

**SPECIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA
Meeting Minutes – April 21, 2021**

Meeting No. 2021-10: The Special Assembly Meeting of the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly held via Zoom webinar was called to order by Mayor Beth Weldon at 5:30p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Assemblymembers Present: Maria Gladziszewski, Loren Jones, Carole Triem, Greg Smith, Michelle Hale, Christine Woll, and Mayor Beth Weldon.

Assemblymembers Absent: Wade Bryson, Alicia Hughes-Skandijs

School Board members and JSD Staff: President Ebett Siddon, Paul Kelly, Martin Stepetin, Superintendent Dr. Bridgett Weiss, Cassee Olin, David Means

CBJ Staff Present: City Manager Rorie Watt, Deputy City Manager Mila Cosgrove, City Attorney Robert Palmer, Municipal Clerk Beth McEwen, Deputy Clerk Di Cathcart, EOC PSC/Library Director Robert Barr, Finance Director Jeff Rogers, Controller Sam Muse, Budget Analyst Adrien Speegle, Assessor Mary Hammond, Assistant City Attorney Sherri Layne, Parks and Recreation Director George Schaaf

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved as presented.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 7, 2021 Special Assembly Meeting 2021-09 Draft Minutes

MOTION by Ms. Hale for the Assembly to approve of the April 7, 2021 Special Assembly Meeting Minutes, and asked for unanimous consent. *Hearing no objections, the April 7, 2021 Special Assembly Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.*

V. AGENDA TOPICS

A. Public Hearing: Ordinance 2021-08 An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the Treasury for FY22 City and Borough Operations.

This ordinance appropriates \$419,156,600 in expenditure authority for the City and Borough of Juneau's FY22 operating budget, excluding the School District. This ordinance appropriates all transfers between funds that support operations, debt service and capital projects as well as the associated expenditures within the funds themselves.

This ordinance also recognizes \$393,024,400 of forecast revenue and transfers-in and decreases fund balances, across all funds, by \$22,987,500. The forecast revenue and draw from fund balance are sufficient to fund the budgeted expenditures. Budgeted expenditures and revenues will be reviewed in detail with the Finance Committee during the budget process in April and May.

The Charter requires that a public hearing be held on the FY22 operating budget by May 1, 2021, and the ordinance be adopted by June 15, 2021.

The City Manager recommends holding the charter required public hearing for this ordinance, followed by referral back to the Assembly Finance Committee for further review.

Public Comment:

Don Habeger, a Valley resident, said he was representing First Things First Alaska Foundation (FTFAF) to provide comments about the budget. He referenced a survey conducted by FTFAF, the results of which highlighted concerns of population loss, a decline in wage growth, unemployment rates, and the failed Fishing and Tourism seasons in 2020.

Mr. Habeger shared that 69% of survey participants believe that Juneau is experiencing an economic crisis. 87% of survey participants agreed that the Assembly should focus on providing financial assistance towards community needs: education, public safety, streets, water, and transportation.

He thanked the Assembly for allowing the opportunity to testify.

Assembly Action:

MOTION by Ms. Gladyszewski for the Assembly to forward Ordinance 2021-08 to the Assembly Finance Committee (AFC) for further review, and asked for unanimous consent. *Hearing no objections, Ordinance 2021-08 was forwarded to the AFC by unanimous consent.*

B. Public Hearing: Ordinance 2021-09 An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the Treasury for FY22 School District Operations.

This ordinance will appropriate to the School District an FY22 operating budget of \$92,396,600. This is an overall increase in the budget of \$838,500 from the FY21 Amended Budget. The FY22 school budget is supported with a combination of funding sources including CBJ local funding of \$29,336,100 and state and federal funding of \$55,506,800. The local funding consists of \$27,264,600 for general operations and \$2,071,500 for programs and activities not subject to the state funding cap.

State statute requires the Assembly to determine the total amount of local educational funding support to be provided and provide notification of the support to the School Board within 30

days of the School District's budget submission. The district's budget was submitted April 1, 2021. To meet this timing provision, it is necessary for the Assembly to determine the amount of funding and provide notice in the month of April. This amount cannot subsequently be reduced, unless the amount exceeds the State funding cap, but it can be increased. If the Assembly does not set the amount and furnish the School Board with notice within 30 days, the amount requested by the School District is automatically approved. By Charter, the Assembly is required to appropriate the School District's budget no later than May 31, 2021.

The City Manager recommends holding the charter required public hearing for this ordinance, followed by a motion to set the amount of local funding to be provided to the school district, and then referral of the ordinance back to the Assembly Finance Committee for additional review.

Public Comment:

None.

Assembly Action:

MOTION by Mr. Jones to set the local contribution to the Juneau School District Operations at \$27,264,600 for FY22 and asked for unanimous consent. *Hearing no objections, that motion passed by unanimous consent.*

MOTION by Mr. Jones to refer Ordinance 2021-09 to the Assembly Finance Committee for additional review, and asked for unanimous consent. *Hearing no objections, Ordinance 2021-09 was forwarded to the AFC by unanimous consent.*

C. Public Hearing: Ordinance 2021-10 An Ordinance Establishing the Rate of Levy for Property Taxes for Calendar Year 2021 Based Upon the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2022.

This ordinance establishes the mill rates for property taxes for 2021, which funds a significant portion of the City and Borough of Juneau's FY22 operating budget. The Charter requires the Assembly to adopt, by ordinance, the tax levies necessary to fund the budget before June 15.

The mill levies presented in this ordinance support the Manager's FY22 Revised Budget as amended by the Assembly Finance Committee (AFC). As part of the budget review process, the AFC reviews, amends and recommends to the Assembly the final mill levies.

For FY22, the Manager has followed prior direction from the Assembly Finance Committee to implement a 0.20 increase in mill rate from the FY21 Adopted Budget, resulting in a total mill levy of 10.86 mills; the components of which are:

Operating Mill Rate by Service Area	Millage	Change from FY21 Adopted
Roaded Service Area	2.45	-
Fire Service Area	0.31	-
Areawide	6.90	0.20

Operating Total	9.66	-
Debt Service	1.20	-
Total	10.86	0.20

The City Manager recommends holding the charter required public hearing for this ordinance, followed by referral back to the Assembly Finance Committee for further review.

Public Comment:

Don Habeger, a Valley resident, said he was representing First Things First Alaska Foundation (FTFAF) as its Executive Director. He referenced the survey conducted by FTFAF that he mentioned in his previous testimony. One of the questions on the survey was “Should the Assembly keep taxes flat?” which resulted in 75% of respondents saying that taxes should remain flat. Mr. Habeger encouraged the Assembly to take the results of the survey into consideration.

Arthur Edwards, a Valley resident, mentioned that he has discussed this issue with a couple of Assemblymembers. He appreciated the forthright communication he had with Assemblymembers, but urged the Assembly to vote against this ordinance. He spoke against raising taxes to pay for a social program, and described it as Assemblymembers digging into the earned money of citizens.

Assembly Action:

MOTION by Ms. Triem for the Assembly to forward Ordinance 2021-10 to the Assembly Finance Committee for further review. *Hearing no objections, Ordinance 2021-10 was forwarded to the AFC by unanimous consent.*

D. Public Hearing: Resolution 2937 A Resolution Adopting the City and Borough Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2022 through 2027, and Establishing the Capital Improvement Project Priorities for Fiscal Year 2022.

This resolution would adopt the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2022 through 2027, as required by Charter Section 9.4, and lists the capital projects that will be initially appropriated by ordinance in FY22.

The Planning Commission reviewed the preliminary CIP at its February 23, 2021 meeting. The Public Works and Facilities Committee (PWFC) reviewed the preliminary CIP at its March 15, 2021 meeting and forwarded the plan to the Assembly.

The City Manager recommends holding the charter required public hearing for this resolution, followed by referral back to the Assembly Finance Committee for further review.

Public Comment:

None.

Assembly Action:

MOTION by Ms. Hale for the Assembly to refer Resolution 2937 to the Assembly Finance Committee for further review and asked for unanimous consent. *Hearing no objections, Resolution 2937 was forwarded to the AFC by unanimous consent.*

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Assembly, the Special Assembly meeting was adjourned at 5:50p.m.

Minutes drafted by Administrative Assistant Lacey Davis and respectfully submitted for approval by Municipal Clerk Beth McEwen this 24th day of May, 2021.

Signed: _____
Elizabeth J. McEwen
Municipal Clerk

Signed: _____
Beth A. Weldon
Mayor