

City and Borough of Juneau
Minutes - Assembly Finance Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 18, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 PM by Jesse Kiehl, Chair.

II. Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Jesse Kiehl, Chair; Norton Gregory, Loren Jones, Rob Edwardson, and Mayor Ken Koelsch.

Committee Members Participating Telephonically: Mary Becker.

Committee Members Absent: Beth Weldon, Jerry Nankervis, and Maria Gladziszewski.

Staff Present: Rorie Watt, City Manager; Mila Cosgrove, Deputy City Manager; Bob Bartholomew, Finance Director; Kirk Duncan, Parks and Recreation Director; Lindsey Foster, Parks & Recreation; ; Dave Scanlan, Eaglecrest Manager; Scott Ciambor, Chief Housing Officer; Sam Muse, Controller; and Elisabeth Jensen, Budget Analyst.

Others Present: Liz Perry, President & CEO, Travel Juneau; Jennifer Adams, Juneau Center Director, Alaska Small Business Development Center; Brian Holst, Executive Director, Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC); Alec Mesdag, Chair, JEDC Board of Directors; Max Mertz, Chair, CBJ Aquatics Board.

III. Approval of Minutes

The April 11, 2018 minutes were approved as presented.

IV. Travel Juneau – Funding Request

Liz Perry, Director, Travel Juneau; presented the FY19 Proposed budget for Travel Juneau. Ms. Perry responded to questions from the committee.

Mayor Koelsch, moved to approve \$860,000, the Hotel Tax portion of the Travel Juneau budget as presented by the Manager, and place MPF funded portion of Travel Juneau FY19 Proposed budget as presented by the Manager in the amount of \$373,100, on the AFC's Pending List.

Without OBJECTION.

Minutes - Assembly Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 18, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

V. Alaska Small Business Development Center (SBDC) – Funding Request

Jennifer Adams, Director, SBDC; presented the FY19/20 budget request for SBDC, with no change to funding from FY18. Ms. Adams responded to questions from the committee.

Mayor Koelsch, moved to approve the SBDC budget as presented by the Manager.
Without OBJECTION.

VI. Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC) – Funding Request

Brian Holst, Executive Director, JEDC; and Alec Mesdag, Board Chair, JEDC; presented information regarding the JEDC FY19 Budget, with a request for base funding to increase from \$300,000 to \$325,000. They also outlined three options, totaling an additional request of \$165,000 in FY19.

The three additional options for the Assembly to consider include:

- 1.) \$25,000 – Invest in Juneau’s Entrepreneurial Capacity
- 2.) \$30,000 – Pursue Innovation in Ocean and Maritime Industry
- 3.) \$50,000 – Attract Talent to Juneau: Choose Juneau
- 4.) \$60,000 - Visitor Industry Growth

Mr. Holst and Mr. Mesdag responded to questions from the committee.

Loren Jones, moved to approve the JEDC FY19 Proposed budget as presented by the Manager, and place the additional \$25,000 base funding increment and four additional options for the FY19 Proposed budget in the amount of \$165,000, on the AFC’s Pending List.

Mr. Edwardson, initially objected, and then WITHDREW any objection.
Without OBJECTION.

The meeting recessed at 6:57 PM.

The meeting reconvened at 7:09 PM.

VII. Aquatics Board – FY19 Budget

Kirk Duncan, Parks and Recreation Director; and Max Mertz, Aquatics Board Chair; presented the FY19 Proposed budget and responded to questions from the committee along with Mr. Bartholomew.

Loren Jones, moved to approve the Aquatics FY19 Proposed budget as presented by the Manager.
Without OBJECTION.

Minutes - Assembly Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 18, 2018, 5:30 p.m.

VIII. Mental Health Trust – Sale of Public Safety Building and Property

Rorie Watt, City Manager, presented pages 38 – 121 of the meeting packet, mostly focusing on pages 38 – 39 featuring a memo containing his recommendations for the Assembly to proceed with the purchase of the property for the MHT's requested price of \$488,231 using a grant provided from the State of Alaska as the fund source.

Mr. Watt responded to questions from the committee.

No committee action was requested or taken.

IX. Marine Passenger Fee Recommendations – For Action

The item will be re-calendared allowing for remaining questions to be addressed on items such as TWIC, Litigation Fees, Restrooms South of Library Downtown and Wayfinding.

X. Property Tax Breaks for Economic Development

Bob Bartholomew, Finance Director; and Scott Ciambor, Chief Housing Officer; discussed pages 133 – 141 of the meeting packet, and did not ask for action to be made during the meeting – instead trying to explore options and get ahead of the curve before the public begins to request these types of incentives. Committee asked numerous questions and requested additional information on effectiveness of tax incentives.

XI. Info Item – Juneau Parks Foundation – Chris Mertl memo

Chris Mertl's email on page 142 of the meeting packet was briefly discussed and was accepted by Mayor Koelsch in lieu of Mr. Mertl's in-person testimony as had been requested by the Mayor during the AFC meeting of April 11, 2018 during the Juneau Community Foundation discussion.

XII. Info Item – AFC Meeting Schedule

The potential for changing the date of the May 2nd AFC meeting was discussed and will be followed up in the coming week.

XIII. Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, April 25, 2018, immediately following the Special Assembly meeting at 5:30 p.m.

XIV. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.