

THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Meeting Minutes – June 10, 2013

MEETING NO. 2013-15: The Special Meeting of the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly, held in the Chambers of the Municipal Building, was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Merrill Sanford.

I. FLAG SALUTE

II. ROLL CALL

Assembly Present: Merrill Sanford, Mary Becker, Karen Crane, Loren Jones, Jesse Kiehl, Jerry Nankervis, Carlton Smith, Randy Wanamaker (teleconference), and Johan Dybdahl (joined via teleconference at 6:22p.m.)

Planning Commissioners Present: Mike Satre, Karen Lawfer, Jerry Medina, Dennis Watson, Ben Haight, Nathan Bishop

Planning Commissioners Absent: Dan Miller, Marsha Bennett, Nicole Grewe

Staff Present: City Manager Kim Kiefer, City Attorney John Hartle, Deputy Clerk Beth McEwen, Community Development (CDD) Director Hal Hart, CDD Planer II Eric Feldt, Public Works Director Kirk Duncan, Capital Transit Superintendent John Kern, Deputy City Attorney Jane Sebens, Assistant City Attorney Amy Mead, CDD Senior Planner Ben Lyman, CDD Senior Planner Beth McKibben

III. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Joint Worksession with Planning Commission

1. Transit Development Plan

Paul Lutey of Nelson Nygard gave a presentation on the Comprehensive Operations Analysis and Transit Development Plan Update. Mr. Lutey outlined the scope of the project, the public outreach efforts including upcoming public meetings and an online survey at www.juneautransitplan.org. He explained the methods of the analysis, and the key findings to date. He stated that in looking at the Peer Review process, Juneau's transit service is of an elite quality as compared to other communities of our size.

Next steps include:

- Finalizing the Comprehensive Operations Analysis mid-July
- Conduct a Goals Validation Workshop in August
- Explore service alternatives (August – November)
- Presentation of the final Plan to the Assembly for approval January 2014

Assemblymembers and Planning Commissioners posed the following questions to Mr. Lutey about the analysis and findings.

When asked about make-up of the stakeholders and advisory group, Mr. Lutey explained they initially contacted approximately 30 stakeholders including the senior center representatives, some major employers such as Fred Meyer, Costco, Bartlett Regional Hospital, transit drivers. The eight-member study advisory group is made up staff members from a variety of organizations including the federal government, UAS, Tlingit Haida, Fred Meyer and others.

Ms. Crane asked if their analysis includes not only a review of what is currently in place but also looking at what the community needs are and will be giving recommendations on areas for improvement including looking at park and ride options, possibly in conjunction with the State of Alaska. Mr. Lutey said they have heard similar comments from some of the stakeholders and he plans to look at those options.

Mr. Lutey provided clarification regarding the suggested “technology” improvements that might include additional information posted to the transit website as well as the Google Transit to get schedule information by going to the website, clicking on a bus stop and it will tell you when the next bus is schedule to come. Another technology piece includes mobile ticketing. Portland is currently beta testing a system that allows for ticket purchases through mobile phones that are then shown to the drivers.

Some additional concerns raised included the portion of the study that highlighted the walking aspect to the bus stop is an average of a 6 minute walk but during the winter can be of great difficulty and safety concerns due to snow conditions on the sidewalks, bike paths, and berms in the middle of the street.

Ms. Becker asked if there were specific areas mentioned in the survey responses such as Thunder Mountain High School or the Swimming Pool. Mr. Lutey explained that while those were not specifically mentioned, Riverside Drive as a whole was mentioned as an area needing service improvements.

Mr. Haight asked if they are also studying the economics of service and the different modes of transportation. Mr. Lutey said that will be part of what they look at later down the line. Mr. Duncan also explained that they be looking at different scenarios if there were 5, 10, and 15% increases in the budget and what could be done to improve service at those different levels. In addition to that, they are also reviewing the current services and budget to look for improved efficiencies.

Mr. Bishop said they should also be looking at this study as a tool when they look at community development. He asked if they are looking at finding partners for things such as a transit facility in the valley or any other community development planning ideas. Mr. Lutey said they were not looking at it in light of specific facilities such as valley transit center or partnerships for such things. However, they are looking at how it does align with the Comp. Plan and making sure that whatever transit service is provided, does match up with where they are interested in doing in-fill development.

2. Flood Map Review

Community Development Department Director Hal Hart and CDD Planner II Eric Feldt gave a presentation to the joint meeting regarding the Flood Map review process and associated timelines for adopting the new maps. City Attorney John Hartle distributed an amended version of the draft ordinance 2013-FEMA-2.

Mr. Hart explained that, in order for residents of the community to be eligible for FEMA Federal Flood Insurance, the Assembly needs to adopt the flood maps no later than August 19, 2013. They also explained that additional changes may be made through the map amendment process after the initial maps are adopted.

Mr. Hart and Mr. Feldt's presentation outlined the number of homes affected by the new maps. Using the Auke Bay area as an example, they explained the new mapping process with respect to the A and V zones and the affect those changes will have on new construction as well as substantial remodeling of homes within those zone designations. One of the biggest changes is that the new or substantially remodeled buildings in those zones will be required to be built on pilings rather than fill.

Discussion took place regarding the mapping vs. modeling methods and how future changes might be accomplished. One point discussed was whether the private homeowners or CBJ would pay for any additional studies or surveys to request future map amendments. Mr. Feldt explained that would be a policy decision made by the Assembly. FEMA has been very clear that map amendments can only be applied for after the current maps are adopted. CDD staff has been gathering a list of possible amendments through the various public meetings they have had regarding this issue. Additional discussion took place regarding the use of the LIDAR mapping and whether CBJ can release LIDAR information to the public or if there are contractual constraints that would prevent that or require CBJ to pay additional fees to be able to release that information to the public. Mr. Hart will check into the contractual aspect of the LIDAR maps and report to the Assembly on that issue.

Mr. Feldt explained that the draft ordinance shows new language in italics, and strikeouts for omitted language. He explained that a large part of the code language currently found in the land use code but is better suited in the floodplain section of Title 49.

Mr. Watson expressed his concerns as to who actually is responsible for interpreting the definition of "substantial improvement" and the mention of "market value" on page 20 of the draft ordinance. Staff said that it would be the building official making the "substantial improvement" determination, whereas the "market value" would be determined by the assessor.

Mr. Hartle said he anticipated the final version of the ordinance to be ready for introduction at the June 24 regular Assembly Meeting.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – None.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Public Requests for Consent Agenda Changes, Other Than Ordinances for Introduction
- B. Assembly Requests for Consent Agenda Changes
- C. Assembly Action

- 1. Ordinances for Introduction

- a. Ordinance 2012-20(AT)

An Ordinance Appropriating To The Manager The Sum Of \$300,000 As Additional Funding For The Capital City Fire/Rescue, Emergency Services Program Fiscal Year 2013 Operating Budget, Funding Provided By The General Fund Fund Balance of \$300,000.

Administrative Report: Attached. The manager recommended this ordinance be introduced, and set for public hearing at the next regular Assembly meeting.

MOTION by Ms. Becker to move the Consent Agenda and asked for unanimous consent. Hearing no objection, it was so ordered.

VI. ASSEMBLY COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS – None.

Ms. Becker noted that on the “meetings in June” list of dates/times, the correct time for the meeting of the Ad Hoc Housing Committee on Thursday is at 3pm rather than 1:30p.m.

VII. ADJOURNMENT – 7:27 p.m.

Signed: _____
Elizabeth J. McEwen, Deputy Clerk

Signed: _____
Merrill Sanford, Mayor