THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA
Assembly Committee Of The Whole Work Session Minutes
Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2020

The City and Borough of Juneau Assembly Committee of the Whole meeting held virtually via Zoom, was called to order by Deputy Mayor Maria Gladziszewski at 5:00p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Assemblymembers Absent: None.

Staff present: City Manager Rorie Watt, Deputy City Manager/Incident Commander Mila Cosgrove, Assistant City Attorney Emily Wright, Municipal Clerk Beth McEwen, Deputy Clerk Di Cathcart, CDD Director Jill Maclean

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Gladziszewski noted that there was one additional agenda item added – **F. CBJ Public Health Related Order regarding Implementing CBJ COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies.** She also noted additional documents that were sent as red folder items just prior to the meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were no meeting minutes to approve.

IV. AGENDA TOPICS

A. Cold Weather Shelter Building Purchase

Ms. Maclean shared that the CDD held several neighborhood meetings, specifically with Downtown neighborhood groups. She said that the first few meetings were spent discussing the Bill Ray Center. CDD held a public meeting on September 9, where about eighty members of the public participated to share their support for a cold weather shelter.

Mr. Watt explained the process of using CARES Act funding to purchase a facility to use as a cold weather shelter. He said that there have been up to 70 people a night at the JACC shelter, and he would like to give the JACC back to the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council. Mr. Watt recommended that they proceed with purchasing the Bill Ray Center for use as a cold warming shelter. He also provided a potential timeline which documented what would occur if they were to consider purchasing the Bill Ray Center, and what actions need to would occur at future meetings.

Ms. Triem asked Mr. Watt to explain what plans they have for the Bill Ray Center once the pandemic is over.

Mr. Watt said that the Juneau Housing Coalition has continuously recommended the City to provide resources towards long-term supportive housing, rather than emergency shelters. He said he hoped that the Bill Ray Center would be repurposed post-pandemic for long-term use, possibly focused on education or childcare.

Mr. Bryson expressed concern about the size of the building, the cost of maintenance, and the cost of repurposing an entire building. He said that repurposing this building would be the most expensive option. Mr. Watt offered to bring more information to the September 21 Regular Assembly meeting that would compare the Bill Ray Center to other facilities.

Mayor Weldon mentioned the Bill Ray Center does not have many parking spaces available, and asked if there was parking available at the warehouse building. Ms. Maclean said that she does not know the exact number, but there were a sufficient amount of parking spaces available at the warehouse.

More discussion took place that compared the Bill Ray Center and the warehouse building. Assemblymembers also expressed concern about the amount of CARES Act funding and the timeline they have to spend the funds before December 31, 2020.

Mr. Jones said that he does not support purchasing any of the buildings proposed, and would prefer to keep the temporary warming shelter at the JACC. Mayor Weldon spoke in support of Mr. Jones' same concerns. She also expressed concern with potential competition with the Glory Hall and St. Vincent's in regards to funding. She does not want CBJ to going into the public housing business and would prefer to contract for those services.

Mr. Bryson reminded the Assembly of the numerous responses they have received from their constituents who spoke against using the Bill Ray Center as a cold weather shelter. He said that the Juneau School Board, Juneau School District, and the Flats residential neighborhood – located one street over from the Bill Ray Center – all were strongly opposed to this proposal.

<u>MOTION</u> by Ms. Hale to request the City Manager to provide the additional information requested and to bring it back to the Assembly for consideration at the September 21 meeting and asked for unanimous consent.

Objection by Mr. Jones.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs spoke to the use of the JACC, and mentioned that the facility was used 350 days out of the year by people in the community prior to the pandemic. She said that while the JACC will not be fully operational immediately, the JAHC will likely want to begin providing those services once vaccines become available. She also clarified with respect to Mr. Bryson's comment, saying that it was a member of the Juneau School Board who sent a letter of opposition, not the Juneau School Board itself.

Ms. Hale, speaking in favor of her motion, said she believed that it would provide an additional service to make a more informed decision on the matter.

Ms. Gladziszewski spoke in favor of the motion and agreed with Ms. Hale's comments. She said that they need more information and would like to know exactly who they are trying to help.

Mr. Jones, speaking to his objection, said that more information about the buildings will not give them more information on what they should do.

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

MOTION by Mr. Jones to have City Manager look at continuing to house the Cold Weather Shelter at the JACC until April 2021.

He also requested the Manager to provide additional information on the Glory Hall and Housing First projects to be brought back by January 1, 2021.

Ms. Hale asked Mr. Jones for clarification on his motion and request for more information about the homeless programs.

Mr. Jones clarified his motion, and said that it would have the Assembly direct the City Manager to operate the Cold Weather Shelter at the JACC through April 2021. *Hearing no objection, the motion passed by unanimous consent.*

The committee took a break at 6:01p.m. and resumed the meeting at 6:10p.m.

B. CARES Act Expenditure Timing Discussion
Mr. Rogers provided an update of the pie chart as to how the CARES Act funding has been allocated to date. The chart was categorized into four specific colors: All of the data in the green "slice" of the pie chart represented the CARES Act funds that have already been appropriated; everything in the yellow "slice" represented funds that were currently pending appropriation that the Assembly will likely consider at the next Assembly meeting; and everything in the red "slice" represented ideas that have been introduced, but not drafted into official legislature as of yet. The fourth black "slice" represented the remaining funds that have yet to be disbursed or appropriated.

Mr. Jones suggested that Mr. Rogers may want to redo the pie chart to remove the pending legislative items that have not yet been introduced to the Assembly or any committee.

Ms. Triem asked Mr. Watt to clarify the nature of the timing the Assembly has to take action on any legislative items. Mr. Watt said that would depend on the legislation, it can be an issue-by-issue basis. He asked the Assembly if it was the will of the body to put more funding towards any of these programs.

Mayor Weldon asked Mr. Rogers to explain the FY21 cost listed on Page 79. Mr. Rogers provided a review of the costs on that page and stated that the second portion of the table shows the costs that would include Laboratory costs. He said that the State currently pays for the laboratory costs for all the tests conducted at the Airport, Hagevig Fire Training Center, and other testing operations. Mr. Rogers added that if the State stops receiving CARES Act funding after January, it is possible that local governments would need to pay those costs. The FY21 Expenditure chart provided the closest estimates for what those costs could look like for CBJ.

Mr. Jones suggested that they also need to look at what may have been left off the list. He said that it would be nice to know the total amount prorated by JEDC. Mr. Jones said he would also like more information on laboratory costs, hospital testing cost vs. out of state testing, and cost recovery from insurance.

Ms. Hale asked Mr. Watt and Mr. Rogers if the Assembly was splitting hairs too much when making their decisions. Ms. Gladziszewski asked Ms. Hale to clarify what she meant by splitting hairs. Ms. Hale provided an example: a request from BRH for funding from the CBJ CARES Act grant to implement design changes in the hospital. There was discussion on whether that funding should come from CBJ or if it should be funded by Bartlett themselves, and Ms. Hale said that she does not want to leave any remaining CARES Act funding on the table.

Mr. Watt responded that Assemblymembers have the discretion to make those decisions. He added that he thinks there may be some CARES Act funding left on the table by December 31 if it doesn't get extended by Congress.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs agreed with Ms. Hale's comment and does not want to leave any money on the table if there are needs not being met. She said she would be in favor of looking at revamping the administration of the rental assistance program. Additionally, she said that she would like to look at the administration of the Business Sustainability Grants. Ms. Gladziszewski said she also had similar questions about the rental assistance program.

Mayor Weldon shared that she listened to the last ESTF meeting at which Tamera Rowcroft said that not much of the rental assistance program had been used at this time. She said that they attributed that to the wide array of resources available through mortgage and unemployment benefits. Mayor Weldon said Ms. Rowcroft does expect to see an increase in applications to the rental assistance program in the future.

Ms. Triem suggested CBJ departments that are making expenditures that could be reasonably classified as COVID-related expenses could possibly be attributed to CARES Act funding.

Ms. Gladziszewski asked the Assembly if they wanted to spend all the funding by December 31, 2020, or should they assume that the deadline will be extended. Ms. Hale said the Assembly should spend it all by December 31, in part due to the national political climate and because Congress has had difficulty reaching an agreement.

Mr. Jones said that they were not under any obligation to spend all the money unless there was a true need in the community. He added this is not free money, it is still federal tax money and needs to be spent wisely. He agreed with Ms. Hale that based on the state of national politics, it does not look likely they will see an extension of the deadline.

Mr. Bryson also agreed with Ms. Hale, and said that they owe it to our community to accept every single federal dollar that is available. He mentioned that Juneau's tourism industry has been decimated after this past year, and feels the Assembly should spend every nickel before the deadline.

Mayor Weldon shared that she was not one to spend money just to spend money. She said if money was going to be spent on non-profit and business sustainability grants, she doesn't want to see a feeding frenzy at the end. Mayor Weldon said that the Assembly should still be cautious on how they spend the money.

Mr. Edwardson spoke in favor of spending the money by the December 31 deadline. He believes that COVID-19 has brought a lot of pain to Juneau, and it is more than $53,000,000 of pain. He said the challenge is finding the appropriate places to spend this money to alleviate that pain, as well as be able to successfully go through an audit at a later point in time.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs agreed with what had been said before her, and does not think that we can count on the deadline being extended. She added that if the deadline is extended, then they can revisit this at a later point in time, but in the meantime they should prepare to spend the funds before December 31.

Mr. Smith said that there is tremendous need in the community, they just need to identify it. He believes it would address the need in the community best if they anticipate for the deadline to be extended. He described it as planning along "twin tracks" to plan as though the deadline could potentially be extended but also simultaneously to prepare for spending it before the deadline in case it is not extended.

Ms. Gladziszewski counted five people that believe the deadline will not be extended and the Assembly should meet the needs of the community before December 31. She shared that she is commonly a "saver" and feels that she is gambling if it will get extended or not. She believes that the stance of each Assemblymember matters, because if they are going to try to spend all of the funds by December 31, then they need to act fast starting now.

Ms. Hale said that, given the uncertainty over the actions of Congress, the Assembly has no choice but to proceed as if the deadline will not be extended, but keep options in mind for the future, similar to what Mr. Smith shared.

MOTION by Ms. Hale for the Assembly to proceed as if the deadline for expending CARES Act funds is December 31, 2020 and determine how best to allocate $53,000,000 to be spent by the end of the year.

Objection by Mr. Jones. In speaking to his objection, Mr. Jones said that this is the purpose of ESTF. He believes that Assembly should plan to meet the needs that have been brought to them, and the needs that can be justified, but not to plan on simply spending $53,000,000.

Mr. Smith said that there is plenty of need in the community, and referenced a previous meeting in which they discussed having a needs assessment. He also mentioned that he has had several ideas for programs introduced to him by constituents. He asked Mr. Watt if he could develop a timeline for the planned spending that would go beyond December 31, as well as a shortened timeline that takes the deadline into account.

Mr. Watt responded that the Assembly will have to decide if they are going to spend to the deadline, or try to save the funding. He said they will also need to decide if they are going to double down on existing programs, or if they are going to explore new programs using CARES Act funding. Mr. Rogers said it would be easier to multiply an existing program in November or December, than it would be to try to establish a new program.

Ms. Triem spoke in favor of the motion, and said it was becoming more unlikely that Congress will take any action, so it would be best for the Assembly to plan accordingly. She also agreed with Mr. Smith's comments that the Assembly could find programs that would be worthwhile to direct funds towards. Ms. Triem believes that contributing to Juneau's economy would be beneficial, and the harm of not doing so would be much greater than potentially not being able to repeat this next year.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs spoke in favor of the motion, and agreed with Ms. Triem's comment of contributing to the economy being beneficial. She also mentioned that while the ESTF has brought recommendations, there are many other worthy ideas that are still out there, that the Assembly would still have enough time to implement.

Mayor Weldon also mentioned that there were many ideas left to consider. She said she thinks the Assembly was doing a good job weighing these ideas. She also agreed with Ms. Hale's comment, and would be surprised if Congress extended the deadline, in light of the national political climate. She shared that she was not entirely sure on how she will vote as of yet.

Mr. Edwardson supported the motion, and appreciated Mr. Jones trying to apply the brakes during this discussion. He said he feels there are more controls in place that would prevent the

Assembly from spending money needlessly, and there are many ideas they have not yet considered. As Mr. Bryson said, they should squeeze the last bit of value they can from the funds available before the deadline. Mr. Edwardson said that they do not know if the deadline will be extended, but they do know that the deadline is currently December 31. He advised the Assembly to act on what they do know, and to plan for the deadline not to be extended. He does not think the Assembly would be spending money frivolously, as there are staff who can step in and advise them to act within CARES Act boundaries.

Ms. Hale appreciated Mr. Jones' concern that this is taxpayer money, and also agreed with Mr. Bryson that they have a responsibility to address the needs of our community. She said that the Assembly has not yet addressed the middle class, they have so far addressed business needs and lower income households. Ms. Hale shared that she has received input from her middle-class constituents that their needs have not yet been directly addressed, such as mortgage assistance. She suggested that the Assembly potentially work with the Juneau Community Foundation, and broaden their needs-assessment to include middle-class households and individuals.

AMENDMENT #1 by Mayor Weldon to put aside $5,000,000 of the $53,000,000 to the latest possible time they can but to have a contingency plan in place ready to be used by end of the calendar year if the deadline is not extended.

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Objection by Ms. Triem. She believes the Assembly would spend the money better if they are not planning to spend it all as a last-ditch effort. She recommended that they carefully plan as if they were to spend all by December 31, 2020. Ms. Triem said that solution would be easier than trying to spend $5,000,000 within a couple of months.

Mayor Weldon explained that she chose the $5,000,000 amount because that is the amount that three entities have asked to help with their buildings by the end of the year.

Mr. Edwardson asked when the decision would be made to spend the $5,000,000. Mayor Weldon said she would defer to Mr. Watt or Mr. Rogers to decide on when the last possible date would be to spend the money within that timeframe. Mr. Watt suggested the Assembly choose the date to be on November 15, 2020, but also reminded the Assembly the likelihood of that date being changed in the future. Mayor Weldon amended her amendment to include the date to be November 15, 2020.

<u>**Roll Call Vote on Amendment #1**</u>
Ayes: Weldon, Hale, Edwardson, Gladziszewski.
Nays: Triem, Smith, Jones, Hughes-Skandijs, Bryson.
Motion failed. Four (4) Ayes, Five (5) Nays.

Ms. Gladziszewski said that she is optimistic and hopeful that the CARES Act funding deadline will be extended, and agreed that there is plenty of legitimate need in this community. She said she wants to spend all of the $53,000,000 and they have an obligation to this community to do so.

Mr. Smith said that he still wanted to have a plan in place in case the deadline is extended past December 31.

AMENDMENT #2 by Mr. Smith for the motion to include creating a plan to be able to spend the remaining CARES Act funding if the deadline does get extended past the end of the year.

Objection by Ms. Hale. Ms. Hale said appreciated Mr. Smith's intentions, but that the reality of the situation is going to provide them with the opportunity to shape their plan for spending funds. She added if Congress decides to extend the deadline in a matter of weeks, then the Assembly will adjust accordingly.

Objection by Ms. Hughes-Skandijs saying she does not feel there is a need for this amendment, due to the fact that the Assembly is able to make changes if Congress extends the deadline.

Roll call vote on Amendment #2
Ayes: Smith, Weldon, and Gladziszewski.
Nays: Triem, Hughes-Skandijs, Hale, Edwardson, Bryson, Jones.
Motion failed. Three (3) Ayes, Six (6) Nays.

Roll call vote on Main Motion for the Assembly to proceed as if the deadline for expending CARES Act funds is December 31, 2020 and determine how best to allocate $53,000,000 to be spent by the end of the year.
Ayes: Hale, Hughes-Skandijs, Triem, Edwardson, Bryson
Nays: Jones, Smith, Mayor Weldon, Gladziszewski.
Motion passed. Five (5) Ayes, Four (4) Nays.

The committee recessed for a break at 7:22 and resumed the meeting at 7:35p.m.

C. Resolution 2899 A Resolution Recognizing and Embracing the Diversity and Cultural Values of Our Community and Holding it Accountable.

Assembly Human Resources Committee Chair Wade Bryson provided a brief synopsis of the path this resolution has taken beginning with the Juneau Human Rights Commission (JHRC) and through the Assembly Human Resources Committee (HRC). Mr. Bryson thanked the JHRC for working hard on this Resolution, and for taking the recommendations shared by the HRC to come up with a well-made product for the Assembly.

JHRC Chair Haifa Foroughi joined the meeting and thanked the Assembly, HRC, and the members of the Juneau Human Rights Commission working on this document.

She shared that the resolution they submitted to the Assembly is a product and a response to the public outrage as a result of the persistent violence across the country to the members of the African American community, and how that has impacted our own community by awakening the need to address institutional racism and discrimination.

Ms. Hale shared that she attended one of the meetings of the JHRC and was very impressed by the thoughtfulness of the commission, and she said it was a real model for how public process can work. She had a question regarding Section 1-E which is line item in the budget. Juneau has many, many boards and commissions, almost all of which are completely unpaid. She asked what would this line item be paying for and what was the idea of the commission on this item. Ms. Foroughi said that institutions show their priorities through monetary means, and any and all discrimination needs to be looked at through expert eyes.

Mr. Bryson said that he and Mr. Palmer had a discussion about this portion. Mr. Palmer explained to him that the Assembly has already allocated funds towards the $50,000 for the systemic racism review committee, and since that was a line item, it would qualify for this portion of the resolution. Ms. Gladziszewski clarified that the Assembly haven't acted on that particular motion yet, but agreed that it would be applicable.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs asked if Ms. Foroughi could explain Item F regarding employers.

Ms. Foroughi explained that the work they do regarding social justice is work that requires many conversations, dialogue, training and developing discourse and dialogue. She said that it has become apparent to the JHRC that an hour meeting once or twice a month does not lend itself to the intense demands of that this work requires. Ms. Foroughi said that they would like to have extended work periods (such as a full day or a half-day) to thoroughly discuss a subject, and be able to come away with short and long term plans and goals.

Mayor Weldon had a question regarding Section 1 Item D, extending invitations for CBJ committee vacancies to historically underrepresented populations. She asked if the JHRC had discussed the best ways of sending out those invitations to those groups.

Ms. Foroughi said that there is a diversity of cultural groups in Juneau, and there is a need to identify them and explicitly state that CBJ would like a representative of their community on a board or commission. She added that extending an invitation is a cultural norm that recognizes and honors those who are present in our community, some of whom may not step up to join unless otherwise invited.

Mr. Bryson said that he really liked Item D, and mentioned that the HRC has continuously tried to recruit as many applicants as they could for CBJ Boards/Commissions. He encouraged more recruiting effort to bringing more individuals to our city's boards and commissions.

MOTION by Mayor Weldon to move Resolution 2899 to the Assembly for adoption.

AMENDMENT #1 by Ms. Hale to change the language in Section 1 Item C to strike the words "extensive, thorough" on Line 1 and "especially" on Line 2 and asked for unanimous consent.

Ms. Hale explained this amendment would have the section read: "…commits to internal audits, examinations, and corrections of discriminatory factors in its administrative structures to identify whether citizens and employees…" She explained that she is making this amendment in an attempt to focus on the intent of this section, as it was previously written as "extensive and thorough internal audits" she feels might suggest that CBJ is going to extensively and thoroughly audit everything when it appears to her that this section is focused on addressing good faith claims of discrimination.

Mr. Edwardson asked Mr. Bryson if the language changes still meet the spirit of the document sent forth by the JHRC. Mr. Bryson said he believes Ms. Hale's changes still stay true to the spirit of the document. *Hearing no objection, the amendment passed by unanimous consent.*

AMENDMENT #2 by Ms. Hale to change the language in Section 1 Item E on Line 2 to strike "for those who are committed to fully engage in" and replace it with "that demonstrates CBJ's commitment to…" which would then read: "Commits to creating an anti-racism and anti-discriminatory line item in the budget that demonstrates CBJ's commitment to the immersive nature of this evolving and dynamic work requiring extensive discourse and planning."

Ms. Triem said that she was thinking of making a very similar amendment, and was glad that Ms. Hale made this amendment. Ms. Gladziszewski also appreciated Ms. Hale's amendment, and said she thinks it clarified what she was trying to discern.

Hearing no objection, Amendment #2 passed.

Hearing no objection, Resolution 2899, as amended, was forwarded to the Assembly for action.

D. Update on K-5 Childcare/RALLY Funding options

Ms. Cosgrove provided an explanation of the various funding options available to choose from in regards to K-5 childcare and RALLY. She also said that she worked with Ms. Wright and Mr. Palmer on drafting the proposed prioritization of RALLY services. This prioritizes children who would otherwise be left home alone or in the care of an older sibling.

Ms. Gladziszewski asked the committee to review the proposal and discuss if they would approve this as the priority list for enrollment in the RALLY program.

Mr. Jones asked for clarification regarding the City establishing rules for RALLY, when it is fully operated by the JSD. He said that the JSD can choose to ignore any rules set by the Assembly if CBJ is not paying for the RALLY program. However, if CBJ offers JSD a grant for the RALLY program, then JSD would need to accept the rules that come with the grant. Mr.

Jones acknowledged that the amount of funding and the administration of the rules set by CBJ are intrinsically tied.

Ms. Cosgrove agreed with Mr. Jones, and said that the prioritization does not make practical sense without factoring in the cost of tuition. She said that she tried to design this to benefit individuals who are socioeconomically disadvantaged. She added that if CBJ does not contribute to the cost funding of RALLY, it may result in those services only being available to a small amount of students throughout the school year.

Mayor Weldon asked if the Assembly were to provide RALLY the proposed amount funding, would that contribution affect other childcare centers. Ms. Cosgrove said she does not think that City finding would cause a significant monetary offset, since it is similar to the funding they provide for Pre-K. She said she has not yet completed a per-child cost analysis. However, she added that the City would not be competing with other childcare centers, as they are primarily working with Pre-K kids. Due to the difference in demographics, the likelihood of competition between other providers and RALLY is low.

Mr. Smith asked if Ms. Cosgrove considered looking at family incomes or whether the parents were employed as first responders or essential workers. Ms. Cosgrove said they would need to review the state assistance programs to be clear that any additional funding does not result in any unintended consequences. She added that she has not specifically looked into if any parents were essential workers, because the nature of their work (being unable to work from home) already puts them higher on the prioritization queue. Mr. Smith asked if families from lower incomes (who also cannot work from home) would be placed higher in the prioritization queue over those with larger incomes. He said that families with higher incomes would have more childcare resources available to them. Ms. Cosgrove explained that the prioritization for services must allow equal treatment for all who meet the criteria. She added that they could help lower income families by providing grant tuition and other funding. Ms. Wright also clarified that access to the RALLY program is equally available to everyone, and the funding for the program and application assistance is based on income.

Ms. Triem mentioned that the last time they met, they discussed conducting a survey to gain an understanding of childcare needs in the community. She asked Ms. Cosgrove if that survey was still going to happen. Ms. Cosgrove confirmed the surveys will still happen, and that they are currently in the process of interviewing for a K-5 Childcare Coordinator and the survey will be done once that coordinator is on board. She said that the RALLY program may be something of more time sensitive nature in terms of Assembly consideration.

Ms. Gladziszewski asked if there were any objections to this prioritization list.

Mayor Weldon asked for clarification between Items 2 & 3. Ms. Cosgrove explained Item 2 applies when a child has more than one adult caretaker that is required to be away from home to work. Item 3 applies when a child has an adult caretaker who cannot work from home, but only leaves the house to work 2 or 3 days out of the week.

Mr. Jones said that JSD asked for $550,000 to be provided from CARES Act funding. This proposal asks for an ordinance that would authorize funding up to $600,000 for RALLY childcare. He thinks that if the Assembly agrees with the criteria, that this funding would benefit a multitude of students in Juneau.

MOTION by Mr. Jones for the Assembly to authorize funding up to $600,000 to the JSD and forward that tonight to Assembly as an ordinance. *Mr. Jones withdrew the motion to allow for additional discussion and questions to be answered.*

Ms. Cosgrove shared that the JSD asked for the CBJ to fully fund the cost of RALLY for 126 students, she said that some revenue offset allowed for funds to cover 252 students instead. This makes it slightly less per child, but she hoped it would serve more students. Ms. Cosgrove mentioned that families are still paying some amount of tuition, and lower income families would pay about half of the tuition rate.

Ms. Triem asked if the Assembly could provide low-income families with a grant that would cover RALLY childcare services. Ms. Cosgrove responded that the Assembly could grant low-income assistance if they chose to do so.

Ms. Hale mentioned that there are a lot of middle-income families who are also having a difficult time affording childcare, and the Assembly could consider directing grant funding towards those families as well.

Mayor Weldon shared that there are only eleven children currently enrolled in RALLY, and asked Ms. Cosgrove what was the likelihood of that number increasing to 250 children. She shared that she was feeling hesitant about $600,000, which was more than the JSD asked for previously. Ms. Cosgrove explained that the chances of getting 250 children enrolled into RALLY within a short timeframe are slim, which is why she suggested the Assembly fund *up to* $600,000. She added that total does not necessarily have to be disbursed as a wholesale grant to the JSD, but given as a grant to offset RALLY operational costs.

Mr. Smith expressed concern about the safety of providing RALLY childcare in a safe way amidst Coronavirus concerns, noting that others in the community have noted the similarities between childcare and in-person schooling, which has been halted due to Coronavirus.

Ms. Cosgrove said that Mr. Smith's concerns were valid, and explained that RALLY would include smaller groupings and non-certified teachers. She added that RALLY has been following CDC guidelines and keeping children isolated within their respective groupings.

Mr. Bryson said there are only eleven children enrolled in RALLY, and asked Ms. Cosgrove if she could clarify the reasons that are preventing people from participating in RALLY. Ms. Cosgrove explained that the current cost of RALLY is $1,310 per student, and childcare assistance rates will only partially offset that amount. She said she think the economics of it are prohibitive, which could partially contribute to the low enrollment rate.

MOTION by Mr. Jones to have CBJ staff prepare an ordinance authorize funding up to $600,000 to the JSD for Rally funding.

Ms. Hale spoke in favor of the motion.

Mayor Weldon offered the following amendment as she does not feel the JSD will be able to get the number of children that is expected with the $600,000 projection.

AMENDMENT #1 by Mayor Weldon to amend the amount in Mr. Jones' motion to $300,000.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs said that she preferred using the "up to" language suggested by Ms. Cosgrove.

Mr. Bryson said he could support the $300,000 amount, but could not support the "up to" $600,000 amount.

Objection by Ms. Hale. She said that she is fine with "up to" $600,000.

Mr. Jones said it will be up to the administration to make sure that they do not spend what they cannot earn. He believes the amendment limits the JSD from the outset and it would leave less money for the district to use for those needs. He would prefer to use the "up to $600,000" language and then rely on the JSD administration to do the right audits up front.

Mayor Weldon, speaking to her amendment, said the Assembly just passed a motion to use up the CARES money by the end of the year. She said that passing language that would allow "up to $600,000" would encumber those monies and prevent them from being used for other purposes. Mayor Weldon said that if they use $300,000 now and need more at a later time, they can consider supplementing that with more when that need arises.

Ms. Gladziszewski said that she would make the opposite argument of the Mayor, and said that the funding is needed by families to help them pay for RALLY. She said that although she does not know how realistic it is, she was in favor of subsidizing half for 200 students and the Assembly will soon find out if that is enough.

Roll call vote on Amendment #1 to change the amount to $300,000.
Ayes: Weldon, Bryson
Nays: Jones, Hale, Smith, Edwardson, Hughes-Skandijs, Triem, Gladziszewski.

Motion failed. Two (2) Ayes, Seven (7) Nays

AMENDMENT #2 by Mr. Smith to amend the motion to say that some of this funding will be used to offset the cost of the program for lowest income families.

Objection by Ms. Hale. She stated there is a simple motion on the floor and there are other options to address Mr. Smith's concerns. She said they all have those same desires and the Assembly just needs to move the motion on the floor and let those other options play out.

Ms. Triem said that if they are expecting that the other option would be the state child care assistance program, she just looked it up and in June, there were 14 children receiving child care assistance in Juneau out of 28 children who were authorized to receive child care assistance in Juneau.

<u>Roll call vote on Amendment #2 that some of the funding will be used for lowest income families.</u>
Ayes: Smith, Edwardson, Hughes-Skandijs, Triem, and Gladziszewski
Nays: Weldon, Jones, Hale, and Bryson
Motion passed. Five (5) Ayes, Four (4) Nays.

<u>Roll call vote on Main Motion as amended</u>
Ayes: Smith, Edwardson, Hughes-Skandijs, Triem, Jones, Hale, and Gladziszewski
Nays: Weldon and Bryson
Motion passed. Seven (7) Ayes, Two (2) Nays.

E. Election Issues

Ms. McEwen shared that there was not a way of identifying witnesses or checking their signature, however there is a signature verification system in use by the Municipality of Anchorage's to compare voter signatures within those in the database. She explained that this ordinance would ensure that as long as the signature can be verified through the voter database, she would not want to disenfranchise a voter by not having the opportunity to count their ballot because it lacked a witness signature.

Mr. Jones expressed concern about the possibility of voters being confused by the difference of rules between the Municipal and General Elections, and worried it may cause people to become frustrated and avoid voting altogether.

Ms. Hale spoke in favor of the ordinance, and said that the witness signature requirement can cause real issues for voters, and would like to forward the ordinance to the full Assembly.

<u>MOTION</u> by Ms. Hale to forward Emergency Ordinance 2020-50 COWv1 to the Assembly meeting for the meeting on September 21 and asked for unanimous consent. *Hearing no objection, the motion passed by unanimous consent.*

F. CBJ Public Health Related Order re: Implementing CBJ COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies

Ms. Cosgrove shared that the EOC decided to restrict bars and restaurants to 50% capacity on Friday evening. She said that they have considered raising the Risk Level to Level 3 due to increased positive COVID-19 case numbers and the uncertainty around those cases.

Mr. Jones asked if it would be sufficient to take action at the COW and not a Regular or Special Assembly meeting at which public comment can be taken.

Ms. Wright clarified that the action can be taken at the next meeting after the City Manager's action. She added that public comment is not needed due to the fact that this is an emergency ordinance.

Mr. Smith asked for Ms. Cosgrove to provide definitions of bars vs. restaurants. Ms. Cosgrove explained that Juneau has a lot of establishments that combine alcohol service with food, places with sit-down dining options could be considered a restaurant that must operate at 50% capacity. She clarified that the issue is not the alcohol per se, it is regarding the environment where the consumption occurs.

MOTION by Ms. Hale that the Assembly ratify the CBJ Public Health Order re: Implementing CBJ COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies and asked for Unanimous Consent.

Ms. Gladziszewski asked if there were any results yet coming from tests administered over the past weekend. Ms. Cosgrove said that most of those results have not come back yet, but there were six new cases reported since the EOC meeting today.

Mr. Bryson asked Ms. Cosgrove to explain how these cases will affect the community risk level. Ms. Cosgrove said that the EOC will continue to closely work with the Department of Public Health to investigate the nature of the cases. She reported that Juneau currently has the second-highest seven-day case rate in the state, just below Fairbanks. She also shared that the EOC has tested 935 people in response to asking people to come in and get tested.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Beth McEwen, MMC
Municipal Clerk