

REGULAR ASSEMBLY MEETING 2024-06 MINUTES

March 04, 2024 at 7:00 PM



Assembly Chambers/Zoom Webinar/YouTube Livestream

Meeting 2024-09: The Regular Meeting of the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly, held in the Assembly Chambers and via zoom, was called to order by Deputy Mayor Michelle Hale at 7:00pm.

A. FLAG SALUTE

Assemblymember Ella Adkison led the Assembly in the Flag Salute

B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Assemblymember Hughes-Skandijs provided the following Land Acknowledgement: We would like to acknowledge that the City and Borough of Juneau is on Tlingit land and wish to honor the indigenous people of this land. For more than ten thousand years, Alaska Native people have been and continue to be integral to the well-being of our community. We are grateful to be in this place, a part of this community, and to honor the culture, traditions, and resilience of the Tlingit people. Gunalchéesh!

C. ROLL CALL

Assemblymembers Present: Ella Adkison, Paul Kelly, 'Wáahlaal Gídaag (via Zoom), Christine Woll, Greg Smith (via Zoom), Alicia Hughes-Skandijs, Wade Brydon, and Acting Mayor Hale

Assemblymembers Absent: Mayor Weldon

Staff Present: City Manager Katie Koester, Deputy City Manager Robert Barr, Municipal Attorney Robert Palmer, Municipal Clerk Beth McEwen, Deputy Municipal Clerk Diane Cathcart, Deputy Municipal Clerk Andi Hirsh

D. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. In Memoriam Proclamation: Albert Shaw

Acting Mayor Hale read the In Memoriam Proclamation for Albert Shaw (packet pg. 7).

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

2. June 12, 2023 Regular Assembly Meeting #2023-13 DRAFT Minutes

3. December 18, 2023 Joint Assembly/Docks & Harbors Board Special Meeting #2023-28 DRAFT Minutes

4. February 23, 2024 Special Assembly Meeting #2024-05 DRAFT Minutes

MOTION by Ms. Woll to adopt the above minutes and asked for unanimous consent. *Hearing no objection, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.*

F. MANAGER'S REQUEST FOR AGENDA CHANGES

Manager Koester requested to remove item 9 under Bid Awards. Mr. Smith inquired as to why. Manager Koester explained that there are some outstanding questions for the low bidder that need to be clarified before it's awarded. This will come back to the next meeting.

G. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (Not to Exceed a Total of 20 Minutes, Nor More than Five Minutes for Any Individual)

Sonja Kumar, on behalf of Juneau for Palestine, said they shared a ceasefire resolution with the committee and are disappointed that their resolution did not make the agenda tonight, but are hopeful for future meetings. She informed members that they hosted a ceasefire rally for Palestine a few weeks ago to show

support for a permanent ceasefire and an end to U.S. funding of military weapons to the Israel Defense Forces. In addition to the rally, they also met with Representative Mary Peltola a few weeks ago to discuss the matter and hope the meeting will help shape some of the congresswoman's decisions. She stated that this ceasefire resolution means a lot to those of living on Lingít Aaní, and that there are people in Anchorage and Fairbanks who are also working with their city councils to pass similar resolutions.

Harper Gunn, a downtown resident, said she is also speaking on behalf of Juneau for Palestine. She urged the Assembly to put forward and approve a resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza. She stressed that, in the last month, the situation has only become more dire. She said they are asking this assembly to follow in the footsteps of other cities, and to listen to Vice President Harris in calling for an immediate ceasefire. She asked members to consider supporting the resolution.

Joseph Greenough, an Auke Bay Resident, shared that he is a third generation Alaskan who has worked in numerous big industries in Alaska, with tourism being the most important to him. He said tourism has played a vital role in the growth and development of the community, and that it brings numerous benefits to the local economy and the residents who live in Juneau. Tourism is a significant source of employment for Juneau, and with that, economic resources are abundant as tourists require a range of services from accommodations, dining, and entertainment. He stressed that tourism stimulates Juneau's economy as more than a million and a half tourists visit and spend their time and money on various goods and services. He said that tourism has given him an occupation as a manager for a whale watching company, which allows him to support himself. He stated that, as a local operator, he can see there are things the industry needs to work on to maintain a healthy relationship with the community; he has faith and trust in the industry to ensure that it will do everything it can to show the public how they are stewards of Juneau. Ms. Hughes-Skandijs asked Mr. Greenough if he has been participating in the ongoing meetings of with the Tourism Best Management Practices (TBMP) Working Group, and if so, how he thinks the meetings have been going. He answered yes, and said the company he works for is part of TBMP, as well as SEAWWA (Southeast Alaska Whale Watching Association).

Mel Izzard, a Valley resident, said she is testifying today to ask for the Assembly's support in calling for a ceasefire in Palestine. She stressed that Juneau is just around 30,000 people, and the official death toll in Gaza is now over 30,000 people. She said she believes the Juneau Assembly has a powerful voice, and that calling for a ceasefire would put Juneau on the right side of history and show State and Federal legislators that the community will not stand for the baseless murder of civilians. She urged the Assembly to use its voice to call for a ceasefire.

Adres Javier Camacho, a Valley resident, said he is present to speak in favor of the city passing a resolution that calls for a ceasefire in Palestine. He stressed that taxpayer dollars are going to this war. He said it would be a powerful statement if, as the state capital, Juneau says that this is not okay and has to stop.

Joann Wallace gave up her time to testify on taxes.

H. CONSENT AGENDA

Public Request for Consent Agenda Changes, Other than Ordinances for Introduction

Assembly Request for Consent Agenda Changes

Assembly Action

MOTION by Mr. Bryson to adopt the consent agenda and asked for unanimous consent. *Hearing no objection, the consent agenda was adopted by unanimous consent.*

I. Ordinances for Introduction

- 5. Ordinance 2023-14(b)(Z) An Ordinance Appropriating \$76,130 to the Manager for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant; Grant Funding Provided by the U.S. Department of Energy.**

Engineering and Public Works has been awarded \$76,130 in grant funding for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) from the U.S. Department of Energy. This funding will be used toward the replacement of a gas-powered utility vehicle with an electric vehicle (EV) truck and the installation of Level 2 EV charging equipment at multiple municipal facilities for CBJ EVs. These investments will reduce community Greenhouse Gas emissions in the near term and will allow the CBJ to assess the cold weather resilience for potential future EV truck purchases. No local match is required for this funding.

Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS) has been consulted and is supportive of this request. The Public Works and Facilities Committee approved this request at the January 29, 2024 meeting.

The City Manager recommends this ordinance be introduced and set for public hearing at the next regular Assembly meeting.

6. Ordinance 2023-14(b)(AE) An Ordinance Transferring \$250,000 from the RecycleWorks Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget to the River Road Junk Vehicle Cleanup Capital Improvement Project.

105 vehicles have been removed from the River Road property, with costs amounting to approximately \$155,000. CBJ has been reimbursed \$105,000 of that amount. As of December 2022, it was estimated that there are approximately 228 vehicles still located at the River Road property. In FY23, Ordinance 2022-06(b)(Z) appropriated \$250,000 to the RecycleWorks operating budget to cover the costs for the removal of the remaining vehicles. Due to lengthy court process and safety concerns for CBJ staff, the removal of the remaining vehicles is pending. Due to the multi-year nature of this work, staff requests to transfer the \$250,000 from the RecycleWorks FY24 operating budget to the capital budget to cover the costs of the removal of the remaining vehicles on the property when the project is able to resume.

The City Manager recommends this ordinance be introduced and set for public hearing at the next regular Assembly meeting.

7. Ordinance 2023-04(b) An Ordinance Establishing a City and Borough of Juneau Whistleblower Act.

The City and Borough of Juneau has a robust conflict of interest code (CBJC 01.45), which includes a process for people to report potential violations (CBJC 01.45.110). Although the conflict of interest code overlaps with traditional whistleblower protections, it does not mention the phrase “whistleblower” or explicitly provide protections to whistleblowers. This ordinance would create a whistleblower law for municipal employees, which is modeled off of the Alaska Whistleblower Act (AS 39.90.130).

The Assembly Human Resources Committee reviewed this on 11/13/23 and 2/5/24 and recommended the Assembly introduce this ordinance.

The City Manager recommends the Assembly introduce this ordinance and set it for public hearing at the next regular Assembly meeting.

J. Resolutions

8. Resolution 3056 A Resolution Authorizing the Manager to Apply For, and Enter Into, a Loan Agreement of up to \$500,000 with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Alaska Drinking Water Fund State Revolving Loan Fund, for the Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI).

The CBJ Utilities Division is seeking Assembly authorization to apply for and accept up to \$500,000 in financial assistance from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) to complete a Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI) as required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The financial assistance will take the form of a loan with 58.3% in principal forgiveness through the State Revolving Fund (SRF). CBJ appropriated \$250,000 for the LSLI project in 2023. The use of lead pipes was banned in the 1980s. The CBJ Utilities Division is currently working with a consultant on Phase 1 of the project, which is a desktop exercise to filter and exclude contemporary construction from the next survey phase (Phase 2). A draft inventory is due to ADEC by July 24, 2024. To apply for the ADEC SRF

loan, the Assembly must pass a resolution to 1) authorize the SRF application process, and 2) authorize a designated representative of the local government to execute the loan agreement.

The City Manager recommends the Assembly adopt this resolution.

K. Bid Awards REMOVED by Maanger

9. BE24-147 Adair Kennedy Baseball Field Improvements

[This item was removed from the Agenda upon the Manager's Request.]

Bids were opened on the subject project on February 22, 2024. The bid protest period expired at 4:30 p.m. on February 27, 2024. Results of the bid opening are as follows:

RESPONSIVE BIDDERS	BASE BID	Alt. No 1	Alt. No 2	TOTAL BID
Dawson Construction, LLC	\$2,629,802.89	\$15,000.00	\$315,000.00	\$2,959,802.89
Coogan Construction Co.	\$2,650,689.89	\$7,500.00	\$25,000.00	\$2,966,189.89
Admiralty Construction, Inc.	\$3,098,265.89	\$25,000.00	\$310,000.00	\$3,433,265.89
North40 Construction Corp.	\$3,108,363.89	\$42,000.00	\$300,000.00	\$3,450,363.89
Engineer's Estimate	\$3,573,537.89	\$50,000.00	\$255,000.00	\$3,878,537.89

The City Manager recommends award of this project, Base Bid and both Alternates to Dawson Construction, LLC for the total amount bid of \$2,959,802.89.

L. Transfers

10. Transfer Request T-1072 A Transfer of \$110,000 from CIP P41-097 Sportsfield Repairs to CIP P41-109 Adair Kennedy Lighting.

This request would transfer \$110,000 from the Sportsfield Repairs CIP to the Adair Kennedy Lighting CIP. This funding would provide for the replacement of the 30-year-old ballfield lighting system at Adair Kennedy baseball field with new LED lights. The Sportsfield Repair CIP will retain adequate funding for the remaining FY24 priority projects.

The Public Works and Facilities Committee reviewed this request at the February 26, 2024 meeting.

The City Manager recommends approval of this transfer.

M. PUBLIC HEARING

Prior to opening up the public hearing on the below legislation, Acting Mayor Hale invited Superintendent Hauser to provide a presentation on the School District's Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 budget.

Superintendent Hauser explained that the FY25 budget process can be completed now that the final district reorganization plan has been adopted by the Board of Education. Enrollment projections project a decline of 3.4%, or 140 students, for a total of 3,942 enrolled students. He informed members that a bipartisan education bill passed through the state House and Senate but is expected to be vetoed by the governor. With the consolidation plan and an increase in the Base Student Allocation (BSA), he said it seems likely there would be few to no reductions in force; without the BSA increase however, the district would still have a deficit of about \$4.8 million and would need to make reductions in force. Regarding the timeline, the Administration is in the process of developing a balanced budget based on a BSA increase to \$5,960. One of the assumptions in the budget is one of the ordinances that's under consideration tonight; the \$1.65 million for non-instructional shared services. He outlined that the board's first reading of the budget will be held on Thursday, March 7, and a second reading will be held Tuesday, March 12. The goal is to have a balanced budget to submit to the Assembly by March 12.

Ms. Woll asked if the deficit figure would increase if the FY25 shared services ordinance did not pass tonight. Superintendent Hauser answered yes, the \$4.8 million figure reflects the revenue assumption that tonight's ordinance with \$1.65 million in funding is adopted.

Mr. Smith said that, as the Assembly liaison to the board, he has listened to many of the meetings regarding the deficit. He asked about the board's discussion around the 7th grade to 12th grade model at Juneau-Douglas High School (JDHS) and Thunder Mountain High School (TMHS). Superintendent Hauser explained that, when the board was looking at reorganization consolidation models earlier on, there were a number of concepts that were put out there for consideration and feedback; the 7-12 model, among other models, were on the concept grade level sheets, and the board received over 1,500 pieces of feedback through face to face public input sessions. He said that there were a number of models that were budgeted out through requests that came from the board, and ultimately, about a week and a half ago, the board made the decision to adopt the S1b model with grades 7-8 at TMHS, 6th grade being added to elementary schools, and grades 9-12 at JDHS. Mr. Smith noted that the Assembly has gotten a lot of feedback about this model.

'Wáahlaal Gídaag asked Superintendent Hauser to speak to the conversations they have had about minimizing the impacts on students. Superintendent Hauser stated that he works for the students. This whole process has been about student opportunities and making sure that the district can still, even facing a significant deficit, continue to provide the opportunities for students. He relayed that he met with the student government councils for both schools, had conversations, and read all the feedback testimony. He has had conversations with the district's academic outcome and reorganization committee which started in November. One of the focuses they are looking at is the transition. Building administrators have been talking about and working together and have already sent out a joint communication to families about scheduling classes, athletics, and trying to get information to focus on alleviating some stress families and students might have.

Ms. Woll said it's been known from the beginning that there are some complexities around the timing of all this, and that she understands why the district is putting together a budget not including a BSA increase. She asked if the actions that are needed to reverse a deficit of this size can be undone later down the line when more resources may be available. Superintendent Hauser answered that superintendents, administrators and boards have gotten used to the reality of receiving money after the budget is passed. It was many governors ago when there was forward funding in education, which allowed for stable and predictable funding. He explained that the district does have a significant deficit and is currently in the process of putting together, and the board adopting, a reduction in force plan to address the severity of the reductions. One of the things that the plan puts in place for the district is a structure to thoughtfully bring back staff. He said he has much hope for a BSA increase, and that, once it is known with certainty that there will be additional funding, then the district can start bringing back staff.

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Acting Mayor Hale provided instructions for public testimony. She advised that those signed up to testify can testify on any one, or all three of the ordinances relating to the Juneau School District.

Sharyn Augustine, a Valley resident, parent of a sophomore and a junior, stressed that the current consolidation model was approved at 12:30 am after it was voted down. She said the 7-12 model was initially presented but was later dropped with no explanation. She spoke in favor of the 7-12 model as it is used in the Lower 48 and Australia and said that none of the board meetings had materials presented in support of the model. She asked the Assembly to demand the board be transparent and to not fund them until they've had a chance to look at all the information.

Mark Johnson, a North Douglas resident and guardian of two elementary-aged students, shared that the reorganization plan would create transportation complications, as he outlined in a letter to the editor to Juneau Empire. He said his concern is putting 25-30 kids in a cramped bus with no supervision for half an

hour and detailed two incidents his kids experienced on the bus. He urged that bus monitors be hired as part of the restructuring plan.

Rebecca Braun, a Downtown resident and parent of a JDHS student, testified in support of all three ordinances and is concerned that rejecting the ordinances won't undo any negative impacts, but rather, probably exacerbate problems and require more difficult decisions. She shared that she went to the JDHS site council meeting and said that the community of the school are committed to promoting healing and a successful transition.

Amy Lloyd, a Twin Lakes resident and a teacher in the JSD, asked that members move past the emotional feedback from a small group trying to halt the progress made by the board, and focus on something positive. She said that funding education pays off, and shared that she has compiled a report from 16 graduates from JSD from the 2022 graduating class, and she has chosen to highlight those who may well come back to Juneau and raise a family here. She listed several graduates and their current post-secondary statuses. She stated that the best way to get a quality education is with the adopted plan, S1b, and asked members to pass all three JSD ordinances.

Daniel Coleman, a Valley resident and parent of a JSD student and a homeschooling student, said he believes the board made a rush decision that will harm all schools and the community without fully considering well researched options. He asked that, before the Assembly offers this loan and takes over non-instructional costs, that it will question why the board did not consider the model with grades 7-12 in both high schools. He noted that the draft facility master plan in 2017, paid for by CBJ, predicted much of what JSD is dealing with today and offered several recommendations, with the first recommendation option being to combine PreK-6, and then put 7-12 in each of the high school buildings. The school administration never proposed or supported that model. The consultants we paid for recommending that model, and the school district did not fully consider it. It's late, but it's not too late in the process. He asked that members reconsider support of the loan and non-instructional funding until they're confident that the district is making the best educated decision.

Noah Coleman, a Valley resident, testified that it would not be beneficial to move 10-12 graders to JDHS because of the possible transportation, scheduling, and community issues. On transportation, parking will be harder and there will be more inexperienced drivers in the winter. He explained that, scheduling wise, Zero hour classes may have to be pushed back or cut due to the drive and traffic. Teacher layoffs may also lead to clubs being cut. He said there has been a large amount of pushbacks in the decision to merge with JDHS, and that this may lead to conflict and possibly fights.

The Assembly took a break at 8:03 pm and returned at 8:09p.m.

Shannon Greene, a Valley resident and parent of 3 students, said that Mayor Weldon was correct when she stated, as quoted in the newspaper, that the school board broke the public's trust. She stated that everyone supports investing tax dollars to fund education, and said there is no question that CBJ has demonstrated that same investment in education, but stressed that she is concerned about giving more money to the school board without guardrails. She called on school board members with direct financial responsibility who have demonstrated a continuous fiscal lack of stewardship of the public tax dollars to resign. She suggested rebuilding this breach of public trust with a responsible school board.

John Lohrey, a Valley resident, expressed his support for keeping both high schools open for grades 7-12. Studies show that small schools have been found to outperform large schools in important metrics, with academic test scores and graduation rates being higher, as well as higher student participation in activities and a lower dropout rate. When Juneau went to two schools, the graduation rate increased, with the graduation rate for native students increasing from less than 50% to almost 80%, and the participation rate in student activities increased from 44% to 70%. Regarding costs, he said the school board reported negligible cost differences between the 7-12 model and the 9-12 JDHS proposal adopted at the February 22 meeting; but in a February 26 letter, four former school board members reported that there could be a \$2.6 million

loss in state funding two years from now if the one school proposal is adopted. He said he is not opposed to the loan, but the Assembly should verify the possible \$2.6 million in future state funding losses, as well as question the board as to why they reject neighborhood schools' model with grades 7-12.

Cindee Brown-Mills, a Valley resident, recalled when she met with Assemblymembers about scenario planning during last week's Innovation Summit. The conversations were on the importance of taking the time to fully understand the impact decisions have on the future. Juneau is facing a future of declining population, so it is vital that the community attracts working age adults. Having an excellent school system is tied to this. She asked members to postpone or put conditions on district funding requests and stressed that time be taken to fully understand and evaluate potential consequences.

Raegan Adams, a Valley resident and a TMHS student, said many students and parents publicly testified that they were opposed to the conjoining of the high schools, yet it still passed. She said she feels all options weren't fairly looked at and hopes the Assembly could help them look at all viable options, including the 7 to 12 model. Having the choice of schools would help benefit everyone's needs.

Jennifer Adams, a Valley resident, said it is important to fully support funding the school district, but advised Assemblymembers to protect their investment. She said that this generation of children was raised with choices and recounted the choice her own daughter made to go to TMHS. She asked why the community can't provide students with an environment where they can learn and thrive instead of putting them into the one school model. She said people don't want 1,000 kids in one school, and that nearly 1,000 Juneau residents have signed a petition over the weekend to have the 7-12 model explored. She pointed out that, while the Assembly cannot overthrow the School Board's decision, it can influence it using the financial assistance being voted on right now. She asked the Assembly to provide the funding but to also guide the board in exploring all options.

Bonnie Webster, an Out the Road resident, has three students in the district. She clarified that those advocating for the 7-12 model are not asking for the loan to be denied, but rather, that stipulations be put on the loan to make the board reconsider and review all options.

Tonia Danelski, a Valley resident with a student at TMHS and another in middle school, thanked the Assembly for supporting the district during this difficult situation. It's a combination of lack of funding on the state level, as well as fiscal mismanagement in the school. She urged moving forward in a way that is thoughtful and considerate, because the decision to put all high schoolers in JDHS is putting extra strain on Thunder Mountain students. She said it is a slippery slope, as she does not want the Assembly to micromanage the district but would like it to provide guidance and encouragement to the board.

Melissa Culumn, a Valley resident, shared that she is a retired teacher and is currently homeschooling her child. She asked members to consider the issues that the consolidation model creates. Since an increase in funding is unlikely, it's imperative that the district looks beyond this rushed decision by the board and instead think of creative ways to manage an ever-shrinking budget and student population. Without a long-term plan or outline of future consolidation models, she feels that funding the gap year gives the district the green light to operate as usual. She asked members if the city was presented with a long-term district plan to make sure it doesn't find itself in the same predicament. She informed members that homeschool students who currently attend Raven or IDEA must pay to participate in all extracurricular activities, in addition to paying for class time, when they attend school in the district. She stressed that the current consolidation model chosen by the district will limit her child's access to classes. Many have expressed a desire to homeschool. If the board doesn't vet all the options. She asked members what safeguards the city has on this loan to ensure that the school district will repay the loans in a timely manner. Further, the Assembly needs to make the district provide a long-term plan that outlines possible consolidation models for the future, provides a cost analysis of the consolidation model and the 7-12 model.

Joe Zarlengo, a Valley resident, stated that no corrective action taken constitutes an increase in property tax. He said he does not know how \$9 million is overspent but does agree that conditions need to be set on the

loan. He questioned what the community gets for the money spent now, as the school's reading scores are 44% to 48%, math scores are 34% to 40%, and science is at 49%. He advised that there needs to be investment in the community in order to incentivize people to come live here and increase student population.

Damien Schane, a Downtown resident with three students in the district, supports adoption of all the ordinances. He said his hope is that they can inspire the legislature and the governor to approve legislation increasing the BSA. He stated that saying no will only make the situation worse and jeopardize student education.

Brenda Taylor, a Valley resident, spoke in support of the ordinances. She said she understands that this issue was created by the state legislature and the governor. She highlighted the K-5 STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) event last Monday where there were 396 children, 386 adults, 51 activities, 70 presenters, and 21 TMHS students. She said that the community deserves support for those extra tools to encourage enthusiasm, which is why she supports all three of the ordinances.

Chris Wallace, a Lemon Creek resident, said he does not understand how the district is in a \$9.7 million dollar deficit. He stressed that the district is not improving in performance, despite increasing amounts of funding for a shrinking number of students. He stated that he is a hockey referee in the district, and pointed out that there is \$2.9 million on the agenda to spend on a baseball field while the district can't afford classrooms; the city needs to get its priorities straight. He stressed that he hasn't seen any terms of the proposed \$4.1 million loan, and asked if the Assembly thinks the district is really going to pay this back.

Alex Wertheimer, a Lynn Canal resident, shared that his children have graduated out of the district, and that his oldest grandchild is in elementary school. He stated that they want their grandkids to have the educational opportunities that their children had in the district, and that good public schools are essential for providing for the children's future and for Juneau's future as well. Without good schools, the community will not keep or attract young families, thus adding to the continuing enrollment decline. Large scale layoffs and exploding teacher student ratios will devastate the schools and damage the community. He thanked members for coming up with a plan to make it possible for the board to reconfigure, restructure, and re-budget so that it can maintain quality public schools into the future. He reiterated support for all three ordinances, and suggested that 2024-01(b)(A) be amended to make it so the FY25 funding for non-instructional costs be contingent on the BSA increase approved by the legislature.

Kent Mearig, a Valley resident and teacher at TMHS and parent of JSD students, asked that the Assembly consider some possible contingencies. He said that engagement with stakeholders and educators within the district and affected schools did not happen to the degree that it should have, considering the sort of decisions that are upcoming due to the budget deficit. He knows there would have been other TMHS teachers testifying tonight, if it hadn't been such an emotionally charged issue for them. He said they have tried to communicate the deficits that moving forward with the current plan will cause students, but that has been met with deaf ears. He asked the Assembly to speak up for them.

April Gilbert, a Valley resident, stressed the positive socioeconomic impacts of having neighborhood schools, like a student being able to walk to school or their activities. Consolidating the schools would mean asking two-thirds of the students to ride a bus downtown, and there might be students whose parents can't pick them off after school, so they won't be able to participate in afterschool activities. She said students identify with activities, and those activities are often what makes them want to participate in school. She explained that having two 7-12 schools means the community keeps both high schools. She heard that the most important decision was to be able to offer a more variety of accelerated classes, and that only helps those who want to take advanced placement and doesn't take into effect those students who just need to graduate.

Jannessa Luerra, a Valley resident and a 1998 graduate of JDHS, said that, while she has a lot of school pride in JDHS, her kids and sister grew up with choosing TMHS and have thrived. TMHS is close to home and makes

any transporting they need to do easier. She asked the Assembly to consider putting a stipulation on the loan, or having the board go back and reevaluate the 7-12 model, as it is important to the community to have 2 bigger schools that are more identical in size.

Riley Soboleff, an Auke Bay resident and TMHS student, said that, as a student, she does not deserve to be the one who has to pay for these financial issues by losing her high school. She stressed that they are the students who had two years of their lives affected by COVID, and that adding more change will lead to larger mental health problems. She relayed that School Board and Assembly members have been saying that there will be more opportunities, but she said she doesn't see putting 1,000 students in a building and cutting numbers of new teachers will give students more opportunity. If she goes to JDHS, she will do part-time school and not go full-time and not participate in as many athletics and opportunities and athletics, clubs or opportunities as she is currently in. Cutting half the opportunities for a high school student will affect their schooling and future careers, which will cause many students to lose opportunities on their resume. She asked that CBJ not throw money at a bad school board decision.

Jenny Thomas, a Valley resident with two students at TMHS, said she is not asking that there be no funding, but rather, she would like answers as to why the one school 9-12 model was chosen.

Lisa Mattson, a Lena Loop Road resident with a senior at TMHS, shared that this has put a damper on what should be a celebratory year for students. She said her senior shows that neighborhood schools are important, as is having a choice. She stated that model 6 was not vetted, and that, if the district doesn't give students a choice and have neighborhood schools, then it's only backsliding. The valley and the people of Juneau put it on the ballot for multiple years and fought for a valley High School. She said the community is backsliding and doing harm to future generations

The Assembly took a break at 8:51 pm and reconvened at 8:59 pm.

11. Ordinance 2023-14(b)(AD) An Ordinance Providing for a One-Time Loan in FY24 to the Juneau School District for up to \$4.1 Million Dollars.

In 2024 the Juneau School District suddenly discovered a current-year structural deficit of approximately \$9.5 million dollars as a result of years of insufficient state funding, over projecting enrollment, and financial mismanagement. The Board of Education took immediate action to make cuts to the 2024 budget; however, the magnitude of the deficit is too great to address through cuts in the current school year. This ordinance, along with a companion general fund ordinance, appropriates approximately \$4.1 million dollars from the restricted budget reserve as a loan to enable the school district to complete the current school year. These funds will be used to pay for instructional costs while the companion general fund ordinance will be used to pay for non-instructional costs.

The Assembly and its committees discussed this topic multiple times in the last two months (1/29/24, 1/30/24, 2/7/24, 2/23/24, 2/26/24), including holding a public hearing at the February 26 Committee of the Whole meeting.

The City Manager recommends the Assembly adopt this ordinance.

Assembly Action

Acting Mayor Hale asked that members make comments or ask questions about the three ordinances together before they start making motions.

Mr. Kelly highlighted the testimony tonight of people who are not satisfied with the adopted consolidation plan. He asked Superintendent Hauser what the challenges would be in changing the plan this year or next year.

Superintendent Hauser answered that the board has voted and adopted a reorganization model and are moving forward with the process. He explained that, if there was a change, it would have to go through another process per the Charter. The budget is due April 5, and they are currently working on getting

the budget adopted by the board on March 15. He stated that he is not sure how to be able to move forward to get a budget to the board to review and adopt if there was a request to change from what was adopted already.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs thanked those who came out and testified, especially the students and the teachers. They have received many, many email comments. Throughout this process, it has been hard because the school board has been in an impossible situation, and the Assembly is tied to helping the board solve the problem because it has power of the purse; however, these are two separately elected bodies with separate duties, and at the end of the day, it is the school board that gets to decide the education policy decisions and what those look like. She said the Assembly does not have the legal power to put stipulations on a loan, nor dictate what the model should look like, it can only decide how much money to fund the district.

Mr. Kelly said the previous speaker articulated his feelings, and that is why he asked Superintendent Hauser the questions that he did. They are separately elected bodies, with the school board governing matters of school policy and the Assembly passing ordinances and raising taxes. Regarding the ordinances, he said he hears and supports the community's concerns about wanting to see transparency, but his first priority in how he votes is going to be for the students.

MOTION by Mr. Bryson adopt Ordinance 2023-14(b)(AD) and asked for unanimous consent.

OBJECTION by Mr. Kelly for the purposes of an amendment. He said he will only be moving half of the amendment on page 76 section U.

AMENDMENT #1 by Mr. Kelly to amend Ord. 2024-14(b)(AD) as follows:

Insert an additional term into Section 3(d), page 3:

"Section 3. Terms. The CBJ Assembly authorizes the Manager to enter into a loan agreement with the Juneau School District for an amount up to \$4.1 million dollars with the following essential terms:

(a) The loan period is five (5) years;

(b) The first payment is due no later than in FY26; and

(c) The interest rate shall be zero percent (0%); and

(d) No later than FY26, the Juneau School District must publish a budget book available to the public no later than when the annual budget is submitted to the Assembly."

Ms. Woll objected to the amendment. She asked Mr. Kelly if, by requiring a budget book, he means a printed hard copy budget book for the Assembly or for the public. Mr. Kelly said his intention is that the budget book be available for everybody. Ms. Woll asked about the release date and whether Mr. Kelly would want the book released at the same time as the annual budget is submitted to the Assembly. She said that it seemed early to her and asked why he picked that date. Mr. Kelly answered that the FY26 date was decided when he was drafting the amendment with the city attorney.

Ms. Adkison sought confirmation from Superintendent Hauser that school districts in Alaska have to submit their operating budgets to the state, which is then posted to the state's website by July 15. Superintendent Hauser said that's correct, state statute requires that districts submit their budget to the state by July 15, and in response to a follow up, answered that the budget is then public and accessible.

Wááhlaal Gídaag asked about the intent of the motion. Mr. Kelly explained that the purpose is to improve transparency, as there was difficulty in prior years getting information.

Acting Mayor Hale objected to the motion and offered her understanding that the district does plan on publishing a budget book, and so is unsure as to whether the amendment needs to be a condition on the loan.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs said there absolutely should be a district budget book that is as detailed as the city's and pointed out that this was discussed in the recent joint meeting with the school board. She asked Superintendent Hauser to confirm that this is true. Superintendent Hauser responded that a budget should be available and accessible, and said his goal is to ensure the district is good stewards of its funding from the city and state. He shared that Finance Committee Chair Muldoon, Finance Director Pierce, and himself have all discussed getting a budget booklet made and available.

Mr. Bryson commented that the motion speaks to the need to keep the district accountable, and that a budget booklet might help prevent a situation like this in the future.

AMENDMENT A to Amendment #1 by Ms. Woll to propose an amendment, which read as follows:

"...(d) No later than FY26, the Juneau School District must publish a budget book available to the public no later than after adoption by the Assembly."

Ms. Woll asked for unanimous consent. There being no objection, Amendment A to Amendment #1 was adopted by unanimous consent.

Ms. Woll objected to adoption of the Amendment #1, as amended. She said that, while her own amendment made her feel better about the language since it is less prescriptive, she still does not think the amendment is needed. The district said it is already interested in releasing a detailed budget book.

Ms. Adkison asked if the amendment would require the budget book for just a year, or in perpetuity. Mr. Kelly said his intent is that it be in perpetuity.

'Wáahlaal Gídaag asked Superintendent Hauser on what the district thinks of this kind of stipulation being put on the loan. Superintendent Hauser responded by reiterating that the goal of his administration is to put together a budget book that is reflective of the district's budget. He said the stipulation of having the budget book out by FY26 is something they have been planning on anyways. She removed her objection.

Acting Mayor Hale objected to the Amendment. She stressed that the Assembly and the School Board are two distinct bodies. She also stressed that the role less state funding has had, as the district has had to continuously cut the budget. She said the motion seems like micromanaging and she does not support it.

Mr. Bryson said that not having a budget booklet is what got the district into this situation. He explained that, while the situation is being solved now, it is important to put this language in the ordinance so no School Board would be able to make this same error.

Roll Call Vote on Amendment 1, as amended, to Ordinance 2023-14(b)(AD).

Yeas: Mr. Kelly, Ms. Adkison, Mr. Smith, Ms. Hughes-Skandijs, Mr. Bryson

Nays: 'Wáahlaal Gídaag, Ms. Woll, Acting Mayor Hale

Motion carried: 5 Yeas, 3 Nays

Acting Mayor Hale informed members that a roll call vote is needed since Mr. Smith is not visually present on Zoom.

Roll Call Vote on Motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-14(b)(AD), as amended.

Yeas: Mr. Bryson, Mr. Smith, Ms. Adkison, 'Wáahlaal Gídaag, Ms. Woll, Mr. Kelly, Ms. Hughes-Skandijs, Acting Mayor Hale

Nays: none

Motion carried: 8 Yeas, 0 Nays

12. Ordinance 2023-14(b)(AB) An Ordinance Providing up to \$3,922,787 to the Juneau School District for Non-instructional Costs for FY24.

In 2024 the Juneau School District suddenly discovered a current year structural deficit of approximately \$9.5 million dollars as a result of years of insufficient state funding, over projecting enrollment, and financial mismanagement. The Board of Education took immediate action to make cuts to the 2024 budget; however, the magnitude of the deficit is too great to address through cuts in the current school year. This ordinance, along with a companion loan ordinance, appropriates approximately \$3.9 million dollars from the general fund to enable the school district to complete the current school year. These funds will be used to pay for non-instructional costs while the companion loan funds will be used to pay for instructional costs.

The Assembly and its committees discussed this topic multiple times in the last two months (1/29/24, 1/30/24, 2/7/24, 2/23/24, 2/26/24), including holding a public hearing at the February 26 Committee of the Whole meeting.

The City Manager recommends the Assembly adopt this ordinance.

Assembly Action

MOTION by Ms. Hughes-Skandijs to adopt Ordinance 2023-14(b)(AB) and asked for unanimous consent.

Mr. Smith stated that he was going to have to hang up and leave the meeting soon after this vote as his flight is about to leave. He said he is proud that the Assembly is stepping up to help where they can.

Roll Call Vote on Motion to adopt Ordinance 2023-14(b)(AB).

Yeas: Mr. Smith, Ms. Hughes-Skandijs, Mr. Bryson, Ms. Woll, 'Wáahlaal Gídaag, Ms. Adkison, Mr. Kelly, Acting Mayor Hale.

Nays: none

Motion carried: 8 Yeas, 0 Nays

Mr. Smith left the meeting at 9:50p.m.

13. Ordinance 2024-01(b)(A) An Ordinance Providing up to \$1,650,405 to the Juneau School District for Non-instructional Costs for FY25.

In 2024 the Juneau School District suddenly discovered a current year structural deficit of approximately \$9.5 million dollars as a result of years of insufficient state funding, over projecting enrollment, and financial mismanagement. The Board of Education took immediate action to make cuts to the 2024 budget; however, the magnitude of the deficit is too great to address through cuts in the current school year and will continue to be challenging in FY25. This ordinance appropriates approximately \$1.65 million dollars from the general fund to support JSD in FY25 by covering non-instructional costs in FY25 as CBJ and JSD plan for the potential transition of facility maintenance services to CBJ.

The Assembly and its committees discussed this topic multiple times in the last two months (1/29/24, 1/30/24, 2/7/24, 2/23/24, 2/26/24), including holding a public hearing at the February 26 Committee of the Whole meeting.

The City Manager recommends the Assembly adopt this ordinance.

Assembly Action

MOTION by Ms. Woll to adopt Ordinance 2024-01(b)(A) and asked for unanimous consent.

Ms. Woll objected for the purpose of making a comment. She thanked the public for testifying. She said the Assembly has an opportunity to support Juneau's students with this funding. She added that, in response to concerns about accountability, there are conditions ensuring that CBJ has more access to district finances, as well as a requirement that the district present a plan showing how it can reach a balanced budget. She removed her objection.

Acting Mayor Hale objected to make a comment. She reiterated that the Assembly and the School Board are separately elected bodies and stressed that the Assembly does not have oversight over the district, as per the charter. She explained that the state has shifted more costs onto municipalities, and that the Assembly has done what it can to help the district in this crisis. She removed her objection.

Hearing no further objection, Ordinance 2024-01(b)(A) was adopted by unanimous consent.

14. Ordinance 2023-32 An Ordinance Clarifying the Process for Electing an Assemblymember Due to a Midterm Vacancy.

The date when an office of the Assembly is vacant dictates whether the Assembly appoints a successor or the voters elect a successor. The Assembly enacted CBJC 11.10.040(a) to prescribe how vacant Assemblymember positions are filled. While that code provision provides a helpful standard, it does not provide specificity when a midterm vacancy occurs whether the Assembly appoints or the voters elect. This ordinance clarifies that ambiguity:

- If a midterm vacancy occurs more than 60 days from the election, then the voters elect the vacant position;

- if a midterm vacancy occurs within 60 days of an election, then the Assembly appoints an interim and the vacancy would be placed on the subsequent year's election.

The Assembly Human Resources Committee recommended this ordinance at its meeting on November 28, 2023. The Systemic Racism Review Committee considered this ordinance at its meeting on February 6, 2024.

The City Manager recommends the Assembly adopt this ordinance.

Public Comment

None

Assembly Action

MOTION by Ms. Adkison to adopt Ordinance 2023-32 and asked for unanimous consent.

Mr. Kelly objected for the purposes of an amendment. He pointed out that the last day to file to run in the election is 71 days before the election. He asked Mr. Palmer what would happen if there was a resignation or vacancy that occurred within the 71 days. Mr. Palmer explained that, so long as the individual resigned before day 60, the position would go on the ballot. If the person resigned closer to day 60 to the election, then the Assembly could appoint an individual to the seat for 14 months. Ms. McEwen clarified that the position would be on the ballot, but because the candidate filing period would have already ended, they could only be a write-in candidate. If it was anywhere between the 71-to-81 days to election when the filing deadline is still open, then a person could file for office and have their name on the ballot; the way the ordinance is written, their name wouldn't appear on the ballot but the number of positions on the ballot would still increase.

Mr. Bryson said he had hoped that Mr. Kelly's amendment would have suggested 81 days because that would have made the deadline coincide with the start of the candidate application period. Acting Mayor Hale said that, regardless of the amount between days 60 or 81 in the election, the Assembly would still have to appoint. Mr. Bryson offered his understanding that, if the language was changed to 81 days, then it goes to the beginning of the registration period in the new election. Acting Mayor Hale asked Mr.

Palmer to confirm her understanding. Mr. Palmer explained that if the date changed from day 60 to day 81 and someone resigned somewhere between day 81 and day 30, then the Assembly would have the ability to appoint someone. If the position was vacant by day 30 or more, then the position could be placed on the ballot, but only for a person that is a write-in candidate. He said day 81 is a reasonable number if the Assembly wants to use that instead of day 60.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs said she would like a calendar and some examples for this conversation. Mr. Palmer advised that there is a list of reference dates for this year's election in the Red Folder. He noted that day 81 would be July 12, and day 60 would be August 2.

Acting Mayor Hale commented that a thought she had while talking with staff was to bump this ordinance back to committee. She said she is also a visual person and would also like the discussion laid out but said that isn't possible this meeting.

Ms. Woll said that if the Assembly wants to tweak the document, it should go back to committee.

MOTION by Mr. Kelly to refer Ordinance 2023-32 to the Assembly Committee of the Whole and asked for unanimous consent.

Ms. Woll asked that the ordinance be referred to the Human Resources Committee instead, as that was the committee handling it. Mr. Kelly did not object to that change to his motion. *Hearing no objection, the motion to refer the ordinance to the Human Resources Committee was adopted by unanimous consent.*

15. Ordinance 2023-14(b)(Y) An Ordinance Transferring \$540,340 from Various Capital Improvement Projects to CIP R72-167 Dogwood Lane, CIP R72-169 10th, F, W. 8th Streets Reconstruction, and CIP U76-127 Collection System.

This housekeeping ordinance would transfer \$540,340 from multiple nearly complete or fully complete projects to newer projects to allow bidding and construction during the 2024 season. Due to significant continued cost escalation, projects receiving funding no longer have sufficient budgets to complete the construction stage. This transfer will allocate additional funds to complete construction on these high priority projects. Any ongoing projects will retain sufficient funds funding to cover remaining project work. Funding is provided by Water Funds and Wastewater Funds.

The Public Works and Facilities Committee will review this request at the January 29, 2024 meeting. The Systemic Racism Review Committee reviewed this ordinance at its February 6, 2024 meeting and moved it forward to the full assembly for action with the following comment: *the SRRC understands that the proposed ordinance reflects the CBJ's Capital Improvement Plan prioritization process and the SRRC commits to reviewing the CIP broadly in an effort to find systemic racism as the committee is charged with.*

The City Manager recommends the Assembly adopt this ordinance.

Public Comment

None

Assembly Action

MOTION by Mr. Kelly to adopt Ordinance 2023-14(b)(Y) and asked for unanimous consent. *Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted by unanimous consent.*

N. NEW BUSINESS

16. 2024 Assembly Goals Adoption

The Assembly goals were discussed and decided upon at the December 2, 2023 annual Assembly Retreat. The changes requested at the retreat were incorporated into a draft version that was considered at the January 29, 2024 Assembly Committee of the Whole meeting.

The City Manager recommends the Assembly adopt this final version of the 2024 Assembly Goals.

Assembly Action

MOTION by 'Wáahlaal Gídaag to adopt the 2024 Assembly Goals and asked for unanimous consent.

Mr. Palmer advised that public comment be taken on this item.

Public C.omment

None.

Acting Mayor Hale thanked Mr. Palmer for the reminder.

Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

17. JG Construction Request to Purchase City Property near 6300 Jackie Street (Lemon Creek area)

In February, JG Construction applied to acquire fractions of two CBJ lots through a negotiated sale process, which have been available to purchase since 2017 by over-the-counter sale. The two lots are located on Jackie Street and were platted as part of the Renninger Subdivision. The applicant has requested fractions of lot 4 and lot 5, which are the two remaining CBJ owned lots. The applicant proposes to use the property for residential development and the application states that if the sale is approved, then they will build a maximum of 28 apartments. JG Construction currently rents 18 units, 9 of which are rented to the USCG and JG Construction has rented to USCG for 24 years.

On February 26, the Lands, Housing, and Economic Development Committee reviewed this application and forwarded it to the full Assembly with a motion of support to work with the original proposer.

According to 53.09.206 the next step in processing the application is for the Assembly to determine "whether the proposal should be further considered and, if so, whether by direct negotiation with the original proposer or by competition after an invitation for further proposals". If the Assembly provides a motion to negotiate with the original proposer on these two lots, and if the negotiations are successful, ordinances with terms and conditions of the sales will be introduced prior to a public hearing.

The Manager recommends the Assembly pass a motion of support to work with JG Construction as the original proposer in accordance with City Code 53.09.260.

Public Comment

None.

Assembly Action

MOTION by Mr. Bryson to pass a motion of support to work with JG Construction as the original proposer, in accordance with City Code 53.09.206.

Acting Mayor Hale objected for the purposes of a question. She said it seemed like the Assembly hasn't heard from someone else who may have wanted these smaller lots, and does not know if it will. Manager Koester explained that the lots have been available for purchase, as listed in the Land Allocation Plan since 2017; this is the first interest in these lots that has been expressed.

Mr. Bryson pointed out that this applicant asked what the city was doing to increase housing, to which he himself advised not to complain about other developers and to just tell the Lands Committee what he needs. He said this is the result of the Assembly seeking to spur developers to build multifamily housing, and that this is an instance where the Assembly can help facilitate that work.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs underlined that these lots have been under Lands for many years.

Acting Mayor Hale removed her objection. ***Hearing no further objection, the motion was adopted by unanimous consent.***

O. STAFF REPORTS

None.

P. ASSEMBLY REPORTS

Mayor's Report

Acting Mayor Hale said that Mayor Weldon was not present. She suggested doing the committee and liaison reports together instead of separately. She asked Mr. Palmer if the Assembly should take up Item 18 first. Mr. Palmer offered to cover the appeal briefly.

Presiding Officer Reports

18. Hart v. Planning Commission & Huna Totem Corporation

In the summer of 2023, the Planning Commission issued a conditional use permit for a new cruise ship dock at the Juneau Subport. Ms. Hart filed a timely appeal. The State Office of Administrative Hearings held the oral argument hearing on January 24, 2024. The Hearing Officer's proposed decision is due to the parties soon, and the Assembly will likely be able to consider the decision at the regular Assembly meeting on April 1.

There is no action for the Assembly.

Mr. Palmer explained that this is a Planning Commission appeal that went to a hearing officer. The hearing officer's written decision is due to the parties soon, in the next week or so, and then the parties have a chance to review the decision, and provide comment. It ultimately comes back to the Assembly for consideration. He said he anticipates the Assembly will have it on its agenda on April 1. But will communicate if there are any changes.

Q. ASSEMBLY COMMENTS & QUESTIONS

Combined reports and comments & questions

Assembly Finance Committee (AFC) Chair Woll reported that the committee is meeting again on Wednesday to proceed with the Special Joint Assembly meeting with the Airport Board. AFC will include presentations by partner organizations, Juneau Community Foundation, and Juneau Arts and Humanities Council. Ms. Woll, as Assembly liaison, reported that the Chamber of Commerce talked about the Juneau School District budget at their last meeting, and provided the Assembly several letters. She said the Eaglecrest Board met a month ago and reported that they are considering purchasing a sawmill to be able to take advantage of the timber that exists on the mountain while they work on their construction projects. Also, Eaglecrest's gondola and summer visitor plans were approved by the Planning Commission.

Ms. Woll said they heard from community members during the last two meetings about calling for a ceasefire. She is reminded of former Assemblymember Gladyszewski's comment when Russia invaded Ukraine, "If we can do something, let's do something." Ms. Woll said she is in favor of a ceasefire and would be in favor of lending the voice of CBJ to those calling for ceasefire. She said, while the Assembly does usually

stay out of international affairs, she would be in favor of passing a resolution if the other Assemblymembers are also going to support it. She asked other members to provide their comments.

‘Wáahlaal Gídaag reported that the Airport Board met on 2/8 for a 15-minute meeting, and that their next meeting is 3/14. The Commission on Aging met on 2/27 and the next meeting will be on 3/12. Regarding a ceasefire resolution, she said she would like to know more and would consider something moving forward. She also noted that many of the Juneau folks are heading up to Arctic Winter Games next week in Palmer and Wasilla, including her son.

Public Works & Facilities Committee (PWFC) Chair Bryson shared that he made opening remarks at this year’s Southeast Conference and met with the Southeast Solid Waste Authority. He had dinner with Senator Dan Sullivan about the Coast Guard Cutter coming to Juneau. Also met with the Teal Street Community Group about homeless situations in the Valley. He reported that the PWFC met. He also reported that he met with the Bartlett Regional Hospital Board, attended the BIPOC Business Expo, the AWARE Dinner, the Territorial Sportsman Dinner, and the UAS Campus Council. Mr. Bryson spoke on the ceasefire question, and recounted the Assembly’s discussion during the start the Ukraine-Russia war, which ultimately lead to the Assembly not separating its sister city tie with Vladivostok; this led to Russia writing propaganda about that decision and putting his name, and the rest of the Assembly’s, in the articles. He said he would pause before he would be willing to put his name towards something like this. Ms. Woll said her intent is not to put people on the spot, but if people want a ceasefire resolution to move forward then comments would be helpful.

Lands, Housing, and Economic Development Committee (LHEDC) Chair Hughes-Skandijs reported that the committee forwarded the Renninger land sale, which was just before the Assembly tonight. At the last LHEDC meeting, they talked about options for Mayflower Island, which is going to be returned to BIA. There is a lot to be found out about that. DIA is interested and it was sent to the COW with a motion. The Juneau Housing/Homeless Coalition meeting was cancelled. She said the Systemic Racism Review Committee weighed in on the transfer, as noted in the packet. There were questions about the CIP Process, and the SRRC is excited to look at that process. Travel Juneau hasn’t set its next meeting date yet. As for her own comments, she recalled that Assembly comments were skipped at the last meeting, so she couldn’t thank those that testified about the ceasefire. She agrees that there needs to be a ceasefire and urged citizens to call their federal representatives, as she is doing too.

Ms. Adkison reported that the Juneau Commission on Sustainability met on 2/7 about solid waste, where they discussed that grants are getting very competitive. The Juneau Economic Development Council had their retreat on 2/9 and are interested in pursuing housing to a greater degree. Docks and Harbors met on 2/29 and are looking at potentially changing vehicle surcharges for vessels of owners who don’t respond. D&H also had language comments on the Title 85 changes, which is going to be brought forward at the 4/1 Assembly meeting.

Mr. Kelly welcomed Ms. Hughes-Skandijs back to Chambers. He reported that the School Board Finance Committee has been meeting sporadically, and that he attended the most recent Regular Meeting, where they were there until midnight. He was late because he was watching the legislature pass the BSA increase. He noted that the Eaglecrest Board issued the CIP for the Gondola. The Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) had AEL&P present about the Salmon Creek Dam emergency preparedness. He responded to the ceasefire proposal question and said that he spoke with some of the individuals who brought that up, and learned a lot more info. He said he feels sensitive to how this will affect other members of the community. Reached out to members of the Jewish community. It was suggested that whatever they do, if they do something, that it should be inclusive and call for peace rather than choosing sides.

Mr. Bryson, as Acting Human Resources Committee (HRC) Chair, forwarded the following motion:

MOTION by Mr. Bryson to appoint Bradley Austin, Jeffrey Wilson and Darrel Whetherall to the Building Code Board of Appeals for terms beginning immediately and ending 2026 and asked for unanimous consent.

Hearing no objection, the motion was adopted by unanimous consent.

Committee of the Whole (COW) Chair Hale said there is another COW meeting next Monday, 3/11. She shared that she gave opening remarks after Senator Jesse Kiehl at the Innovation Summit. There was strategic planning, and members went through a process similar to that done at the Assembly retreat for looking at the future of Juneau. Tomorrow is the next PRAC meeting. She said she attended the 2/6 PRAC meeting, and informed members that Lauren Verrelli is the new Deputy Parks & Recreation Director. She also informed members that Manager Koester, Ms. Adkison, and she met with Tlingit & Haida President Peterson on 2/2. On 2/13, she went with Director Koch to the Streets Department at shift change where she thanked them with a breakfast. She attended the Dzantik'i Heeni Middle School meeting where kids testified on the school budget in a practice session. With respect to the ceasefire resolution, she stressed that it is a matter of deep anguish and it is very hard for the Assembly to understand the issues fully. She would prefer that they not move forward with a cease fire resolution. She was also quite stung by the way the Russians spun their sister city action and cautioned members about weighing in on international issues due to the complexity of the matters. She said she would like a ceasefire but does not believe the Assembly is the right body to do that.

R. CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

S. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

T. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

19. RED FOLDER: Ordinance 2023-14(b)(AD) *An Ordinance Providing for a One-Time Loan in FY24 to the Juneau School District for up to \$4.1 Million Dollars. Proposed Amendments by Assemblymember Kelly*

U. ADJOURNMENT – 10:27p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Assembly, the meeting was adjourned at 10:27 p.m.

Signed: _____

Elizabeth J. McEwen
Municipal Clerk

Signed: _____

Beth A. Weldon
Mayor