

THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA
SPECIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
Meeting Minutes – May 28, 2020

MEETING NO. 2020-28: The Special Meeting of the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly held virtually via Zoom, was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Beth Weldon.

I. FLAG SALUTE

II. 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

Assembly 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, BRH Administrator Chuck Bill, Library Director Robert Barr, Engineering/Public Works Director Katie Koester, Finance Director Jeff Rogers, Parks and Recreation Director George Schaaf, Community Development Administrative Officer Brenwynne Grigg, Law Office Manager Deb Senn

III. AGENDA TOPICS

A. Census 2020 Update

Ms. Cosgrove shared a Census update with the Assembly, reporting that 60.2% of Juneau residents have completed the 2020 Census. She also provided the Census website and phone number for those who have yet to complete it.

B. COVID-19 Update and Actions

EOC Update

Ms. Cosgrove also provided an EOC update and shared a briefing with the Assembly about COVID-19 Risk Mitigation strategies. There was one confirmed case today, and overall that brought the total positive cases to 13 statewide. The Department of Public Health (DPH) is currently following nine individuals as Persons Under Investigation. The majority of cases in Juneau are the result of secondary transmission, with the exception of one case being identified as the result of community transmission. She added that testing capacity remained good and unconstrained.

Ms. Cosgrove reported that they are now in a new phase of disease management in Juneau. She said we have done our planning, set up our systems, and now we need to switch to our focus on how to adapt our daily lives and what that looks like to live with the virus in our midst. She said that the Governor and Dr. Zink have been talking about this as well. She said that some people may wish to hunker down until a vaccine is developed and available but it is not realistic to think that everyone will do that, nor should they be expected to. She highlighted that the single most effective thing that people can do is to take personal action for prevention. She identified COVID-19 risk factors that Dr. Zink highlighted in her last appearance before the Assembly, which included: congregate settings, asymptomatic carriers, group gatherings, and travel.

The current mitigation strategies for congregate settings include decompressing homeless shelters and developing testing protocols with DPH. Current Risk Mitigation strategies for asymptomatic carriers are to encourage people to practice social distancing and mask wearing. A recommended strategy is to continue a communication plan on disease transmission prevention strategies. Current Risk Mitigation strategies for large gatherings include the Governor's Health Mandate 16, and refusing to issue CBJ permits for large community gatherings. Current Risk Mitigation strategies regarding travel include providing travelers with community-specific information, and acting in accordance with Health Mandate 10.

Mr. Smith asked Ms. Cosgrove if there is a priority system for testing, such as "first come, first serve", particularly for private entities such as a seafood processor.

Ms. Cosgrove said that Juneau is not constrained right now for testing, and there is no need to prioritize testing at this point. If there were to be a prioritization, she said it would likely be due to a symptomatic case that requires urgent care.

Mr. Jones asked Ms. Cosgrove her definition of "large gathering." Ms. Cosgrove said that the Assembly would be free to define what the number looked like, adding that the CDC defines it as no more than 249 individuals.

Mr. Edwardson mentioned that he has read multiple articles reporting that 30% of test results are reported to be false negatives. He asked how accurate the test results are.

Mr. Bill said that the general consensus is that the PCR testing is 99% accurate, but a recent study conducted at Harvard found that the rapid testing done through Abbot has reported up to 50% false negatives. However, he adds that Alaska sends all of the negative Abbot tests to the state lab in Anchorage for confirmation. Mr. Bill stated that, out of the 350 tests run this week, only one result came back as a false negative.

Ms. Gladziszewski asked if Juneau had the capacity to test and trace cases if they were to exponentially rise. Ms. Cosgrove said that she had confidence in our capacity to contact trace a

lot of people, and DPH staff can be relocated to different communities if needed. She added that there has been discussion on allowing Juneau School District school nurses potentially assist DPH in contact tracing. JSD school nurses are currently running the mobile screening hotline.

Ms. Gladziszewski asked Ms. Cosgrove if there had been any discussion regarding building a lab or testing center in Juneau. Ms. Cosgrove said that the EOC had been talking with medical personnel about what it would take to stand up a local lab to process PCR tests in Juneau. She said that a potential problem would be obtaining qualified staff to operate the lab. Ms. Cosgrove added that every medical professional that they have spoken with has strongly discouraged the EOC from pursuing this idea. She also mentioned they have received information of a new test possibly being made available, one that would be faster to process. This new test could potentially arrive around the same timeframe it would take to stand up a testing facility in Juneau. Ms. Cosgrove says that this is a very complex environment, and standing up a lab in Juneau may be a long-term goal, the EOC is trying to see if this can be a reality for Juneau.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs asked to what degree equipment and PPE is being reused, referencing a letter they received from a nurse that suggested that PPE is being reused frequently. Mr. Bill said that the hospitals are adhering to CDC guidelines on sterilizing N95 masks multiple times, as long as there is no damage or soil. The masks are sterilized as they are used, and swapped out over time. He says that this method is approved by the FDA and the CDC.

Mr. Edwardson shared that he would like for there to be no gaps in implementation between the state and city mandates. He asked what action CBJ will take regarding health mandates put in place by the State. Mayor Weldon said that the Governor will be speaking with AML tomorrow at noon. She did not think that the Assembly can take action tonight, but they may be able to take action on Monday. Mr. Palmer said that if the Assembly directs him to do an Emergency Ordinance or Resolution, it could be brought back and effective that night that would be in place in time for the quarantine end date on June 2. Mayor Weldon informed the Assembly that they have a Special Assembly meeting scheduled for Monday, June 1.

Mayor Weldon asked Max Mertz, co-chair of the Economic Stabilization Task Force (ESTF), to provide an update on the work of the ESTF. Mr. Mertz shared that the Department of Labor (DOL) reported that 1,700 Juneau residents are receiving pandemic unemployment assistance. The current amount of unemployed residents in Juneau is currently 800% of the normal range of unemployed in Juneau. It is a stark statistic and shows how the pandemic is affecting individuals and businesses.

Mr. Mertz shared that the ESTF will be introducing a recommended proposal to enhance Juneau's parks and trails and create jobs for Juneau residents along the ideas of the conservation corps from the 1930's. Former Mayor Bruce Botelho, a member of the ESTF discussed the

proposal which is a job creation program specifically intended to address the unemployment situation. He shared that the ESTF has worked with Trail Mix, Eaglecrest Ski Area, and Parks & Rec. on developing the proposal.

The ESTF was asking for \$1 Million for a maximum of 4 months. He says there is substantially more than that month for the given projects but that amount would enable those three participating agencies to stand up work teams within a matter of days. He shared that the ESTF sees this as a pilot project that could be similarly applied to different sectors of the economy. Mayor Botelho said that this is a brief summary and he would be available to answer any questions.

Mr. Edwardson asked about the pay scale for this program especially in light of the COVID unemployment additional benefits people are receiving. How much would they be paying these people and would it make it up for what they are getting in unemployment, transportation, child care, etc... or is it just aimed at a more narrow tranche of that 1,700 unemployment population. Mayor Botelho answered that each of the organizations have their own wage scale in place. They vary and the Parks and Recreation seasonal employees are paid the most generous of the three agencies. He said that there will be some competition there but he has been told that none of the agencies have had difficulty in finding people willing to work on the crews. The greatest difficulties are in finding crew leaders with the necessary experience.

Ms. Triem asked if the ESTF know what the demographics for those that are unemployed as well as how many people this program could employ. Mayor Bruce Botelho said the ESTF did have a demographic report from DOL and they will forward that to the Assembly. He also responded that this program could employ about 48 people for a four-month period of time.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs asked Mayor Botelho if out of the 1,700 unemployed report, any of those numbers represented individuals who traditionally wouldn't be receiving unemployment such as gig employees, self-employed artisans, etc... Mayor Botelho responded that those individuals were not likely included in the 1,700 number.

Out-of-State Travel Quarantine (State Health Mandate 10, CBJ Res. 2886)

The Assembly discussed State Health Mandate 10 addressing the International and Interstate Travel Order for Self-Quarantine. Mr. Palmer mentioned that, at the direction of the Assembly, he can draft something to be brought back to the Special Assembly meeting on Monday June 1 for consideration.

It was the consensus of the Assembly to direct the City Attorney to draft something addressing the travel mandate and possibly extending the 14-day quarantine for consideration at the June 1 Special Assembly meeting.

Ms. Hale suggested a potential hybrid method that combines the projection models from other communities to allow people to come to Juneau without a long delay, while also implementing safe social distancing guidelines.

Ms. Triem asked if a representative from DPH could be invited to come and talk with the Assembly about the science and health information behind the hybrid approaches.

Ms. Cosgrove said that would be a good idea to speak with DPH. She adds that while they may not be able to recommend a hybrid method by Monday night, it is likely that they would create a method as this process continues to evolve.

Mayor Weldon noted that the Governor has had mitigation plans for some of the businesses such as hunting lodges bringing people in and out of their remote locations. She said that she has spoken with Mr. Palmer about this and she asked Mr. Palmer that if they did have him draft something that he also include language requiring businesses to file mitigation plans with the city to address how they will be bringing people in and out of the community.

Small Cruise Ships

Ms. Cosgrove shared with the Assembly that American Cruise Lines wished to begin their summer cruise ship season in June. Paul Taiclet, VP of American Cruise Lines, and Dan Blanchard, CEO of UnCruise Vacations, joined the Assembly meeting to provide information and answer questions.

Mr. Watt reported that Alaska Municipal League's (AML) Executive Director Nils Andreassen has been working with Southeast Alaskan communities on the issue regarding the interruption within the cruise ship season.

Mr. Taiclet shared that American Cruise Lines (ACL) only operates one vessel in Southeast Alaska, *The American Constellation*, which can hold up to 173 guests. He said that ACL is considering reducing the capacity of the vessel down to 75% or lower.

Mr. Taiclet said that ACL would like the opportunity to work with the Assembly and the communities of Southeast Alaska to bring back small ship cruising for the summer. He mentioned that ACL has created a risk mitigation plan to operate safely and address safety concerns, including: brief quarantining for guests before travel, pre-cruise medical screenings and surveys, requiring PCR tests, and mask wearing and hand washing guidelines. He added that

ACL has also implemented isolation and quarantine procedures available onboard the ship for Persons Under Investigation.

Mr. Taiclet discussed his intent to work together with Juneau to develop a risk mitigation plan that keeps the community protected while safely reopening a small part of Juneau's economy.

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Taiclet about the wording of their risk mitigation plan. In his introduction to the Assembly, Mr. Taiclet said that ACL would require visitors to undergo PCR tests. However, Mr. Smith noted that the ACL risk mitigation plan did not include the word "require" but instead used the words "strongly recommend" and "request". He asked if Mr. Taiclet could clarify. Mr. Taiclet admitted that using the word "require" in their risk mitigation plan would be a "bit of a stretch", and said that he feels confident that customers will undergo testing if ACL "strongly recommends" for them to do so.

Mayor Weldon told Mr. Taiclet that she does not like the fact that the crew onboard are being asked to receive testing, but they are not required to receive testing. Mr. Taiclet responded that the crew members will be required to test and quarantine before they initially travel, and that crew members will be on the vessel seven days before any guests arrive.

Mr. Jones said the ESTF discussed the small cruise ship proposal this afternoon. At that meeting, it was said that passengers and crewmembers would not use many services in Juneau, considering that the vessel would be docked out at Auke Bay. He asked if Mr. Taiclet could confirm that. Mr. Taiclet said that while the ACL vessel does dock in Auke Bay, they do typically have the guests stay at the Baranoff Hotel and visit Mendenhall Glacier prior to their cruise.

Ms. Gladziszewski asked Mr. Taiclet to clarify the exact itinerary that the travelers follow before, during, and after their cruise. Mr. Taiclet responded that seven days prior to cruise, their guests are expected to self-quarantine at home. He said that ACL will request that guests receive a PCR test four days before the guests leave for their cruise. Guests are also asked to complete a pre-travel health questionnaire which asks COVID related questions. Mr. Taiclet added that ACL mails each of their guests a "Safe Travel" package which includes: masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, etc. Once guests arrive in Juneau, Mr. Taiclet said that ACL arranges charter transportation from the airport to the Baranoff. Guests would be required to follow any health mandates implemented in Juneau. Mr. Taiclet said that ACL will reduce the capacity for shore excursions by 50%, though still taking their guests to visit the Mendenhall Glacier.

After visiting the Glacier, guests will go through a medical screening tent before embarking onto the ship. Mr. Taiclet said that this screening would be conducted by their onboard medical officer, who will also ask the guests questions about their health. After the guests answer the

screening questions, they will board the ship. ACL offers two different types of cruises: a 7 night cruise, and a 10 night cruise. During the cruise, Mr. Taiclet mentioned that ACL will visit multiple ports and communities throughout Southeast Alaska. Cruises typically arrive back to Juneau late in the evening, and guests are shuttled to the Juneau airport after disembarking.

Ms. Hale said that companies have the authority to make a corporate decision regarding requiring guests and customers to take a test. She said that ACL has the ability to make a corporate decision that requires guests to take a PCR test. She strongly suggested they implement that requirement, and it makes her uncomfortable that those who do not want to test could potentially end up being the ones that infect others.

Mr. Taiclet said that ACL does not require their guests to receive testing, stating that some guests potentially might not be able to receive available testing in their community before travelling to Alaska for a cruise ship vacation. He said that ACL might be willing to work towards requiring tests if doing so would “make everyone on the Assembly more comfortable.”

Ms. Hale asked Mr. Taiclet if ACL would agree to share any information about illnesses on board with CBJ so that any data can be used for contact tracing. Mr. Taiclet answered contact tracing would require them to partner with CBJ to the extent allowed by HIPPA and to be able to protect the privacy of the individuals involved.

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Taiclet how ACL intends to protect Juneau and other Southeast communities, and to clarify how much interaction there will be between travelers and residents within those communities. Mr. Taiclet said part of the “Alaska experience” ACL offers involves “enrichment” in the communities they visit, including a variety of shore excursions for their guests. He said that ACL has reduced the capacity of shore excursions by 50%, and will ask their guests to wear masks while participating. Mr. Taiclet said that there is some risk involved, but said that risk was the potential that his guests may become infected COVID-19.

He said that ACL will be “confident” that their guests are not infected with Coronavirus while on their cruise. He added that the risk is those in the communities they are visiting affecting their guests with community transmission. He also added that ACL feels they have a “duty to protect” their guests as they travel to several small Alaskan communities during a pandemic; and that ACL will protect their guests from the risk of infection by advising them to wash their hands.

Mr. Taiclet claimed that allowing the guests to visit these communities will lead to an economic benefit for the communities they visit and the only way to offer this positive economic benefit is through shore excursions.

Mr. Edwardson said that he has concerns regarding Mr. Taiclet's document, mentioning that there does not appear to be any onboard testing, there is no onboard doctor – the only medical professional onboard would be either a nurse or an EMT, and there is no ICU or CCU equivalent that would allow for onboard isolation. Mr. Edwardson asked Mr. Taiclet what he would consider to be an outbreak on his ship, and how he would deal with that outbreak.

Mr. Taiclet said that there is a medical station onboard the vessel, and that they would designate a section on the Main Deck to be the isolation quarters. He said that ACL feels having a nurse or EMT onboard their ship is the "right level of medical expertise" needed in order to manage. Mr. Taiclet mentioned that if there were to be an outbreak onboard the ship, then they would work closely with a network of medical professionals, to develop a response. If there was a confirmed case onboard, he says that ACL would immediately conduct contact tracing and identify the passengers that person was in close contact with. ACL would isolate those people, and then manage the situation from there. He added that if there was a ship-wide outbreak, then they would need to rely on shore-side support.

Mr. Edwardson asked Mr. Taiclet how he would know if there was an outbreak onboard the ship, because there is no onboard testing. Mr. Taiclet said that ACL does not have access to an onboard testing machine. He says that he has spoken to people in Juneau about using our shore-side testing if needed.

Mayor Weldon asked Mr. Taiclet if he had communicated their protocols with the Coast Guard and if they had received any feedback. Mr. Taiclet said that they have communicated their plans with the Coast Guard, but he did not have any feedback from them that he can share. He said that ACL will be sure to coordinate so that the Coast Guard is well aware of what they are doing.

Mayor Weldon asked Mr. Taiclet if they have any passengers willing to come and make reservations for cruises. Mr. Taiclet said that the first cruise in June 26 will carry about 80-90 guests with additional capacity. The following cruise will carry about 100-110 guests onboard. He anticipates the capacity to increase towards the end of the season to about 120-130 guests.

Mayor Weldon invited Dan Blanchard of UnCruise Adventures to speak. Mr. Blanchard shared that UnCruise Adventures' operation plan is to have guests pre-test in Seattle. He said that he has had daily discussion with Alaska Airlines on transporting their guests up to Juneau. Mr. Blanchard said that UnCruise Adventures itinerary runs from Juneau to Sitka with no port calls in between. He said that activities for his guests will include kayaking and hiking. In regards to guests disembarking and potentially remaining in Juneau, Mr. Blanchard said that he does not have an answer for that yet. He said that his company is not looking to operate until July 18th. He concluded by sharing that *The Wilderness Adventurer* carries 60 passengers, and *The*

Wilderness Explorer carries 74 passengers. He said that there would be reductions made to the capacity of both vessels, as well as the implementation of isolation cabins.

C. Public Hearing: Resolution 2895 A Resolution Authorizing the Manager to Execute an Agreement with the State of Alaska to Accept CARES Act Funds.

The State allocated \$53 Million to the City and Borough of Juneau from the federal CARES Act. This resolution would authorize the Manager to execute any necessary grant agreement with the State for the City and Borough of Juneau to receive the CARES Act funding.

The City Manager recommends the assembly adopt this resolution.

Public Comment: *None*

Assembly Action:

MOTION by Mr. Smith for the Assembly to adopt this resolution and asked for unanimous consent. *Hearing no objections, the resolution was adopted by unanimous consent.*

D. Public Hearing: Emergency Appropriation Resolution No. 2893: An Emergency Appropriation Resolution Appropriating up to \$1,057,000 to the Manager for a COVID-19 Child Care Relief Program; Funding Provided by the CARES Act Special Revenue Fund.

The provision of childcare has been substantially reduced because of COVID-19. Childcare providers now have additional cleaning costs, staffing costs, and facility costs to re-open. This emergency appropriation is needed now because without childcare, many people cannot return to work. The Association for the Education of Young Children (AEYC) has offered to administer this grant program. Consistent with Section 4 of the resolution, the CBJ would make the appropriation when the State of Alaska provides the CBJ with the first CARES Act payment.

The Economic Stabilization Task Force discussed and recommended this supplement childcare funding program. The Assembly Finance Committee recommended this appropriation at its meeting on May 20, 2020.

The City Manager recommends the assembly adopt this emergency appropriation resolution.

Public Comment: *None*

Assembly Action:

MOTION by Ms. Hughes-Skandijs for the Assembly to adopt this resolution, and asked for unanimous consent. *Hearing no objections, the resolution was adopted by unanimous consent.*

E. Public Hearing: Emergency Ordinance 2020-25 An Ordinance Requiring Use of Cloth Face Coverings on Capital Transit Buses and in Certain Areas of City and Borough of Juneau Facilities Open to the Public.

People in the City and Borough of Juneau have flattened the curve by social distancing, hunkering down, and frequently washing hands. As the economy starts to reopen, people need to take additional precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19, like wearing a cloth face covering when you are within six feet of another person that you do not live with. This ordinance requires the CBJ to post a sign when a cloth face covering is required in a CBJ owned facility and requires the CBJ to provide cloth face coverings to people who do not have one. This ordinance creates exemptions, for example, for children and for people with disabilities. If a person refuses to wear a cloth face covering and the person is not exempt, the CBJ may deny the face-to-face service or transit ride. A person can seek an accommodation through the City Manager's Office.

This ordinance does not apply to privately owned businesses or private property. People are strongly encouraged to wear a cloth face covering when entering a business that is open to the public.

The City Manager recommends the Assembly adopt this emergency ordinance.

Public Comment: *None*

Assembly Action:

MOTION by Mr. Bryson for the Assembly to adopt Ordinance 2020-25, and asked for unanimous consent.

Ms. Gladziszewski said that this ordinance seems to be at the discretion of the City Manager, and asked if the ordinance could be applied to certain public facilities, rather than a specific list of facilities.

Mr. Palmer said that he drafted this ordinance understanding that it would be difficult to discern which of all of the facilities owned and operated by the CBJ would require face coverings. He said that he felt like it would be easier to have the City Manager provide the notices at his discretion.

Mr. Watt said that each CBJ facility is being dealt with on a case by case basis. He added that in each of these cases, staff are consulting with DPH nurses to ensure that their reopening plans are

safe. Mr. Watt also mentioned it is important to clearly communicate to the public clearly so that they understand the ordinance.

Mr. Jones asked if this notice include capacity information. He mentioned that Capital Transit buses are currently limited to 9 persons, and asked if that capacity will increase with the ordinance. He also asked if the capacity limits could be included with the posting of the ordinance. Mr. Watt said that extensive information will be made available for each facility. He added that this information will be shared through normal channels, social media, and posted at the facilities.

Ms. Hale expressed concern regarding bus ridership, saying that the Assembly has received emails from the public saying that people have been left at the bus stop. She added that those left at the bus stop are often low-income residents with no other alternative for transportation. She asked if the EOC could provide some updates on the bus situation, and the upcoming plan for the future.

Ms. Gladziszewski mentioned that the libraries have developed a reopening plan, a plan that requires librarians to wear masks, but does not require patrons to do so.

Mr. Barr shared that the libraries would prefer it if everyone in the library would wear a mask. He added that librarians are concerned about the national discussion currently surrounding masks; specifically the controversial interactions occurring throughout the country that show a struggle between public service employees and individuals who do not want to wear a mask. Mr. Barr said that the libraries are looking for some policy level decisions to be made from the Assembly to be able to point towards when having those interactions. He added that they are really anticipating the outcome of this meeting.

Mr. Edwardson said the Assembly is required, legally and morally to protect the employees of CBJ. He adds that when the CBJ requires employees to wear masks, that protects the patrons but not the employees; not requiring patrons to wear masks puts employees at risk. He asked why the Assembly would not require patrons to wear masks to be able to protect their own employees.

Mr. Palmer said that there are two concepts and that Mr. Barr alluded to one of them. He said that lot of employees in the city have asked for this ordinance, because it is a formal direction from the Assembly to the public on use of CBJ facilities. He added that there a strong demand for the Assembly to weigh in so that employees can point to a policy adopted by the Assembly, similar to what Mr. Barr said. Mayor Weldon asked Mr. Palmer if passing this ordinance would require patrons at the library to wear masks. Mr. Palmer confirmed that would be the case.

Hearing no objections, Ordinance 2020-25 was adopted by unanimous consent.

F. Staff Report Regarding CARES Act Funding/Economic Support

Mr. Watt said that he put two red folder items in the packet and he didn't expect the Assembly to take any action on them at this meeting. He was mainly providing them in advance of the Special Assembly meeting on Monday so they have some information to begin the conversation regarding CARES Act funding. It would be helpful for the Assembly to have a high level discussion on this as there is a tremendous opportunity for Juneau to spend \$53 million in CARES Act funding. The Assembly allocated \$17 million last night and another \$1 million for child care. There will be no shortage of good ideas on how those funds might be spent. He said that based on the questions the Assembly has been asking, they may want to spend some time to look at what direction they may want to give the ESTF to work on as well as any other uses of those funds. He said it was his intent to enable them to have a policy discussion that will help them move forward quickly, efficiently as they consider how to use the remaining CARES Act funding. He said that he put a crude chart in the packet that is meant to be conceptual in nature to help them start that conversation.

Ms. Triem asked if the Assembly could receive a running total list of the money that has been committed so far, that could be adjusted as they move along so that they could refer to the remaining balance as they move along making CARES Act decisions.

Mr. Jones shared that the ESTF discussed this topic in detail during their meeting today. He said that he personally thinks that the CBJ would be making a terrible mistake if they tried to spend \$53 Million before December 31, 2020. He added that he would like to have that policy discussion to decide where they believe the money should go and the circumstances that justify it. Mayor Weldon asked Mr. Watt if the CARES Act Funding needs to be spent by December 2020 or by December 2021. He also mentioned that the ESTF is already coming up with a variety of ways the \$53 million could be spent and that at each ESTF meeting, the Mayor reminds the ESTF to keep within their scope. Mr. Jones said he would like that bigger Assembly level discussion as well as keeping the scope of the ESTF narrowed to its original tasks.

Ms. Gladziszewski agreed that the Assembly needed to have the bigger policy discussions and that she didn't want to spend the CARES Act funds on the first ask to come in the door but to carefully consider a variety of needs and determine the best uses for the funds.

Mr. Watt clarified for the Assembly that the CARES Act Funding does need to be spent by December 31, 2020, and any unspent funds have to be returned to the State by March 2021.

Mayor Weldon asked what the Committee of the Whole (COW) agenda looked like on June 1 and if they could have that policy discussion at the COW meeting.

Additional Assemblymembers agreed that they would like to have that larger policy discussion.

Mr. Jones said he had a conversation earlier in the day with the City Attorney about the possibility of amending Ordinance 2019-06(AC) to commit to the full \$12 million proposed by the ESTF. Mr. Palmer suggested that they could go with a companion resolution that would set that aside. He said that fits in with the bigger policy discussion and he suggested that the Attorney bring a resolution on Monday that would become part of that discussion of the overall expenditure.

Mayor Weldon said she has asked Mr. Palmer to bring a draft resolution on Monday.

G. For Introduction: Ordinance 2019-06(AC) An Ordinance Appropriating up to \$3,500,000 to the Manager for Phase 1 of a COVID-19 Business Sustainability Grant Program; Funding Provided by the CARES Act Special Revenue Fund.

The Economic Stabilization Task Force has been developing options for the Assembly to help the local economy recover from the harm caused by COVID-19. The ordinance incorporates two of the Task Force's recommendations into a business sustainability grant program: (1) a \$2.2 million rent/lease and long-term debt cost program and (2) a \$1.3 million utility cost program.

On May 20, the Assembly Finance Committee recommended an ordinance be drafted for the \$2.2 million program. There was additional discussion that staff should evaluate the \$1.3 million utility cost program idea. After working with the co-chairs of the Task Force, this ordinance combines the two programs, which provides a simplified and efficient mechanism to provide grants to businesses that are suffering interruptions caused by COVID-19.

The City Manager recommends the Assembly to introduce this ordinance, refer it to the Assembly Committee of the Whole for June 1, and set it for public hearing at the Regular Assembly meeting on June 8.

Assembly Action:

MOTION by Ms. Gladziszewski for this ordinance to be introduced and referred to the Committee of the Whole for June 1, and set for public hearing on June 8. *Hearing no objections, the ordinance was introduced, referred to the Committee of the Whole and set for public hearing on June 8.*

IV. OTHER ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mayor Weldon reminded the Assembly that there is an AML meeting with the Governor tomorrow at 1:00p.m which will also include the Mayors and City Managers from several towns in Southeast Alaska. Mr. Jones shared that the Governor is expected to discuss his Travel Mandate at tomorrow's press conference at 5:00p.m.

Ms. Hale shared that there is a PWFC meeting on Monday at Noon and they will include an update about what is going on at Centennial Hall.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs wished to remind the Assembly that there have been discussions taking place regarding merging University of Alaska Southeast into other universities. She added that the Board of Regents will be meeting on June 4 and June 5 to make a decision, and advised the Assemblymembers to comment if they feel called to. Mayor Weldon said she has requested Mr. Palmer to draft a resolution of support for UAS and that will be coming before the Assembly at the Special Assembly meeting on Monday, June 1. She has also reached out to many community groups about that issue as well asking for their support of UAS.

Mr. Edwardson said that the Lands Committee will meet on Monday at 5:00p.m prior to the Special Assembly and COW meeting.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Larry & Sue Cotter joined the meeting to share a proposal they have drafted alongside Amy Skilbred titled the Juneau CARES Project. He said that the purpose of this project is to increase and stabilize employment in the food service sector and is based on other similar programs across the nation. He intends to would work with United Way to encourage multiple food source entities in the community. They would provide and distribute meals to AWARE, Glory Hall and other food insecure people. He said that the project would cost approximately \$450,000 - \$1.1 million.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Assembly, the meeting adjourned at 8:44p.m.

Signed: _____

Elizabeth J. McEwen
Municipal Clerk

Signed: _____

Beth A. Weldon
Mayor