THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA
SPECIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
Meeting Minutes - December 17, 2020

MEETING NO. 2020-49: The Regular Meeting of the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly held virtually via Zoom webinar, was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Beth Weldon.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Assemblymembers Absent: None.

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

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Hale requested that Items A & B are swapped in order of being taken up. *Hearing no objections, the agenda was approved as amended.*

III. AGENDA TOPICS

A. PUBLIC HEARING Resolution 2931 A Resolution Amending the COVID-19 Emergency Individual Assistance Program Criteria.

This resolution adds one condition to the existing individual assistance program if a person received a grant from the CBJ housing assistance program, then the person cannot also receive a grant from the individual assistance program. This change is necessary to spread out the limited CARES Act funds remaining. The $2M appropriation from Ordinance 2020-09(Y) remains unchanged.

The City Manager recommends the Assembly adopt this resolution.

Public Comment:
None.

Assembly Action:
MOTION by Mr. Smith for the Assembly to adopt Resolution 2931 and asked for unanimous consent.

Ms. Gladziszewski asked to receive more financial information regarding each of the programs: how many grants have been awarded, how many are left, how much money is available, etc…

Mr. Rogers said that CBJ appropriated $3 million for the Housing Assistance grant and $2 million for the Individual Assistance grant. There are currently 3,000 applicants for the Housing Assistance grant, and 1,800 applicants for Individual Assistance program. To date, CBJ has awarded grants to approximately 1,000 applicants from the Housing Assistance grant program, the average award being about $2,000. The Finance Department does not have access to exact data that shows how many applicants have been awarded and how many applications have been denied.

In regards to the Individual Assistance grant program, Mr. Rogers shared that Catholic Community Services (CCS) has indicated to them that the average award will be above $2,000. An appropriation of $2 million would only fund about 1,000 of the 1,800 total applicants. Approximately 800 of those applicants may not receive funding. Ms. Walker Tolles is currently waiting for approximately 40% of applicants to respond to requests for additional qualifying information.

Ms. Hale mentioned that the Assembly had recently modified the Housing Assistance Grant to award an additional $1,000, due to the lack of applicants. She asked if CCS will continue to send the extra $1,000 awards, or if they have stopped sending those funds. She also asked if the Assembly should take action to pull back that additional award grant. Mr. Rogers responded that the extra $1,000 award is now the law. CCS and CBJ have continued to disburse that award amount, and it would take a modification of the ordinance to be able to disburse something less than that amount.

Ms. Hale asked if the Assembly wanted to change that law, could that be done at a meeting next week. Mr. Palmer answered that changing that criteria would require a Special Assembly meeting next week, and it would only apply to applicants who had not yet been sent a check.

Mayor Weldon said that they would likely run out of money before next week, and believes that amending the Individual Assistance program would most likely the best course of action at this time. Mr. Rogers said that the amendment they have before them would reduce the potential identified demand for the Individual Assistance program.

Mr. Smith asked if they wanted to add more money to the Individual Assistance Program, could they do so at a Special Assembly meeting next week. Mr. Rogers said that staff could draft a de-appropriating and/or re-appropriating ordinance, they just need to be directed to do so.

Ms. Gladziszewski wanted to know what was available, and how the populations that apply for these are programs different. She wanted to know who would be most directly impacted by these changes. Mr. Rogers shared that the Finance Department has limited knowledge on the applicant

populations. Ms. Walker Tolles has suggested that approximately 50% of the applicants for the Individual Assistance program have also applied for the Housing Assistance program.

Objection by Ms. Triem. She commented that this amendment will change the eligibility for Individual Assistance, which she said was targeted at a population with higher needs than the Housing Assistance program. Ms. Triem said she would rather change the eligibility requirements for the Housing Assistance program instead.

Ms. Hale agreed with Ms. Triem's statements, saying that this program will impact Juneau's lowest income population and spoke against cutting it off at this point.

Roll Call Vote on Resolution 2931:
Ayes: Smith, Woll, Bryson, Jones, Mayor Weldon
Nays: Hughes-Skandijs, Triem, Hale, Gladziszewski
Motion passed. Five (5) Ayes, Four (4) Nays.

Ms. Gladziszewski gave Notice of Reconsideration on Resolution 2931. Ms. Gladziszewski said that she wanted to preserve the Assembly's ability to move money at a later time if they need to. Mayor Weldon noted that there will not be another Assembly meeting for a while.

B. PUBLIC HEARING Resolution 2930 A Resolution Amending the COVID-19 Extreme Hardship Business Grant Program Criteria.

This resolution contains four amendments to the existing extreme hardship program. The amendments are located in the following provisions: Year-round operations, COVID-19 Extreme Hardship, Payroll pledge, and Grant amount.

The proposed amendments provide direction to questions that have arisen since the Grant Administrator started reviewing applications. The $2.3M appropriation from Ordinance 2020-09(U) remains unchanged.

The Deputy City Manager recommends the Assembly adopt this resolution.

Public Comment:
David Summers, a Valley resident, said that the term "year-round" is a baseless and emotional term. He believed the intent was for Juneau-owned businesses to benefit from this resolution, however a small business will never be on a 941 form, and it disqualifies some Juneau-owned businesses.

Laura Martinson, a Douglas resident, asked that they clarify the term "year-round" as being year-round operational, and explained that she is working year-round even during times that do not result in profits. She asked the Assembly to expand the parameters around this amendment, to include business who are operational on a broader spectrum.

Mr. Smith noted that Ms. Martinson currently serves on the Economic Stabilization Task Force, and asked what ESTF had to say regarding this resolution.

Ms. Martinson said that their discussion centered on what it was like to be a local year-round business owner in Juneau, in comparison to businesses that do not reside in Juneau. Many of their sole proprietors own their businesses, homes, and live in the community and pay sales tax and property taxes in Juneau. She said that the way their cash flow is scheduled, the definition of "operating" they have to be very careful quantifying that. It was assumed with the ESTF that owner draws would be included within those parameters but, in her particular case, she was not paying herself in order to meet the other cash flow needs.

Ms. Gladziszewski asked Ms. Martinson to clarify is she was speaking for or against these changes. Ms. Martinson clarified that she was speaking in favor of these changes.

Mayor Weldon said she would bring this back to Assembly for consideration and to start with she asked Mr. Rogers a question regarding the change for the housekeeping clarification on sole proprietorships and LLCs being allowed to count their draws. She said there is also an Assembly desire for this to apply to businesses that have year-round operations. She asked Mr. Rogers if there was a simple way to codify that language and intent.

Mr. Rogers said he couldn't comment on whether or not it is appropriate to require year-round operations but for purposes of this amendment, sole proprietors would qualify under this ordinance with the amendment if they have sales but they would not qualify if they did not have sales.

Mayor Weldon said she thought it was the intent of the body to ensure they had sales and were open year round.

Assembly Action:
MOTION by Ms. Hughes-Skandijs for the Assembly to adopt Resolution 2930 and asked for unanimous consent. *Hearing no objection, Resolution 2930 was adopted by unanimous consent.*

Ms. Gladziszewski asked for clarification about the previous discussion about a Special Assembly Meeting that was possibly going to be scheduled for the following week. Mayor Weldon said that they did not have one scheduled but it appears to be the will of the body that if Mr. Rogers can get some more information to provide to them, they will likely end up having another meeting the following week. Ms. Gladziszewski thanked the Mayor since they were trying to do so much in a brief 30 minute meeting prior to the Assembly meeting as the HRC.

Ms. Triem said that she thought the Finance Director should be given some specific direction to bring back an ordinance for the Assembly's consideration at a meeting next week. Mayor Weldon asked Mr. Rogers if that was enough direction or if he needed more specific

information. Mr. Rogers responded that while he could bring back some proposed legislation based on what was remaining the pie chart and the programs the Assembly noted they wanted to apply those funds to but he would like clarity from the Assembly as to the specific accounts from which to de-appropriate and also those programs to which they wished to appropriate funds.

MOTION by Ms. Triem to draft an ordinance that would de-appropriate unused money from JSD RALLY support, Rental Assistance, Kallaco testing, Wastewater Testing Program, and also include the COVID Testing Equipment. These funds would be re-appropriated towards the Individual Assistance Grant program.

Mr. Smith expressed interest in pausing and revisiting the extra $1,000 award for the Housing Assistance program.

Amendment #1 by Ms. Gladziszewski. Ms. Gladziszewski spoke to the intent of her amendment, which would be to separate each de-appropriation into different ordinances, including the Business Sustainability Grant so they are five separate deappropriating/appropriating ordinances so they can pick and choose.

Mayor Weldon directed Ms. Triem to work with Mr. Palmer and Mr. Rogers to draft an ordinance to bring to the Assembly.

Hearing no objections, the motion was passed as amended by unanimous consent.

C. Recess of Special Assembly Meeting to conduct HRC Meeting

The Special Assembly meeting recessed and reconvene as the Full Assembly sitting as the Human Resources Committee to interview applicants for the Planning Commission.

HRC Chair Wade Bryson requested Mayor Weldon conduct the HRC portion of the meeting as he had just received news of a family medical emergency and had to leave the meeting.

Mayor Weldon called for a brief recess between meetings.

Mayor Weldon called the Special Assembly Human Resources Committee meeting to order at 5:35 where they interviewed the following applicants for the Planning Commission: Mandy Cole, Mike Lavine, Garrett Paul, Weston Eiler, Laura Martinson, and Paul Voelckers.

MOTION by Ms. Triem to recess into Executive Session to discuss matters which may tend to prejudice the reputation or character of any persons, specifically to deliberate on applicant qualifications for the Planning Commission. There being no objection nor anyone from the public wishing to comment on the appropriateness of entering into Executive Session, the meeting recessed into Executive Session at 6:36p.m.

The HRC returned from Executive Session at 7:36p.m.

Ms. Triem reported that the HRC met in Executive Session and debated the qualifications of Planning Commission applicants.

MOTION by Ms. Gladziszewski spoke on behalf of the HRC Chair and nominates Mandy Cole, Mike Lavine, and Paul Voelckers to serve on the Planning Commission for terms beginning January 1, 2021 and expiring December 31, 2023. *Hearing no objection, the motion passed by unanimous consent.*

Mayor Weldon noted that the Special Assembly Human Resources Committee adjourned at 7:39p.m. and she reconvened the Special Assembly meeting for the purpose of making appointments to the Planning Commission.

MOTION by Ms. Gladziszewski noted that the HRC met and forwarded the nominations of Mandy Cole, Mike Lavine, and Paul Voelckers to serve on the Planning Commission for terms beginning January 1, 2021 and expiring December 31, 2023. *Hearing no objection, the motion passed by unanimous consent.*

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Mayor Weldon noted that Ms. Hale provided a correction to her about an statement that she made during the initial part of the meeting in which she incorrectly said that they would reduce the award amount for the Individual Assistance program. She noted that she got her grants confused and she had really meant to say it was a reduction of the Housing Assistance grant program. She said that she has already alerted staff to that correction as well.

Ms. Triem noted that this is the 83rd meeting of the full Assembly during 2020. Mayor Weldon noted that the members should leave Tuesday, December 22 at noon open on their calendars for the next meeting.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Assembly, the meeting was adjourned at 7:41p.m.

Signed: _____ Signed: _____

Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk

Beth A. Weldon, Mayor