ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
September 23, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Assembly Chambers - Municipal Building
Assembly Work Session - No Public Comment

MINUTES

I. ROLL CALL

Deputy Mayor Maria Gladziszewski called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. in the Assembly Chambers.

Assemblymembers Present: Maria Gladziszewski, Mary Becker, Rob Edwardson, Wade Bryson, Michelle Hale, Carole Triem, Alicia Hughes-Skandijs, and Mayor Beth Weldon.

Assemblymembers Absent: Loren Jones

Staff present: City Manager Rorie Watt, Deputy City Manager Mila Cosgrove, City Attorney Robert Palmer, Municipal Clerk Beth McEwen, Finance Director Jeff Rogers, Parks and Recreation Director George Schaaf, JPD Lt. Jeremy Weske, Community Development Director Jill Maclean, CDD Code Enforcement Officer Nate Watts, Port Director Carl Uchytil

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Manager Watt noted that he spoke with Lee Kandinger and they agreed to postpone the Southeast Heritage Institute Arts Campus Update to a future COW meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

IV. AGENDA TOPICS

A. Southeast Heritage Institute (SHI) Arts Campus Update

See note above under "Approval of Agenda."

B. Southeast by the Numbers

Raincoast Data presentation information on their website at
http://www.raincoastdata.com/portfolio/southeast-alaska-numbers-2019

Meilani Schijvens gave a presentation of Southeast by the Numbers for 2019 and the forecast for 2020 economy. Assemblymembers asked a number of questions regarding specific slides and points during the presentation.

C. Subport Update/LRWP Review

The Long Range Waterfront Plan (LWRP) is available on the CBJ website at
http://www.juneau.org/cddftp/documents/CBJ_Waterfront_Plan_FINAL_112204.pdf

Mr. Watt shared his perspective on what our waterfront looks like to the cruise industry and why they may have put in such an aggressive bid for the subport property.

He explained that the good news is that the Assembly does have a lot of control with regards to what may happen at the subport in terms of infrastructure. He explained that when we did the LRWP, there were a lot of successful items including two pretty big ideas that gave us a compelling vision of our waterfront. One is the seawalk from the bridge to the rock dump that was well supported by the public. The other was the decision to build the 16B Docks floating berths at the city facility/cruise ship terminal and steamship wharf. The flip side of the decision to build the berths there was to consciously choose not to have berths at Gold Creek. The LRWP spent a lot of time on that question, should there be cruise ships at Gold Creek. The decisions when the plan was adopted was for no cruise ships at Gold Creek.

Mr. Watt said he is assuming that Norwegian Cruise Lines (NCL) will want to build a dock in the subport property. He said that is likely what they will want to do and if that is going to happen, there are zoning issues, waterfront plan issues that would have to be solved, and the big blue area on the map around that property are municipal tidelands. There would have to be a decision for either the municipality to build a dock or for the municipality to lease those tidelands to somebody else. That means that ultimately the decision on whether to allow a cruise ship dock in Gold Creek rests with the Assembly. He said it will be an Assembly decision and Norwegian bought themselves a seat at the table.

Mr. Watt then provided an overview of the cruise industry: ports, schedules and patterns within the Southeast Alaska, Seattle, WA, and Vancouver, BC corridor from a historical perspective and the anticipated horizons that are likely coming in the future.

Mr. Watt answered questions from Assemblymembers regarding the industry and Juneau's piece in the big picture. Mr. Watt said there would be representatives from NCL coming to Juneau in the next week or so. Ms. Hale said it would be good for the Assembly and public to meet with NCL. Mr. Watt said it would be beneficial to have NCL representatives come to meet with the Assembly but next week's meeting will be more of a meet and greet and an actual meeting might be best scheduled at a later date. In his initial phone call with NCL, they didn't identify any fast track timeline or specific plan. He said that it stands to reason that they will be working on it and they will eventually have a plan that are likely to include one or more docks.

Mayor Weldon asked about the differences in the security procedures when boarding a cruise ship here in Juneau vs. those required when they boarded the same ship in Sitka at Southeast Conference. Mr. Watt explained that he would provide those details to the Assembly at a later time.

D. Tourism Planning Discussion

Deputy Mayor Gladziszewski provided an extensive historical overview of all the efforts to address and work on tourism issues over the years. She provided copies of the various documents via email to the members just before the meeting and the Clerk would be loading those up to the COW packet as well.

Ms. Gladziszewski said the point of her historical recap was to give a framework for how to talk about tourism moving forward.

After hearing from Ms. Gladziszewski on the historical perspective of tourism issues in Juneau, Mayor Weldon distributed a document with which she is proposing the creation of a Tourism Task Force. The charging document that she distributed proposed task force that will work on big picture questions and answering the following with recommendations brought back to the Assembly by January 31, 2020.

1. Should the Assembly work on updating the Long Range Waterfront Plan, or is the LRWP still relevant? If the Task Force recommends opening the LRWP, to what extent does it recommend the LRWP be updated?

2. Should the Assembly attempt to address or manage tourism growth or is the tourism growth effectively managed by existing and upcoming infrastructure projects?

Mayor Weldon said she did not want to duplicate the efforts of the Southeast Cluster Group or the TBMP process but she envisions creating a mixed group and not making it an Assembly subcommittee. Rather she is looking for a mixture of people including citizens, industry representatives, businesses, Planning Commission, a couple of Assemblymembers as well as advisors from Docks and Harbors and the Forest Service but she is also trying to keep the membership numbers small while keeping in mind the demographics of CBJ. She has not worked out yet who would be staff to the committee but she wanted to start with asking the Assembly for their feedback.

Assemblymembers shared their thoughts and suggestions. They discussed whether or not to add a question related to “carrying capacity” or trying to place some kind of cap on the number of tourists Juneau can handle. Mr. Palmer shared that it is hard legally to implement something that would impose limitations on the number of tourists but said he will work with the group and Assembly on identifying those issues and addressing them. Mayor Weldon said they are not trying to solve all the issues tonight but will incorporate the Assembly’s suggestions into the ultimate charging document for the task force.

E. Ord 2019-30: Chronic Nuisance Property Ordinance

Mr. Palmer presented the main points found in his most recent memo in the packet. He said he modified the newest version of the ordinance to address the issues brought up by the COW at the last meeting this was before them.

Mr. Palmer pointed to one of the most important changes which was the inclusion on page 1 of the ordinance lines 22-24 that states: “However, victims of crime are not nuisances and this ordinance shall not be construed as the basis of evicting a tenant solely because the tenant requested assistance as a victim of crime.”

Mr. Palmer answered a number of questions as they were addressed in the changes made to the draft ordinance. He also pointed out the changes per the COW request to page 8 of the ordinance as well as putting in a three-year sunset date.

Mr. Palmer asked members to give him any particular changes they wished to see at this time, otherwise he suggested this come up back to a future COW (possibly on December 2) with an opportunity for the public to provide testimony. The COW could decide to forward a finalized version from the COW for introduction and Assembly action, it could decide to kill it, or make changes.

Mr. Palmer and Lt. Weske answered a number of questions from members about notice, process and how fees would be calculated. It was decided to bring this back to a future COW meeting in December to take public testimony.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Triem notified the Assembly that on October 8, Alaska Municipal League (AML) is hosting a PERS workshop in Anchorage and since she will already be in Anchorage for personal travel, she will be staying for an extra day to attend the AML workshop.

Mayor Weldon stated that she would also be in Anchorage but not at the same time as Ms. Triem. Mayor Weldon stated that was asked to attend the Thread Child Care Conference and be one of their panelists so she will be attending that on October 10.

Mayor Weldon also announced that there will be a celebration to commemorate 18 years of elected public service by Ms. Becker for her service on the School Board and Assembly on October 4. It will be held at DIPAC at 5:30 p.m. and everyone is invited.

Mr. Edwardson was asked to read the deed for the CBJ land (jar of dirt) that Ms. Becker was presented during her last Lands Committee meeting earlier in the evening. Everyone thanked Ms. Becker for all her years of public service and wished her the best in all the copious hours of non-meeting bliss ahead!

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, Ms. Gladziszewski adjourned the meeting at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth J. McEwen, MMC
Municipal Clerk