

**SPECIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA**

Meeting Minutes - December 8, 2016

The Special Meeting #2016-37 of the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly, held in Conference Room #224 of the Municipal Building, was called to order at 7:28 p.m. by Mayor Ken Koelsch.

Assemblymembers present: Mayor Ken Koelsch, Loren Jones, Jesse Kiehl, Maria Gladziszewski, Jerry Nankervis, Debbie White, Mary Becker, Beth Weldon, and Norton Gregory

Others present: Beth McEwen, Deputy Clerk

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

II. AGENDA TOPICS

A. Board Appointments

Planning Commission - There are three open seats on the Planning Commission for terms beginning January 1, 2017 and expiring December 31, 2019.

Aquatics Board - There is one open seat on the Aquatics Board for a partial term due to the election of former Aquatics Board member Beth Weldon to the Assembly. This seat is for a term beginning immediately and expiring June 30, 2018.

Bartlett Regional Hospital Board - There are three open seats on the Bartlett Regional Hospital Board for terms beginning January 1, 2017 and expiring December 31, 2019.

The full Assembly, sitting as the Human Resources Committee (HRC), is conducting interviews of all applicants for the above boards prior to this Special Assembly meeting.

The City Manager recommends the Assembly make board appointments in accordance with the HRC recommendations.

Mr. Jones noted that the full Assembly sitting as the Human Resources Committee met just prior to this meeting and recommended the appointments of Ben Haight, Dan Miller, and Daniel Hickok to the Planning Commission to terms beginning January 1, 2017 and expiring December 31, 2019. *Hearing no objection, the appointments were approved as recommended by the HRC.*

Mr. Jones noted that the Human Resources Committee recommended the appointment of Becky Monagle to the Aquatics Board to a term beginning immediately and expiring June 30, 2018. *Hearing no objection, the appointment was approved as recommended by the HRC.*

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Koelsch stated the he was taking this opportunity to update other Assemblymembers on some of the things he has been working on recently.

He mentioned that at the Capital Committee, they have been discussing the Capital Plaza which is the area between the Capitol Building and the Dimond Court House to see if the idea of turning that

into a strictly pedestrian plaza area rather than opening it back up as 4th Street is something that the Assembly would like to entertain. He said that Ms. Becker was also at that meeting and that the Capital Committee was very supportive of exploring that idea. It has been closed for 8-9 months and he said this if the Assembly was ever going to be considering closing off the area of 4th Street between the Capitol Building and the Court House, now would be the time for them to consider doing it since people have become used to not driving on it. He said it would be worth looking at and weighing the pros and cons of it in the immediate future.

The second item he wanted to let them know about is an ad hoc meeting that he held in his office on Friday, December 2 on homelessness and inebriates. The first thing was to establish whether there is a problem or that maybe we are just hearing anecdotal comments here and there. He said it was very clear that there is a problem. This is a different problem and is a group that we have not necessarily dealt with before. The is always the focus of trying to connect the homeless and inebriates with help and he said there are some long range plans in effect and his hope was to look at short term solutions. He said one thing that came about as a result of the meeting was to connect the foot patrol officers with the merchants. The merchants were frustrated that in order to get people out of their doorways, they had to serve them with papers and in order to do that, they had to identify who the people were in their doorways. He said the foot patrol officers now have enough information on who is where and they can work with merchants to immediately start that serving process. He said another issue discussed was "rapid rehousing" which is someone that is here in Juneau and has no way to get out of Juneau and wants to get back to another state or community from where they came from. He said that would be a financial focus that the city or some of the community agencies or foundations may be able to assist in. He said they talked some with the City Attorney's office about a possible camping ordinance about having some parts of downtown designated as a "No Camping" zone and by doing that, it will enable people to be moved out of that zone immediately. He said there was a representative from AEL&P and hearing their comments as to what was happening on their property on the hillside was quite disgusting. He said similar to that, what is happening under the docks and even in some of the doorways around town is not good. He said staff from Engineering/PW was present and they discussed the plans for lighting changes on Franklin and Front Streets over the next three years and how lighting can help control the situation. He said they will continue to get information from Law, Housing and Engineering staff on solutions.

Ms. Gladziszewski said they also discussed the possibility of reopening the Thane campground in the short term.

Ms. Becker asked about the Mayor's comments about new homeless and inebriates whom have not been seen before. Mayor Koelsch said this is a different group of individuals whom have not necessarily been around previously and are acting somewhat more aggressive than what we have seen in the past. He said he didn't want to get into the details at this time but wanted to make all the Assemblymembers aware of these issues and bring them up to speed on efforts currently in progress.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Assembly, Mayor Koelsch adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Signed: _____
Elizabeth J. McEwen Deputy Clerk

Signed: _____
Kendell D. Koelsch, Mayor