

**ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

May 4, 2020, 6:00 PM.

Virtual Meeting Only

This virtual meeting will be by video and telephonic participation only. To join the webinar click or past this URL into your browser. <https://juneau.zoom.us/j/93549186621> To participate telephonically call: 1-346-248-7799 and enter Webinar ID: 935 4918 6621. The meeting will be broadcast live on the CBJ Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/cbjuneau/>

MINUTES

I. ROLL CALL

Deputy Mayor Maria Gladziszewski called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. The meeting was held as a virtual only meeting via Zoom and broadcast on Facebook Live.

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

Assemblymembers Absent: None.

Staff present: City Manager Rorie Watt, Deputy City Manager Mila Cosgrove, Municipal Clerk Beth McEwen, Deputy Municipal Clerk Diane Cathcart, City Attorney Robert Palmer, Assistant City Attorney Emily Wright, Chief Housing Officer Scott Ciambor, Finance Director Jeff Rogers, Library Director Robert Barr, Parks & Recreation Director George Schaaf, Deputy Parks & Recreation Director Michele Elfers, CDD Planning Manager Alexandra Pierce

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

There being no changes, the agenda was approved as presented.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

IV. AGENDA TOPICS

A. COVID-19 Update

Longer Term Planning
Information Items: CLIAA, MOA (see attached)

Ms. Cosgrove provided an overview of the current COVID-19 pandemic locally and identified potential mitigation strategies in order to propose policy considerations for the Assembly. The slide show of her presentation was added to the packet under Supplemental Materials.

Ms. Cosgrove showed graphs of the COVID-19 cases in Juneau so far. She answered a number of questions from Assemblymembers regarding the testing timeframes, methods, data, and what the future testing protocols and practices might be.

For the issues to track in the near term, Ms. Cosgrove provided details about the State of Alaska Health Mandates and the impacts of those being lifted and/or changed or expiring. Health Mandate 10 requires a 14 day quarantine for individuals traveling into Alaska from other locations. That mandate expires May 19. She also explained that Health Mandate 16 providing for some economic reopening will be re-evaluated on May 8.

Ms. Cosgrove then explained the effect on Juneau's seasonal impacts and the cruise ship activity report that was just provided earlier in the day. Assemblymembers then proceeded to discuss

if/when/how ships may decide to come to town and the public discourse and process that will go through before any cruise ships would be arriving in Juneau. Ms. Cosgrove then switched the process to airline travel. Overall, airplane travel to Juneau is down by 88% over last year. She said there has been a small uptick in passengers arriving in Juneau. Effective June 1, Alaska Airlines will be increasing the number of flights to Juneau and Delta Airlines is scheduled to begin travel to Juneau on June 2. Other seasonal employers include Fisheries (Ocean Beauty, Taku Smokeries, and other processors) and Seasonal Tourism Shops and they have filed workforce plans similar to what the mines have done. She said that they were informed that they can't get those workforce plans from the state, rather they have to request them directly from the employers. Mr. Watt noted that there is a call with the Alaska Municipal League on Tuesday, May 5 with Department of Health and Social Services Commissioner Adam Crum about small cruise ships. He said that staff will be provide an update to the Assembly after that call.

Assemblymembers asked a number of questions regarding the work plans for seasonal employers. Ms. Cosgrove said they don't have details at this time but as they receive more information, she will be sure to share that with the Assembly.

Ms. Cosgrove shifted the presentation to other local response issues. Some of those include the impact of health mandates on shelter capacity and how those affect AWARE, St. Vincent's/JACC, Glory Hall, Sleep Off, and others. She said that this incident has stressed the social service agencies/services in the community and they would like to bring this topic back for a larger conversation at a later meeting. She said they are also seeing an increase of need for mental health services. Additional discussion took place regarding mental health of the whole community.

Ms. Cosgrove said that there are also some long term impacts of economic instability on food and housing and that Mr. Ciambor will be provided some updated information on that later.

Ms. Cosgrove said on a good note, Housing First Phase II is coming on board soon.

Ms. Cosgrove provided an update on CBJ Operational Issues. 165 employees (32.4 FTE) have been taken off the schedule, put on seasonal leave early, or not brought back from seasonal leave. There are 13 vacancies (12.5 FTE) left unfilled. There have been 45+ staff redeployed from normal operations to EOC or specific COVID-19 response activities. Ms. Cosgrove said they will be providing financial impact numbers to the Assembly Finance Committee on Wednesday night. Ms. Cosgrove then presented the informational slides as recapped below.

Other general impacts to current CBJ operations include:

- Loss of revenues from a variety of operational areas will have an adverse impact on the FY20 budget.
- Many operational areas are seeing an increase in workload: Fire, Police, individuals assigned to COVID response duties, Clerks, MIS, Parks & Landscape, Docks & Harbors, and Airport.
- At times productivity can be adversely impacted by telecommuting, heightened cleaning protocols, and lack of childcare.
- 25 employees have taken COVID leave for related reasons.
- Adverse impact on hands on training for job required certifications. If that continues it will impact operations.
- Public process is functional but not ideal. Many boards and commissions are not meeting and staff conducted meetings intended to gather public input are delayed.

Potential Medium to Longer term impacts:

- Continued loss of revenue for areas of the operation impacted by social distancing (pools, transit, Eaglecrest, etc...)
- Potential reduction of public services due to budget impacts.
- Heightened use of outdoor spaces will require additional resources for maintenance.
- Loss of training opportunities will begin to impair operations.
- Loss of revenue for Docks & Harbors and Eaglecrest will be problematic in long run.
- May need to find a "new normal" for public process.

- May need to rethink how elections can be conducted in a socially distanced environment.

Potential Assembly Action:

- Receive update from Dr. Zink on Monday, May 11 at 1:00p.m.
- Consider if Assembly should extend the travel quarantine if the Governor lifts Health Mandate 10 on May 19.
- If the Governor lifts the requirement for critical infrastructure and seasonal businesses to file a COVID-10 workforce plan, the Assembly should consider adopting a similar requirement.
- Consider recommendations forwarded by the Economic Stabilization Taskforce.
- Begin work on alternate election strategies. Initial discussion is scheduled for the Assembly Human Resources Committee on May 18.
- Receive update on community sheltering issues at an upcoming COW.

The members then discussed the letter from Commissioner Crum. Mr. Watt said that the Governor may be making an announcement near the end of the week on the status of the next phase of reopening Alaska. Mayor Weldon noted that there is a Special Assembly meeting tentatively scheduled for Thursday, May 7 to possibly take action depending on what the Governor announces over the next day or two. Additional discussion then took place about messaging the continued importance of social distancing, hand washing, wearing masks, and that many people in the community have stopped or don't choose to listen or follow the mandate requirements.

Ms. Gladziszewski thanked Ms. Cosgrove for the bigger picture pandemic planning efforts and her report.

B. Visitor Industry Task Force Report

Mayor Weldon said that this was a very hard working task force and she thanked each of the task force members for their efforts over the past six months.

Visitor Industry Task Force Chair Carole Triem thanked the task force members as well as the staff for their assistance to bring this process about. She noted that they held many meetings over the past six months. Two of those were public comment meetings at which the Assembly Chambers were filled (pre-COVID). In addition to the public meetings, there were approximately 150 public comments received via email.

Ms. Triem noted that the task force was created, met and wrote its report in a pre-pandemic world and they initially thought they would be implementing some of the recommendations during this summer. She said that rather than rewrite the report, she advised members to view the references to 2020 implementation recommendations to being those that would be implemented in the near term in light of future years' tourism industry in a post-COVID new world.

Some of the key recommendations from the task force included:

- More coordinated management across CBJ departments for visitor impacted services and included hiring a staff member who would coordinate across departments.
- CBJ should take a more pro-active approach of scheduling at CBJ-owned docks since they currently are not part of that scheduling process.
- Recommendation to have no more than 5 cruise ships/day through schedule efforts noted above.

Ms. Triem said the one thing they did not come to an agreement on, was a cruise ship free day. The support and potential for a new dock by Norwegian Cruise Lines were discussed quite a bit but were not part of the recommendations as anything related to that would need to be an Assembly policy decision to make.

Finally, they felt it might be appropriate to try to reconvene in the fall. That will give them a better idea of how Juneau and the tourism industry has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Smith

asked if all the other recommendations other than the cruise ship free day were arrived at by consensus and Ms. Triem said that all their recommendations did come about with unanimous consent.

Ms. Gladziszewski thanked Ms. Triem and the task force for all their work and for providing the report.

C. Request to Support Alaska Outdoor Alliance Stimulus Proposal

https://www.alaskaoutdooralliance.org/post/alaska-outdoor-stimulus-request?mc_cid=36aafc0ed&mc_eid=b1df565432

Mr. Jones said that discussion took place at the Juneau Economic Development Council Visitor Industry Cluster Group about this proposal and it was very well received. He said that businesses such as Gastineau Guiding, Eaglecrest and others want to put their employees to work. This would be a federally funded program. Mr. Jones said he thought there are still a lot of questions yet to be answered before anyone will be put to work and he was skeptical that it would be ready for people to start working on things by this summer. Mr. Smith said he chose to personally sign on to this and he suggested the Assembly support this proposal.

MOTION by Mr. Smith that the Assembly support the Alaska Outdoor Alliance Stimulus Proposal and asked for unanimous consent. *Hearing no objection, the motion passed.*

V. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

A. CBJ Letter of Support-Alaska Climate Change Planning Cohort

Mayor Weldon noted that Juneau Commission on Sustainability member Steve Behnke requested she draft a letter to potential funders seeking support for the proposed Alaska Climate Change Planning Cohort. The Alaska Climate Change Planning Cohort is made up of neighboring communities as well as Geos Institute, Lotus Engineering and Sustainability, the University of Alaska and others. The proposal would provide Juneau with some technical support and guidance to update and strengthen the 10-year-old climate plan and its implementation. Mayor Weldon noted that the letter was time sensitive and a draft of the letter was included in the packet and she asked the Assembly if anyone had any objections to her sending it out. Hearing no objections, Mayor Weldon will forward the letter to the appropriate parties.

Mayor Weldon noted the following for the Good of the Order:

This week is Public Service Recognition Week and Mayor Weldon offered her special thanks to Alexandra Pierce and Michele Elfers for their work with the Visitor Industry Task Force. She also extended her thanks to all the CBJ staff for their public service to our community.

Mayor Weldon said that May is the Class of 2020 Recognition Month and she encouraged members to please recognize any graduates they happen to see this month.

Mr. Bryson said that his daughter, Elizabeth Bryson, just graduated from UAS this past weekend with a Bachelors Degree in Marine Biology and she hopes to be a Juneau girl for life.

Mr. Jones reminded members of the Assembly Finance Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 6 at 5:00p.m. He said that many items on the agenda are not related to the budget. He noted the CARES Act funding dollars are still in process in the legislature and at this point no one knows what is happen with those funds.

Mr. Jones also announced that there will be an Alaska Municipal League (AML) Board meeting on Monday, May 11 from 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. and he will step away from that meeting to participate in the Special Assembly meeting with Dr. Zink. He said that AML is gearing up for what will be happening for their summer legislative conference in August.

Mr. Jones said that the Marijuana Control Board meeting he will be chairing in June in Fairbanks will not be taking place in Fairbanks but will be held as a virtually only meeting instead.

Ms. Gladziszewski noted that during the Governor press briefing just before this meeting, he took a lot of questions re: CARES Act. She said that the Governor believes revenue shortfalls caused by the pandemic will be eligible for CARES Act funding and she believes there will be clarification coming on that in the near future.

B. COVID-19 - EOC Update for May 4, 2020

C. COVID-19 Issues Community & Organization Considerations

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Beth McEwen, MMC
Municipal Clerk*