

THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA
Assembly Annual Retreat/Special Meeting, Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall
Meeting Minutes – November 7, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

MEETING NO. 2020-45: The Special Meeting of the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly Annual Retreat/Worksession held at the Elizabeth Peratrovich Hall in the Andrew Hope Building and was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Mayor Beth Weldon.

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

Assembly Absent: None.

Leadership Team Staff Present: City Manager Rorie Watt, City Attorney Robert Palmer, Deputy City Manager Mila Cosgrove, Municipal Clerk Beth McEwen, Finance Director Jeff Rogers

Presenters and Public present:

In person: Brian Holst, JEDC; Ibn Bailey, Kirby Day, Karla Hart, Haifa Sadighi.
Virtually: Barbara ‘Wáahlaal Gíidaak Blake, Liz La quen náay Medicine Crow

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

III. AGENDA TOPICS

A. Economic Outlook – Brian Holst, JEDC Executive Director

Brian Holst presented a snapshot of the Juneau economy as of one month ago and answered questions from Assemblymembers. Some of the key points of Mr. Holst’s presentation included the following:

- Tourism, Mining and Local Government had been growing while State and Federal government jobs contracted, however during the pandemic, Federal jobs did increase, mainly due to the 2020 Census.
- While unemployment was rising, it remained below regional, state, and national rates.
- With the rise of unemployment, labor force participation declined and low wage jobs suffered.
- In the trade industries, only the Mining Sector was holding steady.
- Tourism was up in the air due to the uncertainty of the 2021 cruise ship season but the long term outlook for cruise ship tourism trade was anticipated to grow. Tourism did see summer air travel by independent travelers even during the pandemic.
- Small Cruise and Independent Travelers are an opportunity to further diversify Juneau’s economy.
- It is not the mandates but rather COVID-19 that is the biggest threat to consumer spending. There is a direct correlation between the number of cases and the lack of consumer spending.

- The pandemic and lack of cruise ships and the pandemic is the biggest threat to Juneau businesses with most businesses needing the pandemic to end in order to survive.
- Juneau spending continues to grow but drops are seen when COVID spikes occur.
- The construction industry and home sales continue to hold strong during the pandemic with the days real estate is on the market at a record low despite the pandemic.
- New home construction is steady and the rental market has eased as new units have become available, however rental prices continue to rise.
- Non-profits will likely see decreases in sponsorships as 90% of businesses will likely decrease their charitable donations as well as decreases by individuals.
- COVID testing of inbound passengers is of high importance to the business community.
- The case for working remotely has become a national trend with only 3.6% of the U.W. workforce working remotely in 2018 compared to a likely 25-30% of workers will work remotely multiple days per week by the end of 2021.
- Bringing remote jobs to Juneau economy and building infrastructure to support this “industry” would be of significant benefit to Juneau with a median national remote job salary of \$66,000.
- Barriers to Juneau being a remote work location include housing costs, internet speed, cost and reliability, and need for a space to work such as co-working spaces.
- In looking to the future, keeping Juneau healthy is key. The high housing prices continue to present a challenge. Further diversifying Juneau’s economy will increase resilience.
- Opportunities for growth include remote workers, marijuana industry growth, mariculture, small cruise ships, and increase in (local) online sales.
- Transitioning from COVID Response to Rebuilding the economy – it looks more like loans and incentives for growth and less free money and it doesn’t mean that all businesses will be saved.

Assemblymembers discussed the housing market as well as the impact that lack of affordable housing has on recruiting and retaining jobs in Juneau. They also discussed the high cost of living and the impact that has for those who are retiring and/or are retired. The trend was those retiring with incentives for staying in AK tend to stay and retire in Juneau. For the retirees who do not have that incentive for staying in AK, they tend to move out of town due to Juneau’s high cost of living.

Additional discussion took place regarding the construction industry and what the Assembly can do to help keep jobs going with construction projects. Ms. Gladyszewski asked JEDC to send updates as they occur.

The Assembly took a break from 9:17-9:30a.m.

B. CBJ Financial Forecast – Jeff Rogers, CBJ Finance Director

The main focus was review of the November 4, 2020 Assembly Finance Committee meeting materials to be able to give budget direction to the City Manager.

Mr. Rogers suggested that for the short term, the Assembly should continue to spend some of the budget reserve to keep the economy going strong during the pandemic but also added a note of caution in spending down the budget reserve too much. Mr. Rogers reiterated what Mr. Holst said about Juneau's diversified economy and that remote work/jobs is a trend that won't be going away.

Mr. Watt encouraged members to look at the process and carefully consider any financial requests. He said that with respect to looking for direction for the upcoming budget, he would like to introduce a status quo budget and see what the pandemic and stimulus package (if any) as well as tourism industry looks like for the next year and adjust as needed.

Mayor Weldon asked members to provide their insights and desires with respect to direction they want to take on the budget in terms of process rather than specific items.

They went around the room with each of the Assemblymembers providing their preferences with respect to the approach to take on the budget process. Members provided input that due to the uncertainty of what is happening with the pandemic as well as what is happening with the state budget, they agreed with the Manager on a status quo budget and not to take any cuts in a specific direction. Some of the key points they touched on included the priority based budgeting process done two years ago and how that might inform their decisions in the upcoming budget cycle. Ms. Woll asked members to share their experience with the priority based budgeting process since she was not present when that was done. Additional discussion took place amongst Assemblymembers regarding the pros/cons of big projects vs. smaller projects.

Members agreed that while priority based budgeting was beneficial, it may take looking at individual departments and services provided and make a determination on what that might look like. Assembly needs to be disciplined and when the budget time comes, there may not be able to have a 'pending list' as they have had in past budgets with things that people want.

Some of the comments Assemblymembers expressed they may want to look at included using the Affordable Housing Fund, School Bond Debt Reimbursement, and School budget and the possibility of potentially having to close schools if enrollment continues to go down vs. mill rate increases. Mayor Weldon said that while they can begin with a status quo budget, some of what they may be looking at during the budget cycle is taking a deeper look into the services CBJ provides and ask if some of those services can be cut or reduced depending on budget forecasts in the spring.

Mr. Watt said that Assembly time is a resource and it is important to target the highest priorities and do them well rather than having too many irons in the fire and not accomplish anything.

Ms. Woll asked about Mr. Rogers comment about showing FY23 budget and what they would need from the Assembly as they get ready to look at the FY22 budget. Mr. Rogers said that they have discussed shifting in the future to a rolling biennial budget process. He said that he does not need additional information from the Assembly at this point but appreciates the direction and will provide some of the FY23 updates as they prepare for the FY22 budget process.

Ms. Cosgrove said that the priority based budgeting process last year was rather unique. They didn't engage the public as much as they might. She said if the Assembly wants to go towards that type of priority based budget process in the future, they may want to do more community engagement.

Ms. Triem asked for a reminder about the labor contract negotiations and future negotiations. Ms. Cosgrove said that for FY22, they have already included a negotiated 1% salary increase and also an insurance premium increase, and was built into the FY22 budget last budget cycle. She said that FY23 sees all three of CBJ's union contracts coming open for more labor negotiations.

Ms. Hale said that even before COVID hit, she was looking at the Assembly needing to have fewer meetings. In light of the pandemic, she finds that she is not as able to do her job of an Assemblymember as well due to the exhaustion and she had similar concerns for senior staff. Mayor Weldon said they would discuss the staff piece further when they discuss the committee topic at the end of the retreat agenda.

The Assembly took a break from 10:22a.m.-10:35a.m.

C. Assembly Goals and Objectives

2020 Review & 2021 Discussion

Mr. Watt provided an overview of the 2020 goals and reviewed those in comparison to the Assembly's prioritization for 2021 as found in the packet pages 71-75.

Goal 1) Housing – Assure adequate and affordable housing for all CBJ residents.

Mr. Watt commented that the Assembly needs to be realistic with Land Use Code as a lot has been tasked with the Law Department during the pandemic and there may be a big ask to have them also work on Land Use Code.

Goal 2) Economic Development - Assure Juneau has a vibrant, diverse local economy.

Members discussed the fact that they deleted the Comprehensive Plan "Comp Plan" from the budget as well as cutting some Community Development Department (CDD) staffing so they need to be realistic on what CDD staff can do. The Comp Plan and Area Plans rated -0- in the Assemblymembers' high priority ranking category. Members discussed the work that CDD has been doing and it was noted that the staffing has been down on planners and they recently lost the Assistant City Attorney assigned to the Planning Commission so their human resources are currently somewhat thin. They are finishing up the Blueprint Downtown and they are working on downtown parking. Members suggested that it may be best to give up some of the area plans and the Comp Plan for a year and have them focus on downtown revitalization.

Mr. Watt noted that it would be good to try to finish up the Eaglecrest Summer Operations Plan to try to increase revenues.

Mr. Watt said that he thought the Assembly will likely end up spending a lot of time on the Visitor Industry Task Force (VITF) recommendations, especially in light of the impacts on the tourist industry from the pandemic.

Goal 3) Sustainable Budget and Organization - Assure CBJ is able to deliver services in a cost efficient and effective manner that meets the needs of the community.

Mr. Watt said that with respect to the first two implementing actions: Examining life cycle costs of CBJ facilities and focusing on deferred maintenance needs, they have included life cycle cost analysis on all the CIP projects. He said that there will always be a push from sustainability advocates to look at sustainability issues on all CIP projects. He said they have made some progress on IT needs and are going to likely have to spend more resources in the future on IT. We all rely on technology and it is an increasing part of our public service. *(Clerk's note: Ironically, just after making the above statement, his microphone died and the remaining comments were not recorded.)*

Goal 4) Community, Wellness, and Public Safety – Juneau is safe and welcoming for all citizens.

Mr. Watt noted that for the implementing actions, the Assembly may want to spend some time on looking at the role of BRH in partnering with non-profit agencies, other government agencies, and the community with respect to public health is important especially in light of the fact that they will shortly have a new CEO hired.

Mr. Watt said that the implementing action “Reducing Homelessness” was ranked the highest and what the Assemblymembers were most aligned on. He said that the Assembly’s grant support of funding for the new Glory Hall, the United Human Services, and other similar programs really speak to this being their top priority.

Mr. Watt also noted that the Assembly’s adopting the ordinance creating the Systemic Racism Review Committee and the equity training beginning during the retreat’s afternoon session are examples of their work on the final implementing action under Goal #4.

Goal 5) Sustainable Community – Juneau will maintain a resilient social, economic, and environmental habitat for exiting population and future generations.

Mr. Watt noted that with respect to the last goal, 2020 wasn’t at all how we anticipated it. They managed to accomplish three main things this past year: 1) they survived the COVID rodeo, 2) they dealt with CARES Act funding, and 3) they kept the city running during a pandemic.

Mayor Weldon asked the Assembly how they wished to proceed. She said there were some new proposed additions on packet page 75, mostly from Ms. Woll who wasn’t present at the last retreat, and Mayor Weldon asked the Assembly if they were wanting to add those new proposed

items, change them, or not include them. Ms. Woll shared that she was concerned with how the public would react to not seeing anything in the goals related to COVID issues.

Assemblymembers discussed the approach they would take in either using the priority ranking they had initially submitted or categorizing each of the goals and implementing actions as *short term, mid-term, or long term* items. They took a break and coming back from their break decided to arrange the goals in *short term, mid-term, or long term* categories.

There was lengthy discussion and debate as to each of the goals and implementing actions.

Clerk's Note: Copies of the 2020 goals document with prioritization for 2021 (packet pages 73-75) with the items discussed as well as the final/approved version of the 2021 goals as a result of the Assembly discussion at the retreat are attached as an appendix to these minutes as they provide the most concise synopsis of what was discussed and decided upon. Where there were specific points of discussion that are not intuitive by looking at the final goals document, those are noted below.

With respect to **Goal#2-I “Complete work of Visitor Industry Task Force (VITF)”** VITF Chair Triem stated that she just wanted to finish that implementing action and that she didn't have an opinion as to whether it needed to stay on the list or come off the list. Mr. Jones noted that due to COVID and the CDC plans for cruise ships, it will likely change many of the recommendations for this next year and he was in favor of taking it off the goals list.

Under Goal #4: Community, Wellness, & Public Safety – Juneau is safe and welcoming for all citizens, the below language took the place for previous implementing actions A & B:

MOTION by Ms. Hale to add an implementing action that would take the place of implementing actions A & B: **“Working with non-profits, BRH Board and CEO, develop a plan for non-profits and BRH's role with public health and social services in the community.”** *Motion passed by unanimous consent.*

Mr. Smith asked that Ms. Hale's language might include “addiction, mental health, and unsheltered populations” but that amendment was not approved for inclusion in the final goals document.

Ms. Woll said that she was OK with removing her proposed additional actions under Goal #4.

Members agreed to remove **Goal #4-D “Develop pedestrian focused snow removal strategies.”**

Under **Goal 5: Sustainable Community – Juneau will maintain a resilient social, economic, and environmental habitat for exiting population and future generations,** it was agreed to remove implementing actions C, D, & E as noted below:

- C. Explore creating an Assembly Sustainability Committee
- D. Develop a single use plastics program

E. Develop strategy to reduce water consumption borough wide

Under Goal 5, it was also decided that since implementing action F “Make a long term plan to achieve reliance on 80% renewable energy sources by 2045” was included, it was not necessary to add the proposed implementing action “Evaluate dock electrification and relationship with community’s long-term energy growth goals.”

Lastly, it was decided to include a COVID related goal appearing as new **Goal #6: Pandemic Recovery – Protect Public Health and Recover Economic Strength During the COVID Pandemic.**

D. Lunch Break – *the Assembly took a recess for lunch and reconvened at 1:10p.m.*

E. Racial Equity Dialogue with First Alaskans Institute

La quen náay Liz Medicine Crow greeted the Assembly in Lingit and English and provided a traditional introduction and invitation of her ancestors into the room:

Liz La quen náay Kat Saas Medicine Crow (Haida/Tlingit), is from Keex Kwaan (Kake), Alaska. On her Haida side, she is Eagle Tiits Gitee Nei, Hummingbird. On her Tlingit side, she is Raven Kaach.adi, Fresh Water-marked Sockeye Salmon. La quen náay’s maternal grandparents were Mona & Thomas Jackson, Sr. of Kake, her paternal grandparents were Lillian and Charles Cheney of Washington. Her parents are Della and William Cheney of Kake.

‘Wáahlaal Gíidaak Barbara Blake greeted the Assembly in Lingit and English and provided a traditional introduction and invitation of her ancestors into the room:

‘Wáahlaal Gíidaak is from Prince of Wales Island and lives in Juneau. She belongs to the Káat nay-st/Yahkw Jáanaas (Shark House/Middle Town People) Clan. She is the daughter of Sandra Demmert (Yahkw Jáanaas) and Kenneth Johnson (Naltsiine) who is Ahtna Athabaskan, and the granddaughter of Frances Demmert Peele (Yahkw Jáanaas), Franklin Demmert, Sr. (Teeyeeneidi), Irene Johnson (Naltsiine) and Walter Johnson (Norwegian).

Discussion Overview - La quen náay provided information about the First Alaskans Institute and the work that they do with organizations. She explained that First Alaskans Institute works with organizations to help address racial equity and they are important and hard conversations. She said that the Assembly has already begun some of that work but this is a decade’s long issue and it takes time, commitment, and willingness to have the hard conversations.

La quen náay explained that First Alaskans Institute’s vision is “Progress for the next 10,000 years.” That is a minimum of how long they have actually been here in Alaska and how long they intend to continue to be here so they cherish it in a way that they want others to cherish it too and know who they are as native people. One of the things that is central to the work of the First Alaskans Institute is to extend that hand and to try to get to know the people of Alaska, both the native peoples but also those who now call Alaska home. FAI does racial equity work through their Policy Center and ‘Wáahlaal Gíidaak is the Policy Center Director. They have been

engaged in this work for a long time even before the FAI began the Institute. They really started having dialogues around the state during the same year that the state was “celebrating” 50 years of statehood. The FAI trustees and staff went around the state and asked for Alaskan Native perspectives on statehood and for the people to tell FAI where they were at and not for others to dictate to the people what they should be feeling. What FAI heard as a result of those questions was that racism, discrimination and bigotry were alive and well and they were priority areas for FAI and the native community to work on. They took that feedback and turned that into an operating principal to bring things into the equity dialogue work FAI has begun. So far, they have done this work with approximately 25,000 Alaskans as well as individuals throughout the lower 48 and other countries.

La quen náay and ‘Wáahlaal Gíidaak shared the group agreements that the First Alaskans Institute uses when having dialogues about race and is based on shared experiences in working with groups from across the state. La quen náay explained that this is a racial equity dialogue and the closest distance between two or more people is a story. She said that it is through the sharing of each of our stories that building the bridges working together to connect and construct a world that we all want to live in and nurture our community. She shared that each racial equity dialogue usually takes place over the course of three days and this would be the introduction of that dialogue and it will be up to the Assembly to decide how it wants to move forward.

The following were the community agreements as established by First Alaskans Institute (FAI):

- Every chair is a leader. Leadership is not a title or an elected position but rather, leadership for them is a characteristic. It is about who you are and how you are willing to step forward and serve the people and the way that you serve. It is not a job or a paycheck but rather your characteristics as a leader. In light of that, they ask each person to take off all their proverbial hats as each person is more than just their title or seat they are filling in this capacity as this spans all aspects of a person’s character. They are then asking that those hats be used as the foundation by which individuals speak as a whole person.
- They ask that each person speak to be understood and listen to understand. How each person communicates with each other and each of the facilitators is a way that they can lift up their own understanding of what they are putting forward. Ideas and thoughts are not to be put out there to be adversarial and individuals are not sitting back listening for offenses against them. Each person is tasked with deeply listening to each other to try to come to a better understanding of one another. That leads to a safe space for meaningful conversation. This format used by FAI strives to create a safe space for individuals to have that safety net around them while they are speaking. FAI facilitators are there not to be offended by any comments or questions that may arise but rather they are creating the safe space for everyone and hoping that each attendee will also lift that up for each other.
- We want to be present, engaged, and value our time together and valuing the fact that we are responsible for our experience together collectively. We don’t have a lot of time to work on this today but experience in our community and in the country has shown us that we have some deep work to do in this area. Today is just the beginning of these

conversations. Don't feel like the hour and half today is the end all be all but rather the beginning of the dialogue.

- We will acknowledge that there are a lot of challenges when it comes to racial equity. Many of the challenges came up during the Assembly meeting discussions related to the formation of the Systemic Racism Review Committee. However, we don't want to stew in those places of challenges but rather we want to come up with the solutions. It's OK to bring up the challenges within the conversation but then solutions to those challenges should also be brought within those same conversations.
- Our value of humor helps us. Humor is medicine, we find ways to laugh and cry over hard things and it helps hold each other up and they will use humor as it arises and is a natural part of the conversation.
- Lastly, self-care is important and support of one another during this dialogue and process.

Everyone agreed to the agreements as outlined above.

La quen náay explained that First Alaskans Institute's vision is "Progress for the next 10,000 years." That is a minimum of how long they have actually been here in Alaska and how long they intend to continue to be here so they cherish it in a way that they want others to cherish it too and know who they are as native people. One of the things that is central to the work of the First Alaskans Institute is to extend that hand and to try to get to know the people of Alaska, both the native peoples but also those who now call Alaska home. FAI does racial equity work through their Policy Center and 'Wáahlaal Gíidaak is the Policy Center Director. They have been engaged in this work for a long time even before the FAI began the Institute. They really started having dialogues around the state during the same year that the state was "celebrating" 50 years of statehood. The FAI trustees and staff went around the state and asked for Alaskan Native perspectives on statehood and for the people to tell FAI where they were at and not for others to dictate to the people what they should be feeling. What FAI heard as a result of those questions was that racism, discrimination and bigotry were alive and well and they were priority areas for FAI and the native community to work on. They took that feedback and turned that into an operating principal to bring things into the equity dialogue work FAI has begun. So far, they have done this work with approximately 25,000 Alaskans as well as individuals throughout the lower 48 and other countries.

'Wáahlaal Gíidaak then explained that when FAI sent the invitation to CBJ to participate in the Alaskan Native Dialogues on Racial Equity, they also sent an invitation to CBJ to become accountability partners alongside them for the Truth Racial Healing and Transformation (TRHT) endeavor. The TRHT is an evolution of what the Alaskan Native Dialogue on Racial Equity ended up transforming into. She said that it is not a Truth and Reconciliation process as one has never happened in the United States or State of Alaska. She said they purposely do not use the word "reconciliation" because in order to have reconciliation, you had to have good relations to begin with. You cannot reconcile what you never had. She said that when they are talking about a Truth Racial Healing and Transformation process, they are talking about the opportunity for indigenous people and people of color to finally speak their truths, to have those truths heard by the people of Alaska, by leadership, and by our own people. 'Wáahlaal Gíidaak provided an

example saying that often times in newspaper coverage of current events, wrongs that happened TO Alaskan natives might be found on pages 3 or 10 or deeper in the paper whereas whenever an Alaska Native is accused of something, that often makes the front page. She explained the process this work goes through and how encouraging the transformation piece and policy changes that come about as a result. They recently held a tribunal related to what is commonly referred to as “subsistence” but that the Alaskans refer to as “their way of life.” They were joined in that tribunal by accountability partners from the federal, state, and non-profits, and resource extraction and every walk of life to sit alongside them and listen deeply to the testimony that was told over a day-long session. FAI will convene with those partners later down the road to sit with them and discuss what the solutions and transformation might look like. She said that as they are thinking of this work today and in the future with the Assembly’s work, that is something to think about if the Assembly is willing to stand up with them as accountability partners.

FAI then facilitated a series of exercises with the Assemblymembers related to the differences between racial equality vs. racial equity.

The next steps included FAI setting up times and opportunities for small group conversations with space for anonymity to pose questions and concerns that would then be discussed later in the small groups.

The session closed with each person creating a six word story, similar to those written by Ernest Hemmingway, which tells what their commitment to racial equity looks like.

Mayor Weldon and the Assemblymembers thanked La quen náay and ‘Wáahlaal Gíidaak for this important session.

Mayor Weldon asked Ms. Cosgrove to provide an overview of the next steps for the equity training. Ms. Cosgrove provided the financial cost for the FAI facilitation and that they can accommodate up to 20 people in the break out groups. She said that she and Mr. Palmer had some lengthy discussions about how the Assembly might be able to move forward in light of the Open Meetings Act. She said that they came up with the following three options:

- 1) Hold future sessions with the full Assembly, subject to the Open Meeting Act (OMA), with public attendance able to observe the sessions, similar to this format. Ms. Cosgrove said that in her discussions with ‘Wáahlaal Gíidaak and La quen náay, they said it was up to the Assembly to decide but they did not recommend this format to be able to get into the deeper meaningful conversations that generally occur with this work.
- 2) Split the Assembly up into three smaller groups with no more than three Assemblymembers which would not be subject to the OMA.
- 3) Split the Assembly up into three smaller groups with no more than three Assemblymembers, which would not be subject to the OMA, but also feather in members of the CBJ Leadership Team participating.

Ms. Cosgrove said that they would like the Leadership Team to also take equity training so if they Assembly decided not to choose option 3, the Manager’s office would proceed separately in

conducting this training with the Leadership Team. Option 3 was just a suggestion in an attempt to accomplish the same outcome while conserving the financial resources.

Mayor Weldon asked the Assemblymembers what their preference would be moving forward. It was the consensus of the Assembly to choose option 3.

F. Committee Operations Discussion

Mayor Weldon and Ms. Gladziszewski distributed a four page document that outlined the Assembly Standing Committees, including their scope and charge as outlined in the Assembly Rules of Procedure, and a list of all the CBJ Boards and Commissions and a brief description of their scope and how they relate back to the work of the Assembly.

Ms. Gladziszewski explained that she did a bit of research to see what other communities in Alaska have with respect to standing Assembly committees. She said that Juneau has by far the most committees of any community in the state. She said that CBJ has an Assembly Finance and COW which most other communities do not have. She then provided a list of comparable communities across the state and the types of Assembly committees they have which were generally limited from zero to two Assembly standing committees. She said that the one exception was Municipality of Anchorage which has quite a few committees but they are much larger than Juneau.

She said in light of how other communities' are established, she was questioning if CBJ should have all the Assembly standing committees that it does have. [Assembly Finance Committee (AFC), Assembly Committee of the Whole (COW), Assembly Public Works and Facilities Committee (PWFC), Assembly Lands and Resources Committee (LC), and the Joint Assembly/School Facilities CIP & Maintenance Team]

Assemblymembers then discussed the Assembly Rules of Procedure Resolution which sets out the types of Assembly Standing Committees (ASC) as well as the charge for each ASC. They also discussed the fact that much of the work of the Assembly is done in its standing committees before it moves onto the Assembly for final action.

Mr. Watt said that from his perspective, what has happened is that as the city has grown and evolved, the committee structure hasn't necessarily evolved with those issues over time. He gave examples of changes seen over the last few decades in the LC as well as the PWFC. He said that when they look at the Assembly goals and that they don't necessarily line up easily to the ASC structure and sometimes some of the goals are shoe horned into a particular ASC. He said that from a staffing point of view, it would be helpful for the Assembly to look at its goals and decide which ASCs a particular goal might be assigned to. He then also spoke to the way the Assemblymembers interact with the committees. They are structured such that if an ASC has a particular item on its agenda that is of interest to an individual Assemblymember, hopefully that Assemblymember is attending the meeting or following it. Even if they aren't a member of that committee, when that item comes before the Assembly for action, the member has already had a

chance to ask questions or hear the discussion related to the item or trusts the work of the committee and is ready when it is before the full body to be acted upon.

Mayor Weldon explained that she and Ms. Gladziszewski were trying to better align the work of the ASCs with the Assembly goals and one of the main reasons they brought this topic forward for consideration. Mayor Weldon said that there was some proposed language that Ms. Gladziszewski provided on the handout that they would suggest adding to the Lands and Resources Committee.

Additional discussion took place related to whether they wanted to restructure the ASCs or how the goals might best be accomplished through the work of the committees as well as the current workload and how the committee process may be made more efficient without overwhelming Assemblymembers and staff.

It was decided that each ASC would look at the Assembly goals and decide which ones would best fit within the scope of their regular committee work. They also discussed the purpose and role of the committee reports at the end of each regular Assembly meetings and how that might help inform the Assemblymembers and the public what might be coming up at future meetings in case they are interested in attending the next meeting. They also discussed the roles of the Assembly liaisons to various committees and for the Assemblymembers reporting what was discussed or what happened at that board/committee back at the regular Assembly meetings as well.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Weldon noted that there were a few housekeeping items to be addressed and asked the Clerk to provide that information.

Ms. McEwen stated that she distributed copies of the Committee of the Whole meeting packet to each of the members. She noted that the COW packet contained a resolution amending the Assembly Rules of Procedure resolution as it had been initially amended in the spring due to COVID and that expiration date was coming up and Mr. Palmer thought it would be important to extend the expiration date. Ms. McEwen also explained that the proposed 2021 Assembly calendar was included in the packet. Ms. McEwen asked the Assembly to let staff know if they had any meeting time changes or dates that they wanted to make before the final calendar is loaded up online. Assemblymembers discussed ASC meeting time as well as the start time of regular Assembly meetings at 7:00p.m. It was decided to leave the times as they were scheduled with Ms. Triem noting the time for Assembly Finance Committee would begin at 6p.m. for most of the year but during the AFC budget cycle meetings will begin at 5:30p.m.

They also discussed the format in which to hold Assembly meetings in the future with the following three options:

- 1) To continue to hold meetings virtually via Zoom webinar, or
- 2) Transition to In Person meetings in the Assembly Chambers, or

3) A hybrid of virtual and in person meetings.

They discussed the pros/cons of the three options and the possibility of trying a hybrid method on a trial basis later in November and possibly start out with one of the ASC meetings. Mayor Weldon said that she will discuss that with staff and committee chairs and will provide direction closer to the middle of the month.

V. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Assembly, the meeting was adjourned at 4:15p.m.

Signed: _____
Elizabeth J. McEwen
Municipal Clerk

Signed: _____
Beth A. Weldon
Mayor