Bohan, Engineer; Autumn Sapp, Engineering Business Manager; Robert Barr, Library Director; Sam Muse, Controller; Angelica Lopez-Campos, Accountant; and Elisabeth Jensen, Budget Analyst.

Others Present: David Epstein, Chair, Airport Board; Angela Rodell, Secretary, Airport Board; Leon Vance, Chair, Utility Advisory Board (UAB); and Geoffrey Larson, Vice-Chair, Utility Advisory Board (UAB).

III. Approval of Minutes

N/A

*Clerk's Note – Change to Order of the Day – New agenda item Added: **Recognition of Bob Bartholomew during this, his last AFC meeting prior to his upcoming Retirement***

IV. Airport Terminal Project

A 1-page memo, dated 6/11/2019 from Patricia Wahto was distributed to the Assembly members as an in-meeting handout.

Bob Bartholomew, Finance Director, discussed the information found on pages 2 – 43 of the meeting packet. He outlined the current cost projection, methods to pay for the project, the current shortfall in the funding plan and the recommended action on the ordinances found in the packet.

The Assembly discussed the information.

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Mayor Weldon, moved to forward bond ordinances 2019-21 & 2019-22 to the full Assembly for adoption.
Without OBJECTION.

Mayor Weldon, moved to direct staff to draft and introduce an FY20 appropriating ordinance that authorizes the transfer of \$800,000 of airport fund balance to the North Terminal capital project.
Without OBJECTION.

Mayor Weldon, moved to direct staff to draft and introduce an FY20 appropriating ordinance that authorizes the transfer of \$300,000 of sales tax fund balance (prioritized as the funding source to be used as a last resort) to the North Terminal capital project.
Without OBJECTION.

The meeting recessed at 6:18 PM.

The meeting reconvened at 6:30 PM.

V. Utility Rates Part 2 Discussion (Follow-up to April 17, 2019, meeting.)

Jeff Rogers, Finance Director, discussed pages 44 – 58 of the meeting packet. The Assembly members asked discussed the issue, and questions of staff and representatives from the Utility Advisory Board.

Wade Bryson, moved to increase Water and Wastewater Utility System Rates in each of the next five years, the rates would be increased by 4% in the first year, effective January, 2020; and by 2% in each of the next four years, with the first 2% increase effective July, 2021.

Mary Becker, and Mayor Weldon, OBJECTED.
Mayor Weldon WITHDREW the OBJECTION.

Roll call votes:

Ayes: Triem, Bryson, Hale, Edwardson, Hughes-Skandijs, Gladziszewski, Jones, and Mayor Weldon.

Nays: Becker.

Absent: None.

Motion PASSED 8-1.

The meeting recessed at 7:20 PM.

The meeting reconvened at 7:27 PM.

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VI. Sustainable Budget Discussion

A 1-page graph was distributed to the Assembly members as an in-meeting handout.

Jeff Rogers, Finance Director, discussed the information in the in-meeting handout and on pages 59 – 60 of the meeting packet. He described the information as an attempt to pull together a view of the various requests the public would potentially like the Assembly to fund, totaling approximately \$50M in concert with an Operating budget that is unsustainable. He recommended the Assembly commit time and energy to reevaluating priorities and discuss whether they would return to a Priority Driven Budget exercise. The Assembly members discussed the topic.

VII. Information Item – Draft FTE Policy

Jeff Rogers, Finance Director, discussed page 61 of the meeting packet, essentially a policy paper documenting the unwritten policy followed by staff for some time. The Assembly members discussed the topic.

VIII. Staff Retirement Recognition – Bob Bartholomew, Finance Director

Chair Jones, and other Assembly members payed tribute to Bob Bartholomew who plans to retire from the City and Borough of Juneau in July. They thanked him for the tremendous job he has done and wished him well. They presented him with several parting cards and tokens of appreciation, including a custom cutting board created by the Woodworking Group at Thunder Mountain High School.



Figure 1 Chair Jones bids farewell to Bob Bartholomew



Figure 2 Mayor Weldon bids farewell to Bob Bartholomew

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IX. Executive Session

Employee Compensation Negotiations.

Carole Triem moved to recess and reconvene to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Employee Compensation Negotiation matters. There being no objection or public comment, it was so ordered that Executive Session would commence after a ten minute recess.

The meeting recessed at 8:05 PM.

The meeting reconvened at 8:18 PM.

The committee entered into Executive Session at 8:18 PM.

The committee returned from Executive Session at 8:40 PM.

Loren Jones reported that during the executive session the committee had discussed “contract negotiations” and the committee gave direction to staff.

Chair Jones asked if there was any other business. There was none.

The meeting was adjourned.

X. Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, August 21, 2019

XI. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM.