

Joint Finance Committee & Utility Commission

Tuesday March 7, 2023

6:30 P.M. at CITY HALL

405 Jewel St.

CHAIRMAN'S AGENDA

Finance Members: Cheryl Braun, Meagan Buchda, Richard Evans, John Schuster, and Mayor Dan Wegener

Utility Members: Robert Affeld, Ross Canniff, and Bart Coons

Members Absent: Richard Evans

Also Present: Justin Fischer Laurie Runyan

1. The Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Cheryl Braun and roll call was taken.
2. John Schuster/Robert Affeld to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
3. Cheryl Braun/John Schuster to approve the January 3, 2023, minutes. Motion carried.
4. Public Comment:
5. **Justin Fischer from Baird Financial to discuss City of Juneau and Juneau Utility Commission Joint borrowing for 2023.** Justin Fisher handed out documentation for potential borrowing for the City and for the Utility Commission for current project costs and costs from 2022 for street completions. He presented detail for borrowing of \$1,295,000 (\$260,000 for City portion and \$1,035,00 for Utility portion) The borrowing will allow us to levy the City portion of the borrowing. The projected interest rate is 4.50%. This is a General Obligation Promissory Note. This borrowing will help to keep our debt service even over the years rather than large fluctuations up and down. This is a ten (10) year borrowing with the first payment due March 2024. Per Justin, currently funds can be borrowed and put into the Local Government Income Pool and receive 4.5% on the funds. If we would have to wait use the funds, we could still accrue interest on what we have borrowed particularly if we receive the funds at a lower interest rate than projected. Questions were raised regarding timing of the Oak Street project as stated by the Mayor. We have applied for CDBG funding and believe we will get the funding. Robert Affeld and Cheryl Braun stated that the timing of the project is more the issue than the borrowing, as there are already projects planned on the Utility side of the City that we believe it would be better to push the project out to 2024. Currently we do not have firm numbers, or a valid estimate and this borrowing was not discussed during budget season. We are not guaranteed to receive CDBG funds. No action could be taken as this was not actionable on the agenda but those present would like to propose to the Council to take action at the full Council meeting, to borrow the \$1,295,000 with \$260,000 for the City for the Oak Street Project only and \$1,035,00 for the Utility Commission for projects from 2022 and 2023 (\$525,000) and the difference for the Oak Street project but that the Oak Street project would not be done until 2024 due to projects already planned for the Utilities for 2023.

- 6. Review, Discuss and Possibly Approve Installation of a Light located at the City's Outdoor Fitness Center.** Question was asked if there were still funds from the Capital Borrowing relating to the funds designated for the Recreation Department. Of the \$100K, set aside for the Recreation Department, about \$87K has been used. There is concern that the remaining funds may be needed to help with the wages for summer help and hiring of a new Recreation Director as budgeted funds may not be enough to cover the shortfall. No action taken. Would like this pushed to the fall for budget consideration.
- 7. Review, Discuss and Possibly Approve Wage Increase for the Recreation Department's Summer Help.** This request is coming from the Recreation Department to try to help get summer help. The current starting wage is \$10.00 with incremental increase for each returning year. Rec is requesting wages start at \$15.00. Discussion was had that the budget was not planned for this large of an increase. There was question raised if this was too large of an initial increase.
Ross Canniff/Cheryl Braun motioned to approve a starting rate of \$12.00 an hour for starting wage and an increase of \$1.00 each returning year as summer help.
Motion carried 5-0. Cheryl Braun/Joh Schuster motioned to pay Laura Zank a wage of \$15.50 as summer help for the 2023 summer if she chooses to return as summer help.
Motion Carried 5-0
- 8. Review, Discuss and Possibly Approve Wage Increase for the City of Juneau's Police Officers.** This request is coming from the Public Safety and Personnel Committees. There was discussion around the need to open the contract for this change and the need for finding qualified Officers to serve the City of Juneau. It was shared that we currently have an employee going thru Officer School who we are paying for the schooling and wages and benefits, who will be working for the City when schooling is complete. This wage change if accepted by the union will also be paid to the student. This is a \$2.00 an hour increase for each position.

Robert Affeld/Cheryl Braun motioned to approve the wage increase for the City of Juneau's Police Officers if accepted by the Union.
Motion carried 5-0.
- 9. Old Business. None**
- 10. New Business. None**
- 11. Set Date and Time for Next Meeting: Tuesday April 4, 2023, at 6:30 pm.**
- 12. Bart Coons/Ross Canniff to adjourn meeting at 8:00 pm. Motion carried.**

Minutes Reported By:

Cheryl Braun