SPECIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Meeting Minutes - January 22, 2019

MEETING NO. 2019-04: 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 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Beth Weldon.

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Assemblymembers Present: Mayor Beth Weldon, Loren Jones, Michele Hale, Wade Bryson, Carole Triem, Maria Gladziszewski, Mary Becker, Rob Edwardson

Assemblymembers Absent: Alicia Hughes-Skandijs

Planning Commission Members Present: Ben Haight, Paul Voelckers, Mike LeVine, Dan Hickok, Ken Alper, Nathaniel Dye, Shannon Crossley

Planning Commission Absent: Andrew Campbell; [Travis Arndt - appointed but not yet sworn in.]

A quorum of each group was present.

Staff Present: City Manager Rorie Watt, City Attorney Robert Palmer, Municipal Clerk Beth McEwen, Community Development Director Jill Maclean, CDD Senior Planner Beth McKibben, CDD Senior Planner Laura Boyce, Deputy Lands Manager Dan Bleidhorn, Deputy Attorney Jane Mores, CDD Code Compliance Officer Nate Watts

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented by unanimous consent.

III. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Joint Meeting with Planning Commission

Mayor Weldon welcomed everyone to the meeting and turned the gavel over to Planning Commission Chair Ben Haight.

Mr. Haight gave an overview of the projects the commission has accomplished during the past year as outlined in the memo from Ms. Maclean dated January 18, 2019.

Projects currently being worked on by the Planning Commission and CDD staff include:

- Blueprint Downtown Juneau,
- Downtown Juneau Alternative Development Overlay District (ADOD) Zoning,

- Douglas ADOD,
- Auke Bay Rezoning,
- Working with Engineering/Public Works Department on the CIP review process,
- Subdivision Stub Streets,
- Streamside set-backs,
- Urban agriculture,
- Accessary apartments, and
- the Comp Plan Review/Update.

Planning Commissioners and staff answered a number of questions regarding these priorities including timelines and differences between the Blueprint Downtown project and the Downtown Juneau Alternative Development Overlay District (ADOD) zoning. Discussion then focused on the public engagement efforts with respect to the Auke Bay Rezone as well as the timing and methods for the public to provide comment in the Downtown Blueprint process. The next public meeting of the Blueprint Downtown is Thursday, January 24. Ms. Maclean explained that while MRV Architects have been hired as the consultants on the Downtown Blueprint process and their involvement will soon be done, the steering committee and staff will continue to work on the project and there will be multiple opportunities for the public to participate.

Discussion then shifted to the Auke Bay Implementation Plan, the amount of work that had gone into coming up with the plan and the public involvement in that process. Ms. Maclean explained that the previous steering committee chair has since moved away but there are still a number of steering committee members still here and attended some of the meetings. There have been a mix of those in support of the Auke Bay Rezoning and others in opposition. Mr. Dye said that some of the reaction could be from the standpoint that some of the concepts are somewhat different and not your "traditional" zoning for Juneau.

That led to discussions about neighborhood/area plans and how those areas or neighborhoods boundaries were identified, such as what constitutes "Downtown Douglas" vs. "West Douglas," vs. N. Douglas etc... That in turn led the discussion to the work done so far on the Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan) review/update and the goals for when and how that review will be taken on. Following a lengthy discussion regarding the type of plan review, Mr. Watt explained that he anticipates including an incremental request in the budget over two fiscal year cycles with the first increment being approximately $150,000 to be able to hire an outside contractor to assist with this project as there had been some concern expressed over how many concurrent plans staff and the commission might reasonably be able to work on at the same time.

Additional discussion took place regarding the work of CDD staff and the Planning Commission involving better coordination with the Engineering/Public Works Department on the CIP list. Their hope is to try to look at broader issues systematically and coordinate early on in the process the PC's priorities in the CIP review process.

That in turn moved the Assembly and Planning Commission to discuss how the Planning Commission's priorities are aligning nicely with those of the Assembly, especially Assembly goals 2F, 2G, 2H, and 2J.

Additional topics discussed included the work of the Juneau Commission on Sustainability and the Title 49 Committee's work on an urban agricultural ordinance. They discussed the Assembly's concerns with respect to the limited amount of land within the borough that is zoned "Industrial" and that those lands not be re-zoned for other types of uses. They discussed the Affordable Housing Fund, the amount in the fund and types of projects that are likely to use those funds and Mr. Watt explained the anticipated next steps in how those funds will be managed and used. Staff reported that they are currently working on the downtown housing inventory which they hope to have ready and presented to both bodies within the next few months.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Bill Leighty - Mr. Leighty commented that he recently sent both bodies a 9-page memo addressing some of the opportunities for CBJ to consider how best to handle the cruise ship passenger capacity in light of the anticipated increase in cruise passengers. He stated that this is the opportune time for the Assembly to work with the cruise industry on requiring use of electric buses by tourism companies and to also look at building and operating a light rail system from town to the Mendenhall Glacier.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Weldon welcomed the newly appointed Planning Commissioners Ken Alper and Shannon Crossley and noted that Mr. Bryson was doing a good job as the Assembly liaison to the Planning Commission. She thanked the members of both bodies for attending the meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Assembly, the meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Signed: _____
Elizabeth J. McEwen
Municipal Clerk

Signed:_____
Beth A. Weldon
Mayor