ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Meeting Minutes – June 7, 2021

The Assembly Committee of the Whole Meeting, held in the Assembly Chambers and broadcasted virtually via Zoom, was called to order by Deputy Mayor Jones at 6:00p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Assemblymembers Present: Loren Jones, Maria Gladziszewski, Carole Triem, Wade Bryson, Alicia Hughes-Skandijs, Greg Smith, Christine Woll, Michelle Hale, and Mayor Beth Weldon.

Assemblymembers Absent: None.

Staff Present: City Manager Rorie Watt, Deputy City Manager Mila Cosgrove, City Attorney Robert Palmer. Municipal Clerk Beth McEwen, Deputy Clerk Diane Cathcart

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 12, 2021 Assembly Committee of the Whole Draft Minutes

Hearing no objections, the minutes of the April 12, 2021 meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

IV. AGENDA TOPICS

A. Joint Meeting with the Systemic Racism Review Committee (SRRC)

Deputy Mayor Jones passed the gavel to Mayor Weldon to lead the joint meeting of the Assembly with the Systemic Racism Review Committee.
Mayor Weldon invited the Systemic Racism Review Committee to introduce themselves to the Assembly and then she turned the discussion over to SRRC Chair Lillian 'Lisa' Worl to begin.
SRRC Members present: Chair Lisa Worl, Deputy Chair Grace Lee, Dominic Branson, Carla Casulucan, Gail Dabaluz, Kelli Patterson, and David Russell-Jensen.

SRRC Chair Worl reported that the first SRRC meeting was held on April 1, 2021 and they have held seven meetings since then. Ms. Worl shared that the main objective for the committee is to establish legislative review criteria. The SRRC provided the Assembly with a draft version of their legislative review summary.

The committee utilized three policy review tools to create their draft criteria: the King County Racial Equity Toolkit Review, the Puget Sound Review, and the Race Forward Racial Equity Impact Assessment. Ms. Worl thanked Ms. Cosgrove for helping the SRRC refine their criteria. The current plan is to use this draft to review recent ordinances and resolutions provided by Mr. Palmer at their worksession on June 15.

Ms. Gladziszewski thanked the SRRC for their work and for their draft review criteria. She asked Ms. Worl to clarify how close they are to finalizing this draft. Ms. Worl explained that their draft was close to being finalized, however they are being mindful of the scope of the review itself, as well as time constraints. The SRRC will be going through the criteria with sample ordinances and resolutions provided by Mr. Palmer to see how well it works. She added that there will likely be refinements that need to be made.

Ms. Hale thanked SRRC for their work, and described their progress as encouraging. She asked if SRRC would share the results of their review of past legislation with the Assembly. Ms. Worl clarified that the review process may take a few sessions to work through the past legislation.

Ms. Woll noted that some SRRC members have been attending other committee meetings, and asked if there were any ways for committees to assist SRRC with their legislative process. Ms. Worl thanked Ms. Woll for attending SRRC meetings, and said that some SRRC members have been attending Assembly Standing Committee meetings. She shared that at this point in time they have more questions than answers, but they are looking forward to answering those questions together. Ms. Patterson explained that SRRC members have been assigned specific committees to attend, and they are learning how to come together and work collaboratively as a committee. She mentioned that different members have various understandings of cultural differences and nuances that contribute to the work they are accomplishing as a group.

Mayor Weldon brought up the issue of timing, and did not feel that it was necessary for SRRC to complete their criteria review as soon as possible. Ms. Gladziszewski agreed that the SRRC did not have to complete their review criteria by July 1.

Mayor Weldon asked Ms. Worl if the Assembly could provide the SRRC with any additional assistance. Ms. Worl thanked the Assembly for allowing SRRC to have an ample amount of time to complete their review criteria.

Ms. Worl explained that the SRRC would like for the criteria process to be as streamlined as possible. She described a five-step review process: Step 1 would be an opportunity for the SRRC to look at the legislation and determine if it warrants further review. Steps 2 through 5 would take place if the SRRC found anything in the legislation that raised questions or cause for concern.

Mr. Bryson asked about the statistics from the demographics graph featured at the top of Packet Page 26. Ms. Cosgrove explained that the statistics on the graph were pulled from 2010 Census data. According to the 2010 Census, 69.7% of Juneau's population identified solely as White, and 30.3% identified as either a single minority group, or a combination of two or more races.

Ms. Hale asked about Step 4. She said that the Assembly is already required to undergo a lengthy legislative process, especially considering public process and scheduling meetings. She asked if

SRRC wanted to include additional steps for the Assembly to include in the process. Ms. Worl referred to Step 3, which takes the timing of the process into consideration.

Ms. Hale said she could see the potential for the Assembly to evolve to a point where they can potentially address concerning aspects of legislation early in the process. Ms. Worl said the SRRC has been having those discussions as well. She also discussed the process will evolve as CBJ staff and directors start to understand the types of questions they will be asking for each piece of legislation.

Ms. Gladziszewski asked for a clarification of the timing for the review process, how often they will meet, and how long it might take. Ms. Worl said that she did not know at this time how long it would take. The way they have discussed it, the legislation will be at the end of the process prior to Assembly action. From a learning curve perspective, it will take longer at the beginning of the process.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs asked with respect the census statistics on the top of Page 26, referring to Question 2C, if the legislation specifically impacted a non-white population. She asked if the SRRC intends to consider further refining their definition of significantly non-white. Ms. Worl shared that the SRRC raised similar questions, and believe that more statistical information and metrics are needed.

Mayor Weldon shared that she really liked Step 1 and Step 2. She said that Step 4 might need some additional review.

Mr. Branson said that during the process of creating this draft, the SRRC compiled a bunch of thoughts they felt would be important to include in the draft. He anticipated the final will be far more streamlined.

Mr. Russell-Jensen thanked the Assembly, and mentioned that working on this committee has given him a greater appreciation for all the work the Assembly has done.

Ms. Lee echoed previous speakers' sentiments and hoped to present a more streamlined version of the draft criteria to the Assembly in a few weeks.

Mayor Weldon said that they had presented a great draft, and looked forward to work that the SRRC will bring to the Assembly in the future. Ms. Worl thanked the Mayor and Assembly for the opportunity to conduct this work. She invited the Assembly to attend SRRC meetings, and to watch the documentary on which they will base their training. She also commended the Juneau Human Rights Commission and Haifa Sadighi for co-hosting the training.

Ms. Gladziszewski asked Ms. Worl to provide additional details about the training. Ms. Worl explained that the training is a three part PBS docuseries followed by group discussions.

Mayor Weldon appreciated all of the time and hard work put in by members of the SRRC.

The Committee of the Whole ended the joint session with the SRRC and recessed starting at 6:54p.m. The meeting resumed at 7:05p.m.

B. AEL&P Update

AEL&P President and General Manager Connie Hulbert provided an extensive Energy Update presentation for the Assembly. Ms. Hulbert was joined in her presentation by AEL&P senior staff members: Christy Yearous, VP of Generation; Darrell Wetherall, VP of Transmission and Distribution; Debbie Driscoll, Director of Consumer Affairs; Rod Ahlbrandt, Director of Information Technology; Brandon Cullum, Chief Financial Officer; and Alec Mesdag, Director of Energy Services. Each group gave an overview relating to their specific areas of operation.

Some of the highlights included:

- Hydropower energy sources: Two-thirds of the hydropower comes from the Snettisham project which AEL&P operates under agreements with AIDEA. The other one-third of Juneau's hydropower energy comes from projects owned by AEL&P: Gold Creek (1893), Salmon Creek (1914), Annex Creek (1915), and Lake Dorothy (2009).
- At Snettisham, there had been a generator rewind planned for Unit 2, however, that had been postponed due to COVID. The project entails removing and replacing the 120,000lbs – 60 ton rotor. It takes many years to plan this type of rewind including management of the reservoir leading up to and after the project completion.
- AEL&P continues to perform avalanche monitoring and control work along the Snettisham transmission line between Snettisham and town, relying on use of the Daisy Bell, a pioneering avalanche mitigation tool, which AEL&P was the first in North America to use.
- There are two redundant transmission lines that travel along Thane Road, one of which was damaged during DOT avalanche control work on March 4, 2021. The other line was undergrounded by AEL&P a number of years ago.
- They provided historical data on the energy loads, peaks and valleys based on low and heavy rainfall/snowfall years.
- During the December 2, 2020 extreme weather event, the Salmon Creek penstock was damaged by one of three landslides in the area but the Salmon Creek dam itself was not damaged and remains safe to operate. The penstock was able to be repaired by February 23, 2021 and put back online.
- One of the largest projects completed recently was the Gold Creek Flume replacement finished in 2020. AEL&P owns the flume, and CBJ owns the deck boards and railings and carries liability for public use of the flume as a trail.
- The presentation touched on use patterns, growth projections, modification to the dusk to dawn street light schedule as well as fee changes approved by the Regulatory Commission of Alaska (RCA) for systemic upgrades to street lights and new metering systems.
- Customer outreach and education included information about energy lessons AEL&P has been providing to middle school classrooms as part of the statewide Power Pledge

Challenge since 2016. This program teaches students the difference between energy efficiency and conservation and how to calculate the cost of using different appliances.

- The presentation included information on the Alaska Heat Smart organization working to support homeowners who want to install heat pumps. AEL&P is conducting a study on how heat pump use impacts electric loads and energy consumption when they are installed in multifamily housing to replace electric baseboards.
- AEL&P staff chairs the Southeast Conference Energy Committee and participates in weekly calls to coordinate efforts between SE Conference and ACEP on regional energy issues.
- Electric Vehicles and their charging units are increasing and they provided in depth information on the rate structures for EV stations as well as following the RCA with respect to the future of DC fast charging stations (DCFC).
- They provided an update with respect to their work on interconnections with Juneau Hydropower, Inc. and the steps taken so far and those in the future to reach an interconnection agreement.
- Future projects include planned replacement of the Annex Creek penstock then the Salmon Creek penstock. They also plan to retire the 5 diesel units located in the Gold Creek Power Plant which are currently beyond their useful life and not included as part of the firm standby capacity.

Ms. Woll asked if a potential change in precipitation patterns would affect AEL&P operations. Ms. Hulbert said that it potentially could affect operations, but it is hard to determine given the unpredictability of weather.

Ms. Hulbert answered a number of other questions from Assemblymembers regarding their operations and the graphs and statistical data in the presentation.

Mr. Jones thanked AEL&P for their presentation.

The Committee of the Whole took a break at 8:50p.m. The meeting resumed at 9:05p.m.

C. Cruise Ship Dock Electrification Update

Mr. Watt recommended that the Assembly make a motion to put a resolution of support for the RAISE Grant on the agenda.

MOTION by Ms. Hale for the Assembly to direct the City Manager to put a Resolution of Support for the RAISE Grant on the Agenda. *Hearing no objections, the motion passed by unanimous consent.*

D. Discussion on Definition of Assembly Liaison – Assembly Rules of Procedure draft Resolution 2949 from HRC

The Human Resources Committee reviewed Resolution 2949 v HRC1 on May 24, 2021, and referred it to the Committee of the Whole for discussion. Resolution 2949 vCOW1 has been revised to reflect the adoption of Resolution 2747 at the May 24 Assembly meeting.

This resolution would clarify the role of liaisons. All of the proposed liaison amendments are located on Page 8 of the resolution.

Mr. Bryson shared that the HRC discussed these terms and their definitions at the last HRC meeting.

Ms. Hale was concerned about the Board Liaisons being able to contribute in discussions, but Assembly Liaisons not being able to participate in discussions unless invited by the Board Chair. She felt that this would stifle Assemblymembers from participating in discussion.

Mr. Bryson explained the intent was for the Assemblymember to be able to summarize the events of the meetings they attend, rather than influence them.

Mayor Weldon agreed with Mr. Bryson's intent of the Assembly Liaison being a role primarily meant to report back to the Assembly.

Ms. Gladziszewski recommended removing the language "shall have a right to participate" on Lines 5 and 6, to clarify the wording and help avoid confusion regarding the role of liaison.

Mayor Weldon disagreed with the removal of the wording, but would agree to changing "shall" to "may".

MOTION by Ms. Gladziszewski to change the wording on Line 5 from "shall" to "may". *Hearing no objections, the motion passed by unanimous consent.*

MOTION by Ms. Gladziszewski to change the wording on Line 32 from "Liaison should not" to "Liaison may participate in Board or Committee discussions when invited by the Chair." *Hearing no objections, the motion passed by unanimous consent.*

Ms. Triem mentioned that she did not agree with Board members participating in Committee deliberations, particularly someone from a non-elected board having influence in an Assembly meeting.

Mr. Bryson referred to an instance in which a liaison objected to an Assembly vote, and spoke in support in clarifying the role of liaison as a non-deliberation role.

Ms. Gladziszewski argued that liaisons should be able to provide input to the Assembly, but would understand if the definition of the role needed to be clarified.

MOTION by Mayor Weldon to remove the word "deliberation" on Line 9 and replace it with "discussions". *Hearing no objections, the motion passed by unanimous consent.*

Mr. Jones spoke to the importance of clear communication between the Assembly and the Board Liaisons.

<u>MOTION</u> by Ms. Gladziszewski to forward Resolution 2949 to the full Assembly.

Mr. Bryson mentioned that Zoom meetings have made it easier for Board liaisons to be included in conversations.

Hearing no objections, Resolution 2949 was forward to the Assembly by unanimous consent.

E. Travel Marketing Ordinance

The attached draft ordinance has not been introduced and is presented to the Committee of the Whole for discussion. If the Assembly were to adopt this ordinance, the ordinance would change the travel marketing services from a grant to a competitive solicitation (i.e. request for proposals). The Assembly would retain complete control of the contract terms and travel marketing priorities.

<u>MOTION</u> by Mr. Jones for the Assembly to refer this draft ordinance to the LHEDC.

Objection by Ms. Hale. Ms. Hale questioned why this ordinance had been initiated at a COW meeting, rather than with the LHEDC.

Mr. Jones explained that the Assembly Rules of Procedure permits an Assemblymember to bring forward a request on an ordinance, and he thought it should go through the COW rather than wait until June 14.

Objection by Mayor Weldon. Mayor Weldon referred to the letter presented by Travel Juneau, and asked Mr. Jones why they were asking for the change.

Mr. Jones referenced previous Resolutions that were passed in the 1980s that led to a lack of competitive funding for organizations like Travel Juneau.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs spoke in support of this ordinance. She said that she would like to change the grant, and that doing so would not be a drastic move for the Assembly to pursue.

Mr. Bryson mentioned the possibility of a non-Alaskan firm replacing Travel Juneau, and potentially using the cheapest methods possible to produce marketing strategies for Juneau. For this reason, he does not feel that opening this up to an open bid process would be beneficial for Juneauites.

Ms. Gladziszewski said that this was a good time to have this conversation, acknowledged that this had not been thoroughly examined since the 1980s.

Mr. Smith agreed that the Lands, Housing & Economic Development Committee (LHEDC) might be able to look at the current state of Travel Juneau and develop strategic, tactful ways to make improvements.

Ms. Woll spoke in support of forwarding this to LHEDC for further discussion.

Mayor Weldon maintained her objection.

Roll Call Vote on Motion:
Ayes: Jones, Hughes-Skandijs, Woll, Gladziszewski, Smith.
Nays: Hale, Bryson, Triem, Mayor Weldon.
Motion passed. Five (5) Ayes, Four (4) Nays.

F. Ordinance 2021-20 An Ordinance Amending the Compensation for Assemblymembers, the Mayor, and Certain Boards.

CBJ Charter section 3.10 provides the Assembly – by ordinance – shall provide for compensation for the Mayor and other Assemblymembers. However, an ordinance that increases Assemblymember compensation shall not take effect until after the October election.

This ordinance would establish the compensation for the Planning Commission and the Hospital Board of Directors at $225 per month, establish the compensation for the Mayor at $3,500 per month, and establish the compensation for other Assemblymembers at $750 per month. Currently, this ordinance has an effective date of January 1, 2022.

On March 11, 2020, the Assembly Finance Committee amended this ordinance to include the Planning Commission and Hospital Board. On May 5, 2021, the Assembly Finance Committee also discussed this topic. This ordinance was introduced on May 24, 2021, and referred to the Committee of the Whole.

Ms. Triem asked Mr. Palmer to clarify that compensating the Hospital Board would not require them to complete any state financial disclosures. Mr. Palmer shared that he did not know that specific answer, he would need to research that answer. Ms. McEwen explained that the statue specifically calls out the Assembly, the Planning Commission, and any members of an elected utility board; it does not mention any other types of boards, thus not requiring Hospital Board members to complete a financial disclosure statement.

Mr. Bryson shared that he had contemplated this topic for a considerable amount of time, and believes that it is time for an increase. He mentioned that his role as an Assemblymember is the lowest paying job he has ever had. Mr. Bryson encouraged the Assembly to consider the compensation for every Assemblymember that might ever want to serve. He said the Assembly should reflect the entire community, and potential Assemblymembers should be able to run for office without having a secondary financial support system, such as being retired or owning a business. Mr. Bryson believed that raising the compensation rate for Assemblymember would allow the Assembly to be inclusive to the entire community.

Amendment #1 by Mr. Bryson to create an addition which would amend the section that states "On January 1, 2025," the compensation amount would be automatically amended to read, "The Mayor shall be compensated at the rate of $4,000 per month, all other Assemblymembers shall be compensated at the rate of $1,000 per month, per diem payments, reimbursements for expenses and election of health insurance are not compensation under this section."

Mr. Bryson explained the timing of his amendment, which would not be applicable to any current Assemblymembers unless they were to be re-elected through another election cycle. He also mentioned past Assembly members – Mayor Becker, Mayor Koelsch, and Mayor Sanford – who had all previously started that Assembly pay should be raised. Mr. Bryson also said that the Assembly Charter requires the Assembly to review their compensation rate every two years, and believed that neither this Assembly or the Assembly before have fulfilled that requirement in previous years.

Objection by Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones was concerned about the difference between this pay rate increase and the Assembly Compensation Committee. He suggested the removal of the years.

There was a discussion about the Mayor's pay rate versus the Assemblymembers pay rate.

Objection by Ms. Gladziszewski. She was concerned about the Mayor receiving a $48,000 salary for a part-time job.

Objection by Mr. Smith. He said that he was struggling with the optics of deciding their own salary, and mentioned the Legislature having a voter-led commission to determine their salary rates.

Ms. Triem asked for clarification about Mr. Bryson's comments on how salary reconsideration is required in the Assembly Charter. Mr. Palmer was not aware of any place in the Assembly Charter that requires the Assembly to look over their salary every two years. Mr. Bryson shared that he may have read the Charter wrong.

Roll Call Vote on Amendment #1:
Ayes: Bryson, Triem, Woll, Hale,
Nays: Smith, Hughes-Skandijs, Gladziszewski, Mayor Weldon, Jones.
Amendment #1 failed. Four (4) Ayes, Five (5) Nays.

Amendment #2 by Ms. Hale to amend the periodic review section by striking "…or a compensation commission appointed by the Assembly." And to remove the word "two years" and replace it with "five years". The amended section would read: "The Assembly shall review the compensation for elected and Assembly-appointed Boardmembers every five years." Ms. Hale also wanted to completely strike Section C.

Ms. Hale explained her amendment, saying that the Assembly did not need to hide behind a compensation commission.

Objection by Ms. Gladziszewski. She felt that leaving the language as stated would allow for the next Assembly to either move forward with their decisions, or appoint a commission. She added that she liked changing the period review time from two years to five years.

Objection by Ms. Triem. She said that this amendment would make it difficult for the Assembly to get anything done. However, she liked the five year addition.

Mayor Weldon spoke in favor of the amendment, adding that she also liked the five year change.

<u>MOTION</u> by Mr. Smith to bifurcate the amendment and separate the five year concept from the rest of the amendment. Hearing no objections, that motion passed.

Amendment #2(A) – Change Section A to allow the Assembly to review compensation for Elected and Assembly Appointed Board Members every Two Years, and Strike Section C

<u>Roll Call Vote on Amendment #2(A):</u>
Ayes: Bryson, Hale, Mayor Weldon.
Nays: Smith, Woll, Hughes-Skandijs, Triem, Gladziszewski, Jones.
Amendment failed. Three (3) Ayes, Six (6) Nays.

Amendment #2(B) – Amend the Periodic Review from every two years to every five years. Hearing no objections, Amendment #2(B) was adopted by unanimous consent.

<u>MOTION</u> by Mayor Weldon to forward Ordinance 2021-20, as amended, to the Full Assembly and asked for unanimous consent.

Objection by Mr. Smith for purposes of an amendment.

Amendment #3 by Mr. Smith to strike Section 6, the Hospital Board of Directors Compensation Section.
Mr. Smith spoke to his amendment, saying that $225 is not enough incentive for Hospital Boardmembers.

Objection by Mr. Jones.

Ms. Gladziszewski spoke in support of this amendment, as she felt that the Assembly has not discussed the concept of paying the Hospital Board.

There was a discussion about the financial responsibilities the Hospital Board are charged with and that compensation for their service on the board with a small stipend would help offset those responsibilities.

Ms. Woll asked if the Planning Commission had access to health insurance benefits, like the Assembly, and would this amendment potentially change that. Ms. Cosgrove answered no, they do not have access to the health insurance benefits.

Roll Call Vote on Amendment #3
Ayes: Smith, Gladziszewski
Nays: Hughes-Skandijs, Bryson, Hale, Triem, Woll, Mayor Weldon, Jones.
Amendment failed. Two (2) Ayes, Seven (7) Ayes.

Hearing no objections, Ordinance 2021-20 was forwarded to the Full Assembly as amended.

G. Resolution 2957 A Second Resolution Authorizing the Manager to Enter into Port Agreement with Cruise Line Corporations for the Purpose of Satisfying Requirements of the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention to Allow Cruise Ships to Visit the Port of Juneau in Calendar Year 2021.

Over the last few months, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued orders and technical guidance for cruise ships to resume carrying passengers. One of the CDC requirements is for each port to sign a Port Agreement outlining important health and safety terms. The various ports in Southeast Alaska are working together with the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services to develop Port Agreements. On May 24th, the Assembly passed Resolution 2955 which authorizes the Manager to enter port agreements for vaccinated cruises.

This resolution is more specific to authoring visitation by cruise lines that have traditionally catered to families, including minors that are not yet eligible for vaccination. This resolution would authorize the Manager to only sign a Port Agreement if (1) the cruise lines provide the ship schedules in advance and (2) the cruise lines agree to the requirements of the CDC (including a simulated voyage); (3) that a minimum of 90% of the total number of passengers are vaccinated, (4) that all adults and crew are vaccinated and (5) that no more than 5% of the ship capacity is filled by unvaccinated minors. The Cities of Hoonah, Ketchikan, and Skagway are in the process of signing similar port agreements.

Mr. Watt recommended that the Assembly forward this to the full Assembly for action at the June 14 Regular Assembly meeting.

MOTION by Mayor Weldon to forward Resolution 2957 vCOW1 to the full Assembly for consideration at the June 14 Regular Assembly meeting.

Objection by Mr. Smith for purposes of a question. Mr. Smith asked if there had been any input from professional healthcare organizations like CDC.

Mr. Watt spoke to the possible risk with this resolution, and added that CDC had established a rather thorough health and safety plan for cruise ships to operate. He said that there are a lot of different ways to look at this. Mr. Smith removed his objection.

Ms. Gladziszewski found that the mathematical aspects of this resolution would allow for this resolution to happen safely.

Ms. Hale spoke in favor of this resolution, and mentioned that the cruise ship's vaccination rate would be better than Juneau's current vaccination rate.

Hearing no objections, Resolution 2957 vCOW1 was forwarded to the full Assembly for consideration at the June 14 Regular Assembly meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Assembly, the Committee of the Whole meeting was adjourned at 10:21p.m.

Clerk's Note: Original draft minutes of this meeting were presented for approval at the November 29, 2021 meeting. Mr. Bryson requested a more in depth synopsis of the AEL&P presentation be included in the minutes. This revised version is being presented for approval at the April 8, 2022 Assembly Committee of the Whole meeting by Municipal Clerk Beth McEwen.