MEETING NO. 2009-02: The Special meeting of the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly, held in the Assembly Chambers of the Municipal Building, was called to order at 5:50 p.m. by Mayor Bruce Botelho.

I. ROLL CALL

Assembly Present: Jonathan Anderson, Bruce Botelho, Jeff Bush, Sara Chambers Bob Doll, Johan Dybdahl, Merrill Sanford, David Stone and Randy Wanamaker.

Assembly Absent: None.

Staff Present: Rod Swope, City Manager; Kim Kiefer, Deputy City Manager; John Hartle, City Attorney; Laurie Sica, Municipal Clerk; Craig Duncan, Finance Director.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Bill Burk, Downtown Juneau, spoke about the Alaska Electric Light & Power Company’s response to the recent avalanche which damaged the power line and disconnected the community from hydroelectric power. He said the citizens are being taken advantage of by AEL&P, that the repairs made after the April avalanche were just a bandaid and the company had all summer to ensure there would not be another avalanche. The State of Alaska owns the Snettisham project and the city should have some control.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Liquor License

New Wholesale License #4859
Owner: Southern-Odom Wine and Spirits of Alaska
Location: 5452 Shaune Drive, Juneau, AK 99801

Administrative Report: Attached. Typically, the Human Resources Committee reviews liquor license matters; due to time constraints, this matter is directly before the Assembly for action.

Public Comment: None.

Assembly Action:

MOTION, by Sanford, that the Assembly waive its right to protest the renewal of Wholesale License #4859 for Southern-Odom Wine and Spirits of Alaska. Hearing no objection, it was so ordered.
B. AEL&P Update

Tim McLeod, AEL&P, spoke to the Assembly and public about the recent avalanche and AEL&P’s response. He acknowledged Gayle Wood, Scott Willis and Erik Erickson also from AEL&P. He said AEL&P hired Del LaRue, the foremost electric transmission designer in the state, to review the Snettisham line and make recommendations for mitigation. He regretted that Mr. LaRue was not able to fly in for the meeting due to the weather.

The Juneau electric utility is not connected to a grid, however, they have developed an internal grid system with backup diesel generation, which is the most inexpensive back up system. 85% of the power is generated from the Snettisham dam and is renewable. Mr. McLeod related the problems that AEL&P has had over the years with the line due to its location and the weather, including avalanches, rockslides, eagles, and trouble with the aviation balls. AEL&P spends $1-2 million each year on capital improvements and $100,000 on tree clearing for the line. The towers are routinely inspected on a seven year cycle.

AEL&P hired Bill Glude, an avalanche specialist, to identify all avalanche paths on the line. It also hired Aerometric to fly over the line and take LIDAR photography. This data gathering has been completed and Mr. LaRue is assessing all possible remedies to ensure the line is stable. Mr. McLeod said that most remedies will be expensive, and they need to weigh the cost of the expense of the mitigation with the cost to run on diesel when the line is down. He said that it wasn’t possible to take any mitigation measures beyond avalanche control this year as they were waiting for all the data to be collected, but thought that by the coming summer measures could be taken toward some fixes.

Mr. McLeod said they anticipated that three full days of work were still needed to repair the line, and the work had to be done in a safe manner, taking into consideration further avalanches and weather conditions.

IV. STAFF REPORTS

A. Legislative Priorities – Rod Swope

Mr. Swope distributed a packet of 2009 State Legislative Priorities and Capital Improvement Projects for the City and Borough of Juneau. He had reviewed this information with Clark Gruening, who had shown the draft to the Juneau legislative delegation to get their feedback.

Mr. Anderson asked to include the North Douglas Crossing in the document as that was one of the Assembly Goals.

Mr. Swope said it was not included last year, but he was happy to include it or any other project.
Mr. Sanford said there was nothing for Bartlett Regional Hospital, Docks and Harbors or the Airport. They all have next step projects and asked if their comments had been solicited. Mr. Swope said he had made contact, but had not heard back.

Mr. Doll said there is a wish list in the STIP and asked if Mr. Gruening was aware of that. The legislators have significant input on the STIP, and probably more so than the local list.

Mayor Botelho said the STIP projects can be forwarded. He wanted to have some information now to the legislators regarding municipal projects.

Mr. Anderson referred to $2.6 million in vetoed projects last year that should be used for the North Douglas Crossing.

Mr. Wanamaker said the North Douglas Crossing is important to the community. One approach is to obtain funds to continue the study, another is to re-appropriate money from the Gastineau Channel dredging project to the North Douglas Crossing project. We need to choose what we really need to ask for. The idea of re-appropriation seems to deserve consideration.

Mr. Botelho said this had been communicated to the state administration and he was hoping this would be included in the capital request.

Mr. Swope said there was three million in the State budget for channel dredging which we appropriately amended to also be available for the North Douglas Crossing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). $2.5 million is the estimated cost for extending a portion of the North Douglas Highway. A small amount would still go to the North Douglas EIS. Staff is interested in finding someone with expertise in “4F” requirements to determine the best way to proceed.

Mayor Botelho noted there was no objection to adding recommendations on the North Douglas Crossing. Mr. Swope asked for clarification on how it should be added and it was determined to add narrative rather than a specific funding amount.

Mayor Botelho said this document could be amended throughout the session – this version will be dated January 2009. He would like to schedule a meeting with the legislative delegation in the next few weeks.

V. ASSEMBLY COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

Mr. Doll requested travel funds from the Assembly budget to attend the National League of Cities – Green Cities Conference in Portland, Oregon, on April 18 – 21, 2009. The timing is good as the green house gas study will be completed soon, which he would like to take with him to the conference.

Hearing no objection to the Assembly travel accounts being used to pay for Mr. Doll’s attendance, it was so ordered.
Mr. Anderson said he attended the art dedication at Thunder Mountain High School on Sunday and encouraged people to take a look if they have not seen the school.

Mr. Bush said the Screening Committee for the City Manager hire was active, they had contacted several applicants and had narrowed the field. The Assembly should block out time on February 23 – 25 for participation in the assessment center activities. There were four candidates: Dick Kline, David Johnston, Bonnie Therrian and Larry Persily.

Mr. Doll asked if there was a point that the public participated. Mr. Bush said there would be a reception for the candidates, the exercises are done in public, and there is some discussion about having public worksheets for submission.

Mayor Botelho said that Senator Stedman was holding a hearing the next day at 9 a.m. to hear from all mayors regarding their submissions of identified projects to include in the Economic Stimulus package. All were welcome to attend the teleconference in his office.

Mayor Botelho said he received a call from Royal Caribbean. They would deploy only five ships in the Alaska market in 2010 instead of the six. There may be other redeployments reflecting the general economic climate. There may be remarks made tomorrow regarding the cost of doing business in Alaska, reflective in part on the passenger fees. Mayor Weinstein of Ketchikan called and communities may wish to reexamine the statewide passenger fee.

Mayor Botelho referred to a request for the Assembly to participate monetarily in the production of the glossy book, “Alaska, North to the Future.” He understood that past participation had been and intense effort of CBJ staff and the project had not been greeted with enthusiasm again. Ms. Chambers said it sounded like a good project for Juneau Convention and Visitors Bureau and suggested it be forwarded to JCVB.

Mr. Bush said that the book came in handy as a gift used by the state for visiting delegations – it is a valuable piece, but agreed that this was more appropriate for the JCVB to take on with enthusiasm.

VI. ADJOURNMENT – 5:30 p.m.

Signed: ___________________________        Signed: ___________________________
Laurie Sica, Municipal Clerk                     Bruce Botelho, Mayor