ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE
PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE
THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA
MINUTES

January 26, 2015 12:00 PM
Municipal Building - Assembly Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER

Members Present: Jerry Nankervis (Chair), Karen Crane, Mary Becker, Loren Jones

Other Assembly Members: Mayor Sanford, Jesse Kiehl

Planning Commission Representative: Dennis Watson

Staff Present: Rob Steedle, Deputy City Manager, Rorie Watt, John Bohan, Tina Brown, Rich Ritter, Ron King, Greg Smith, Bob Bartholomew, Samantha Stoughtenger, Hal Hart, Kirk Duncan, Ed Foster, Brent Fischer, Dave Crabtree

Meeting called to order at 12:00 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 29, 2014 - Regular Meeting

December 29, 2014 – Regular Meeting – Mr. Nankervis provided staff with suggestions for providing greater detail in the minutes of December 29, 2014. Hearing no further comment, the minutes were approved with corrections

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION on NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

IV. ITEMS FOR ACTION

A Transfer Request - Auke Lake Sewer

Mr. Bohan said that in order to close out the Auke Lake Sewer CIP, an additional $35,000 would be required. This amount ($25,000) in Sales Tax and ($10,000) in grant funds from the Pederson Hill Sewer project would be sufficient to finish work and close the project.

Ms. Becker asked if the transfer would make any difference to the Pederson Hill project. Mr. Bohan explained that the Pederson Hill project is complete. The funds requested for transfer will not impact the project.

Ms. Becker moved that a transfer of $35,000 from the U76-091 Pederson Hill Phase/West Mendenhall Sewer project to the U76-091 Auke Lake Sewer project be forwarded to the full Assembly for approval.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

B Transfer Request - Glacier Highway Fritz Cove Waterline Replacement

Mr. Bohan explained that we are piggybacking on the State Glacier Hwy project, Fritz Cove to Seaview. The waterline from the University entrance (the Chapel By the Lake Entrance as clarified by Mr. Bohan) to the old NOAA fish lab is old and in need of replacement. The waterline is small and with the growth of the water system and the University in the past 20 years and the City utilizing the University's (old) distribution system, it needs to be increased and replaced in order to become a distribution line instead of a small service line. We are requesting the funds now in anticipation of the State bidding this project this summer.

Ms. Crane asked if we know the status of any ADOT projects that might put the project on hold.

Mr. Watt at the request of the Chair, contacted Mr. Clough and asked for an update on ADOT projects. Because of his resignation we will have Mr. Carol on the February 9th PWFC.

Discussion Ensued.

Mr. Jones moved that a transfer of ($225,000) for the Glacier Highway Fritz Cove Waterline Replacement from the R72-051 Berners Ave. Reconstruction ($118,000) and R72-065 Tanner Terrace Reconstruction LID ($107,000) projects to the W75-048 Back Loop Auke Bay Waterline project be forwarded to the full Assembly for approval.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

A Engineering & Public Works Departments Merger

Mr. Watt said that many good things will come out of this merger. We are essentially going back to our roots. Mr. Watt explained that the departments were combined back in the 1980s, and then when the City experienced a lot of growth, the departments were separated to allow focus on the different programs people were trying to achieve. Mr. Watt said with one less department head you will be seeing less of Mr. Watt at the PWFC and more of Mr. Bohan and others from the merged department.

B Utility Merger

Mr. Watt said that similar to the merging of the departments, the utilities will be merged into one unit. Merging the utility will make operational sense as well as being more user friendly to the public. Mr. Watt briefly explained how the merged utility would operate and why it would be a better structure for CBJ and the customers.

Ms. Crane asked if there would be any staff savings with the utility merger.

Mr. Watt replied that he was unsure if a savings would be realized initially but eventually it would be possible to see efficiencies.

Mr. Watt said that CBJ is attempting to work on a new transit plan. There have been meetings with driver work groups. The meetings have gone well. We are hoping to have concepts for the transit plan finalized this spring. Mr. Watt went on to explain some of the other challenges that face the transit system and how it is difficult to solve all of the problems with small changes.

Mr. Watt discussed the Bio-solid topic, explaining that there is a sense of a lack of progress on garbage in general. Within the solid waste program we are working on an incremental plan, of the small things that can be done to improve diversion of garbage from the land fill that is essentially hazardous waste and recycling related. We will be bringing the proposed improvements to the PWFC soon.

Mr. Nankervis asked if staff had an update on the closing of the Public Works building behind the bus barn. It was considered a cost savings measure last year. He would like to have an update on that at some point.

Mr. Nankervis asked if there was any discussion about a partnership with the operators of the land fill in order to reduce the growth of the garbage mound.

Mr. Watt said that he would like to hold that topic until the next meeting.

C On-going Planning Contracts

Mr. Watt said that at the Assembly Retreat, it was asked if it was known what the city had in the way of planning contracts. A brief list of ongoing planning projects was provided in the packet. Mr. Watt explained that we did not list the Auke Bay plan because this work is furnished by Planning Commission staff. Their staff time comes out of the General Fund.

Mr. Jones asked for a list of funds sources for each project. Mr. Watt said that he could do that right now and went on to identify the funding source for each project.

Willoughby District Parking has a State grant for $65,000 and the Downtown Parking Management is sales tax.

Housing Action Plan is funded by “old” federal money.
Juneau Energy Plan is sales tax.
Airport Sustainability Master Plan is federal money.
Juneau Economic Development Plan is sales tax.
Transit Development Plan is funded by sales tax.

Ms. Becker asked if staff knew the cost for the Auke Bay Plan. Mr. Watt explained that it was funded by CDD staff which is paid out of the General Fund.

D Draft FY2016-2021 CIP

Mr. Bohan stated that we are providing the first glimpse of the Draft FY2016-2021 CIP to make it public and that it will be brought to the February 9th PWFC meeting to discuss and forward to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Jones asked if he could email staff his questions about the CIP since there were many. Mr. Jones also asked for clarification on projects in the CIP that had the same dollar amount but a different description. Mr. Jones asked if staff could name projects with the same title where possible. Mr. Watt said that staff would clean that up.

Ms. Crane asked if any bus shelters were constructed in the past year. Mr. Watt explained that staff were unsuccessful but that an agreement has been reached with ADOT to streamline the process of installing bus shelters. Mr. Watt said that information regarding a priority list could be provided next meeting.

Ms. Becker asked if a bus shelter would be built at the bottom of Crow Hill. Mr. Watt said that it was the largest hurdle with ADOT and that now it would be the top priority.

Discussion ensued.

VI. CONTRACTS DIVISION ACTIVITY REPORT

A December 19, 2014 through January 21, 2015

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Next meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2015.