THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA
SPECIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
Meeting Minutes – October 1, 2020

MEETING NO. 2020-43: The Special Meeting of the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly held virtually via Zoom webinar, was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Beth Weldon.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Assemblymembers Absent: None.

Staff Present: City Manager Rorie Watt, City Attorney Robert Palmer, Deputy City Manager Mila Cosgrove, Municipal Clerk Beth McEwen, Deputy Clerk Diane Cathcart, Finance Director Jeff Rogers, Community Development Administrative Officer Brenwynne Grigg,

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Watt noted the following changes to be made to the agenda. He asked the Assembly to remove Ordinance 2020-09(O) from the Consent Agenda, as it had not made it out of the Assembly Finance Committee (AFC) meeting.

He also asked the Assembly to reschedule Public Hearing for Emergency Appropriation Resolution 2908 due to actions that were taken at the AFC the night prior.
Hearing no objections, the City Manager's agenda changes were made.

III. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Public Requests for Consent Agenda Changes, Other Than Ordinances for Introduction
None.

B. Assembly Requests for Consent Agenda Changes
None.

C. Assembly Action

MOTION by Ms. Gladziszewski for the Assembly to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended.
Hearing no objections, the Consent Agenda was approved as amended by unanimous consent.

1. Ordinances for Introduction

a. **Ordinance 2020-09(O) An Ordinance Appropriating up to $500,000 to the Manager for Post-Secondary Education Assistance Grants Related to COVID-19; Funding Provided by the CARES Act Special Revenue Fund.**

This ordinance would establish a grant program for students who have graduated high school or have a GED and have been financially harmed by COVID-19. Many students have continued their formal education pursuits and had to increase their educational debt because the students lost summer or on-campus employment due to COVID-19. This program would provide eligible students grants up to $1,800.

The Assembly Finance Committee reviewed this request at its September 30, 2020, meeting. **The City Manager asked that the Assembly remove this item from the agenda as it did not pass out of the Assembly Finance Committee.**

b. Ordinance 2020-09(J) An Ordinance Appropriating $1,100,000 to the Manager as a Grant to United Human Services of SE Alaska to Construct the Southeast Community Services Center; Funding Provided by the General Fund's Fund Balance.

This ordinance is being introduced at the request of Mayor Weldon. It would authorize a grant of $1,100,000 to United Human Services. The introduction of this ordinance has been moved up so that in the event the Assembly approves this ordinance, site work for UHS can proceed in concert with the Glory Hall facility.

The City Manager recommends the Assembly introduce this ordinance and set it for public hearing at the next regular Assembly meeting.

IV. PUBLIC HEARING

A. Ordinance 2020-09(M) An Ordinance Appropriating $1,653,000 to the Manager as Supplemental Funding for the Juneau School District's Fiscal Year 2021 COVID-19 Related Costs; Funding Provided by the CARES Act Special Revenue Fund.

This ordinance would appropriate $1,653,000 as supplemental funding for the Juneau School District’s FY21 COVID-19 related costs, estimated to be spent in the following categories:

Technology	$830,000
Supplies	$36,000
Addl. Staff Time and Support	$237,000
Transportation	$300,000
Food Service	$250,000
Total	**$1,653,000**

In an effort to maximize the effectiveness of both JSD and CBJ potential CARES dollars, JSD is proposing to shift the expenditures of the JSD CARES Act funds to the January - June, 2021 period, and instead utilize CBJ's CARES Act funding for expenditures through the end of the calendar year, since CBJ's allocation is set to expire on December 30, 2020. JSD's CARES Act funding does not expire until 2022.

Funding for this appropriation would be provided by the CARES Act Special Revenue Fund. The Assembly Finance Committee reviewed this request at its September 30, 2020, meeting.

The City Manager recommends the Assembly adopt this ordinance.

Public Comment
None.

Assembly Action
MOTION by Mr. Smith for the Assembly to adopt Ordinance 2020-09(M) and asked for unanimous consent.
Hearing no objections, Ordinance 2020-09(M) was adopted by unanimous consent.

B. Ordinance 2020-09(L) An Ordinance Appropriating $383,775 to the Manager as a Grant to Travel Juneau for the Juneau Cares Campaign; Funding Provided by the CARES Act Special Revenue Fund.

This ordinance would authorize a $383,775 grant to Travel Juneau for the Juneau Cares campaign. This grant would support a community messaging campaign intended to demonstrate the visitor industry's commitment to the health of Juneau as a tourist destination. Building traveler confidence that the visitor industry keeps health and safety as its top priority is an important step in bringing tourists back to Juneau for the 2021 summer season.

Funding for this grant is provided by the CARES Act Special Revenue Fund. The Assembly Finance Committee reviewed this request at its September 30, 2020, meeting.
The City Manager recommends the Assembly adopt this ordinance.

Public Comment
None.

Assembly Action
MOTION by Ms. Hughes-Skandijs for the Assembly to adopt Ordinance 2020-09(L) and asked for unanimous consent.

Objection by Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones said that he asked several questions about this ordinance at last night's AFC meeting, and while he appreciated the answers given, he did not believe this would be very effective and cannot support this ordinance.

Mr. Bryson spoke in favor of the ordinance. He said that Juneau needs every advantage we can get, and choosing not to advertise Juneau would disadvantage the community.

Ms. Gladziszewski spoke against the motion, she said that while she appreciated marketing, she does not believe that putting money towards marketing would be money well spent.

Ms. Triem supported the ordinance, and said that putting money towards marketing early on would be a good use of funding for Juneau.

Ms. Edwardson spoke in favor of the ordinance, saying that while he agreed with many of the points made, he supported Mr. Bryson's comments.

Mayor Weldon spoke in favor of the ordinance and said she believes the timing is right, and making Juneau a safe place for visitors will also make it a safe place for our residents.

Roll Call Vote on Ordinance 2020-09(L)
Ayes: Hughes-Skandijs, Hale, Edwardson, Bryson, Triem, Smith, Mayor Weldon.
Nays: Jones, Gladziszewski.
Motion passed. Seven (7) Ayes, Two (2) Nays.

C. Ordinance 2020-09(I)(b) An Ordinance Appropriating $2,300,000 to the Manager as a Grant to The Glory Hall to Construct an Emergency Shelter, Care Center, and Meal Distribution Facility; Funding Provided by the General Fund's Fund Balance.

This ordinance would authorize a $2.3 million grant to The Glory Hall to construct an emergency shelter, care center, and meal distribution facility. Located in the Mendenhall Valley, the facility would be a component of a new Southeast Community Services Campus aimed at serving elders, youth, and low-income community members and people experiencing disabilities.

This facility would replace The Glory Hall's current downtown location. The full cost of the project is estimated to exceed $5.0 million. Of this amount, over $500,000 has been raised in local contributions from more than 200 donors. Additional anticipated support from the Rasmuson Foundation and the Alaska Mental Health Trust will be based on CBJ's level of commitment. If approved, funding for this project would be provided from the general fund's fund balance.

The Assembly Finance Committee reviewed this request at its September 2 and September 30, 2020 meetings. Information on this topic was also provided to the Assembly at its September 14, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting.

The City Manager recommends the Assembly adopt this ordinance.

<u>Public Comment</u>

Laurie Craig, an Auke Bay resident, spoke in favor of this ordinance, and said that it was something desperately needed for our community. She said that her decision was made from a sense of compassion, as well as from a downtown business perspective. She urged the Assembly to act quickly on this ordinance, and work out the details on the operating agreement at a later time.

Jeannette Lacey, a Twin Lakes resident, shared that she is the director of case management at Bartlett Regional Hospital. She said that her team works very closely with the Glory Hall, which provides an invaluable service to the community. Ms. Lacey believes a new facility would help our community's most vulnerable members by providing individual sleeping space and safety. She added that in some instances the current facility's conditions have led to lengthened hospital stays for Glory Hall patients being treated at BRH. She said that this pandemic has highlighted the need for individual space and support for this population. Ms. Lacey hoped that the Assembly would move forward with this project.

Lorraine Derr, a Juneau resident, shared that she was one of the members of Resurrection Lutheran Church who successfully fundraised to purchase the building of the current Glory Hall. She recalled that two years ago, the Glory Hall Board approached her to discuss purchasing land to help relocate the Glory Hall. Ms. Derr helped raise over $450,000 to relocate the Glory Hall. She explained to the Assembly that the construction of the new Glory Hall cannot wait and must begin soon, and she appreciated their consideration.

Mandy Cole, a Juneau resident, shared her testimony as an AWARE partner with the Glory Hall, and as a mother of teenage sons. She said the Glory Hall has been an integral partner with every homelessness program in Juneau to provide services to coordinated systems of care. She added that without the Glory Hall, the rest of the care providers would not be able to provide the services they do to the populations they serve. Ms. Cole shared that as a mother of two children who have helped at the Glory Hall, she believes the Glory Hall educates the community on how to care for our neighbors in need.

Saralyn Tabachnick, a Downtown resident and the former Executive Director of AWARE, said she believes that the atmosphere and space of a shelter is critically important, particularly amidst a pandemic. She said the Glory Hall is looking to build a new facility to better serve their patrons and our community, and found that to be commendable. Ms. Tabachnik shared that the Glory Hall and AWARE collectively provide over 20,000 nights of safe shelter each year for those experiencing homelessness. She expressed certainty that the space the Glory Hall will make will provide better service for their patrons, and urged the Assembly to adopt this ordinance.

Dr. Heidi Brocious, a Valley resident and UAA Associate Professor of Social Work, commended the Assembly for embracing evidence-based practices around homelessness, and for using social science systems that determines what methods work, such as Housing First. Dr. Brocious wished to share the findings of social science based studies that have researched and tested solutions regarding homelessness. The conclusions of these studies all found that interventions that perform best usually contain a combination of the following: high-intensity case management, Housing First, critical time intervention, abstinence-contingent housing, non-abstinence contingent housing, housing vouchers, and residential treatment. Dr. Brocious said that this shelter project would tackle at least three of those evidence-based practices by bringing people into critical time intervention, abstinence-contingent housing, and high-intensity case management. She shared the long term impact of these programs appear to reduce homelessness and improve housing abilities compared to usual services.

Mr. Smith asked Dr. Brocious if she was part of the study that researched the cost savings of the Housing First project for Bartlett Regional Hospital. Dr. Brocious confirmed that she did author that study, and that the study actually researched use reduction rather than cost savings. The study will be published in a peer-reviewed journal within the next month.

Amy Skilbred, a Twin Lakes resident and current Executive Director of the Juneau Community Foundation (JCF), spoke in favor of providing full funding for the Glory Hall as soon as possible. She shared that the Glory Hall has been a trusted partner of the JCF, and helped ensure that Housing First was running smoothly. She said that the Glory Hall has an opportunity to secure $500,000 from the Rasmussen Foundation, and $350,000 from the Alaska Mental Health Trust. Ms. Skilbred suggested amending Section 4 of the ordinance to make those funds available right away. She thanked the Assembly for their time and for all they have done so far.

Erin Walker-Tolles, a Valley resident and current Executive Director of Catholic Community Services, spoke in support of the ordinance. She expressed enthusiasm about this project, and said that this would be the right thing to do, and could result in cost savings down the road for CBJ.

Gus Marx, a Valley resident said he is the current Co-Chair of Juneau Coalition of Housing and Homelessness, which works with about 30 various agencies, such as social services and Veterans Affairs. He said that the new Glory Hall is one of the top priorities of the coalition, and is included in this year's Community Action Plan. As a Valley resident, he saw this as a positive development that will provide a more dignified structure for patrons to use.

Dave Branding, a Downtown resident and current CEO of JAMHI Health and Wellness, spoke in favor of this ordinance. He believes the current Glory Hall building is not conducive for the services provided, and the building is not as safe as it could be. Mr. Branding said that the proposed new building could truly help people and do so safely. He thanked the Assembly for all of the work that they do for Juneau.

Bruce Denton, a Valley resident and current Vice-Chair of Glory Hall Board, spoke in favor of this ordinance and spoke to the urgency of moving forward with this project. He shared that the Glory Hall has a building permit that they expect to be issued shortly, and final contract numbers and dirt work bids to arrive tomorrow. They are prepared to start construction as soon as the utility and field permits come out of CBJ. Mr. Denton said that they expect the project to be built next summer.

Ms. Gladziszewski asked Mr. Denton if he has any objection to the new language "low barrier shelter" in Section A(3), which states: "Recipients will ensure alignment with community needs for provision of Housing and Homelessness Services, including ensuring the new facility will be a low barrier shelter." Mr. Denton shared that the Glory Hall Board spent some time crafting new language, which was amended again today.

Mayor Weldon informed Ms. Gladziszewski that there is a new amendment that will be presented to the Assembly later in tonight's meeting.

Assembly Action

MOTION by Mr. Jones to move Ordinance 2020-09(I)(b) and asked to make an amendment.

Ms. Triem asked if the version the Assembly is currently working on the same version that was sent out yesterday. Mr. Jones confirmed that Ms. Phillips sent this version out to the Assembly yesterday in an email.

Mr. Jones spoke to his reasons for proposing amendments after discussions with the Glory Hall Board members and others from the community. He shared that he had asked the City Manager if there was an operating agreement, and if there was something similar for other projects. Mr. Jones recalled the City Manager telling him that there have been similar projects with operating agreements, and he provided Mr. Jones with copies of the operating agreements from the Housing First Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects.

Mr. Jones said that based on that, he found the ordinances for those projects and suggested a solution to the issues raised by the public and Glory Hall Board members.

AMENDMENT #1 by Mr. Jones to make the following two part amendment to Ordinance 2020-09(I)(b):

Amendment 1, Part 1

In Section 2. Appropriation, add the following sentence at the end of that section: *"An agreement would be developed to document the parties' commitment to the Assembly's intent."*

This is the same language that was used in the ordinance that funded Housing First Phase 2.

Amendment 1, Part 2

Delete Section 4 completely. Mr. Jones also noted that with the exception of the deletion of Section 4, the Manager would be informed that the items currently listed in Section 4 are the intent of the Assembly in his negotiation of the management agreement. He said that would then require Section 5 to be renumbered to number 4.

Mr. Jones clarified that by removing Section 4, and specifically the language in Section 4(a)(5), that the intent of the Assembly would be to provide for the negotiations to take place between the City Manager and the Glory Hall and to remove the Assembly requirement for ratification and review by the ad hoc committee before the funds could be disbursed.

Ms. Gladziszewski expressed concern with respect to the language related to the new facility being a "low barrier" shelter, and she is not sure if that is what the shelter should be. She asked if he could clarify the Assembly's intent in that line. Mr. Jones said that he would like to remove the Assembly from the "low barrier" discussion, and leave that up to the negotiations between the City Manager and the Glory Hall.

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Jones if the Glory Hall staff seemed to be in agreement with these amendments. Mr. Jones shared that he spoke with the Mayor, the City Manager, the City Attorney, and Glory Hall Vice-Chair Mr. Denton. He added that he did not talk to the staff of the Glory Hall, as that is not his responsibility to do so.

Mayor Weldon asked Mr. Palmer if Mr. Smith would need to recuse himself as he is a member of the Glory Hall Board. Mr. Palmer clarified that this would not be a conflict of interest, since Glory Hall Board members are not paid, it would be one of the exceptions to the Conflict of Interest Code.

Hearing no objection, Amendment #1 (Parts 1 & 2) from Mr. Jones passed by unanimous consent.

Hearing no objections, Ordinance 2020-09-(I)(b) as amended passed by unanimous consent.

The Assembly took a break at 6:30p.m. and reconvened at 6:40p.m.

D. Emergency Appropriation Resolution 2907 An Emergency Appropriation Resolution Appropriating $2,000,000 to the Manager as Additional Funding for Phase 2 and 3 of a COVID-19 Business Sustainability Grant Program; Funding Provided by the CARES Act Special Revenue Fund.

This Emergency Appropriation Resolution adds funding to the existing CBJ Business Sustainability Grant program. JEDC estimates that the total amount of eligible grants may exceed available grant funds by up to $2 million. Without additional funds, JEDC will be required to prorate all eligible grant awards to remain within the currently appropriated amount. This process of proration delays disbursement of funds to all applicants because every application must be fully processed before any disbursements can be made. Fully funding all estimated grant applications allows JEDC to move with greatest possible speed to disburse funds to affected small businesses.

Currently, without additional funds, JEDC anticipates prorated grant amounts would be disbursed in late October. If this Emergency Appropriation Resolution passes, JEDC could begin disbursing eligible grant awards as soon as tomorrow.

If the Assembly chooses to not pass this resolution tonight, the Manager will direct JEDC to disburse 75% of full disbursements, beginning tomorrow. The remainder of the disbursements would be scheduled once proration calculations are complete.

The Assembly Finance Committee reviewed this request at its September 30, 2020, meeting.
The City Manager recommends the Assembly adopt this emergency resolution.

<u>Public Comment</u>
Eric Forst, a Downtown resident and one of the owners of the Red Dog Saloon said that although they have been operating continuously in Juneau since early 1940s, their business has been down approximately 92% compared to last year. He said that every day has been a challenge, and this program is a lifeline for businesses in the community. Mr. Forst said that this program keeps businesses open and people employed, and hopefully will be able to be in operation next year. He said that this program will allow them to stay open this winter without laying off all their staff and closing down. He hoped that the Assembly will see the value of this

program, and that the volume of applications speaks to the need. He strongly urged the Assembly to pass this ordinance.

Laura Martinson, a Douglas resident and owner of Caribou Crossing, thanked the Assembly for the first round of grant distribution, and said that it was instrumental in helping her pay her rent. She shared that Phase 2 and 3 will allow her to pay her vendors, the majority of which are small local artists. She believes that as small businesses get the help they need, it trickles out to the rest of the community. Ms. Martinson said that she is looking forward to next year, they are ready to welcome visitors back. She added that this program is a short term fix that produces long term benefits.

Assembly Action
MOTION by Mr. Bryson for the Assembly to adopt Emergency Appropriation Resolution 2907 and asked for unanimous consent. *Hearing no objections, the resolution passed by unanimous consent.*

E. Emergency Appropriation Resolution 2908 An Emergency Appropriation Resolution Appropriating $400,000 to the Manager as Funding for Bartlett Regional Hospital's Planning for and Construction of Patient Intake and Triage During the COVID-19 Pandemic; Funding Provided by the CARES Act Special Revenue Fund.

This emergency appropriation resolution would authorize $400,000 for patient intake and triage planning during the COVID-19 pandemic at Bartlett Regional Hospital (BRH). The pandemic has caused BRH to make operational changes that require improvements to the hospital's entrances, HVAC, and infrastructure. The hospital's current patient entrances do not accommodate appropriate health guidelines for the safe admission and prioritization of patients. Temporary shelters are currently in place to aid in the assessment of individuals prior to entering the facility, but permanent solutions are required to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on patient intake and triage throughout the remainder of the pandemic.

Improvements to BRH's HVAC system are required to increase the number of isolation rooms and improve air handling systems throughout the facility. Pandemic- induced operational changes may also require enhancements such as electronic scheduling and telemedicine.

Funding for this appropriation is provided by the CARES Act Special Revenue Fund. The December 30 deadline for the expenditure of CARES Act funding is quickly approaching. For this reason, this is an emergency resolution. Alternatively, the Assembly could choose to not pass this resolution and direct that BRH use its fund balance to pay for this work.

The Public Works and Facilities Committee reviewed this request at its August 31, 2020 meeting. The Assembly Finance Committee reviewed this request at its September 30, 2020 meeting.

The City Manager recommends the Assembly adopt this emergency resolution.

This item was removed by the City Manager, under agenda changes, due to the Assembly Finance Committee's request to hold off on taking action on this request at this time.

F. Emergency Appropriation Resolution 2910 An Emergency Appropriation Resolution Appropriating up to $175,000 to the Manager for a Grant to the Greater Juneau Chamber of Commerce to Lease and Implement a COVID- 19 Detection Platform; Funding Provided by the CARES Act Special Revenue Fund.

This resolution would establish a COVID-19 testing and monitoring program for businesses with willing employees. The program would include PCR testing, molecular antigen testing, temperature checks, and questionnaires. This program has the potential to limit spread of COVID-19 for employees that work in or interact with employees of other businesses. The program would be administered by the Juneau Chamber of Commerce.

The Assembly Finance Committee reviewed this request at its September 30, 2020 meeting.

The City Manager recommends the Assembly adopt this emergency resolution.

<u>Public Comment</u>
Geoff Larson, a Thane resident, spoke in support of this resolution, He shared that he spoke at the most recent Assembly Finance Committee meeting and with the Economic Stabilization Task Force, and said he was available to answer any questions.

<u>Assembly Action</u>
Mr. Palmer identified to the Assembly the most recent version of the resolution, Version (b), and the changes he had added based on Ms. Triem's requests at the AFC meeting. He explained that these changes will not necessarily be a part of Version (b) unless there is a motion or amendment

<u>MOTION</u> by Ms. Hale for the Assembly to adopt Emergency Appropriation Resolution 2910 version (b), including Ms. Triem's amendment, and asked for unanimous consent.

Objection by Ms. Gladziszewski for purposes of a question. Ms. Gladziszewski asked for Ms. Triem to clarify her amendment.

Ms. Triem explained her amendment, which would ensure that the information collected would be confidential between CBJ and the operations of this program, it is still subject to Kallaco data privacy policy. Ms. Gladziszewski removed her objection.

Hearing no objections, Resolution 2910(b) as amended passed by unanimous consent.

G. Emergency Appropriating Resolution 2912(b) An Emergency Appropriation Resolution Appropriating up to $3,000,000 to the Manager for a COVID-19 Housing Assistance Grant Program; Funding Provided by the CARES Act Special Revenue Fund.

This resolution would establish a COVID-19 housing assistance program for individuals that have been financially harmed by the pandemic and need assistance paying for mortgage, rent, and utilities including heating fuel. This program would be administered by Catholic Community Services.

The Assembly Finance Committee reviewed this request at its September 30, 2020, meeting.

The City Manager recommends the Assembly adopt this emergency resolution.

Public Comment
None.

Assembly Action
Mr. Palmer explained that all of the recommendations made at the AFC meeting have been incorporated to the most recent version (b) of this resolution, as well as an amendment by Ms. Triem.

MOTION by Ms. Triem to adopt Emergency Appropriation Resolution 2912(b) and noted that version (b) has some strike through and underlined text on page 4 which she would like to offer up as an amendment.

Ms. Triem asked for Resolution 2912 version (b) with the following amendment be adopted by unanimous consent.

AMENDMENT #1 by Ms. Triem to add the following underlined text and remove the strike through text on page 4 under Section 3(f) of the resolution:

> "However, nothing in this resolution shall be construed to provide confidentiality to summary information about program status and effectiveness. Upon balancing the public's right to know and privacy of disadvantaged individuals, this confidentiality

provision is intended to provide the same level of confidentiality as provided in A.S. 47.05.020 and 7 AAC 37.030 (prohibition on disclosure of public assistance records). ~~However, nothing in this resolution shall be construed to provide confidentiality to the name of the applicant and the amount of grant award, if any~~."

Hearing no objection, Amendment #1 from Ms. Triem passed by unanimous consent.

Hearing no objections, Emergency Appropriation Resolution 2912(b) as amended passed by unanimous consent.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs had a question for the City Manager. She shared that she was given permission to go forward to develop an Economic Disaster Resolution with Mr. Palmer, and asked if she could receive a status update on the resolution.

Mr. Watt shared that he had just recently received that resolution, and he will contact her tomorrow to provide a status update.

Ms. Gladziszewski acknowledged that this was Mr. Edwardson's last Assembly meeting, and the entire Assembly thanked him for his service on the Assembly.

Mayor Weldon acknowledged the passing of former Assemblymember Peter Freer. She shared that the Assembly will have an official acknowledgement at the October 26 meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Assembly, the meeting adjourned at 7:00p.m.

Signed: ___________________________	Signed: _________________________
Elizabeth J. McEwen	Beth A. Weldon
Municipal Clerk	Mayor