

SPECIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA
Meeting Minutes – April 13, 2020

Meeting No. 2020-17: The Special Assembly Meeting of the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly was held in the Assembly Chambers of the Municipal Building at 5:00 p.m. Due to technical difficulties, the meeting was called to order by Mayor Beth Weldon at 5:25 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

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

Assemblymembers Absent: None

Staff Present: City Manager Rorie Watt, Municipal Attorney Robert Palmer, Deputy City Manager Mila Cosgrove, Municipal Clerk Beth McEwen, Finance Director Jeff Rogers, Deputy Municipal Clerk Diane Cathcart, Parks and Recreation Director George Schaaf, Juneau Airport Manager Patty Wahto, and Chief Housing Officer Scott Ciambor.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

A. Instructions for Telephonic Public Participation

IV. AGENDA TOPICS

A. COVID-19 Update and Actions

Incident Commander Ms. Cosgrove provided the Assembly with the COVID-19 Update. As of today, Juneau has seventeen confirmed cases, and is expecting the eighteenth case to be confirmed tomorrow. The last four cases are as a result of the incident at the Lemon Creek Correctional Center (LCCC). More information regarding COVID-19 at LCCC will be provided in the update at the next meeting. There have been ten recovered cases. She also mentioned that there are continued efforts being made to coordinate on cumulative testing numbers. The Division of Public Health (DHS) is now tracing 39 individuals. Shortly before tonight's meeting, the Governor issued Health Mandate #4. This mandate issues quarantine and isolation strategies for unsheltered populations and first responders.

Ms. Gladziszewski asked Ms. Cosgrove if the information provided in the COVID-19 updates are made available to the public in written form. Ms. Cosgrove answered that, although the bulk of information is given through information packets and meetings,

the information that is seen as more relevant to the community is broadcast through social media sources and the CBJ COVID-19 Dashboard.

Last week, Bartlett Regional Hospital (BRH) got authorization to re-sterilize their N-95 masks up to ten times depending on use. Employees will be given their own individually assigned masks to use.

Mr. Smith asked if there are currently any state or federal plans to implement more widespread access to COVID-19 testing. Ms. Cosgrove responded that there has not been any plans or strategies communicated to the EOC in regards to increased testing.

Ms. Cosgrove gave the Assembly an update on the 2020 Census. Last week, response numbers were reported as 42.7%, and this week is at 48%. Ms. Cosgrove thanked the community for actively participating in the census, and added that it is extremely important to count everyone in Juneau.

V. 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. Triem for the Assembly to adopt the Consent Agenda and asked for unanimous consent.

Hearing no objections, the Consent Agenda is adopted by unanimous consent.

1. Ordinances for Introduction

a. Ordinance 2019-06(U) An Ordinance Appropriating to the Manager the Sum of \$16,000,000 as Funding for the Juneau International Airport Terminal Construction Capital Improvement Project; Funding Provided by Airport Revenue Bonds.

This ordinance would appropriate \$16,000,000 of Airport Revenue Bonds to the Terminal Construction Capital Improvement Project (CIP A50-102). These bonds are to be repaid with Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants as well as Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) revenue. The debt service on these bonds ends in FY30.

The issuance of these bonds was authorized by the full Assembly on June 24, 2019. This appropriation was presented as an information item to the Assembly Finance Committee on February 5, 2020.

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

b. Ordinance 2019-06(Y) An Ordinance Appropriating to the Manager the Sum of \$200,000 as Funding for the Purchase of a Land Parcel Adjacent to the Bartlett Regional Hospital Campus; Funding Provided by Bartlett Regional Hospital Fund's Fund Balance.

The property being proposed for purchase is adjacent to the hospital campus. This land could provide a secondary access to the campus. This would prove beneficial for traffic control and in the event access to the campus on Hospital Drive was not available. Land on the BRH campus is scarce and this acquisition will allow better and increased provision of services to the community.

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

c. Ordinance 2019-06(Z) An Ordinance Appropriating to the Manager the Sum of \$50,000 as Funding for the Purchase of Reusable EMS Gear for CCFR Front Line Responders in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic; Funding Provided by Donations from Sealaska.

This ordinance would provide funding from Sealaska in the amount of \$50,000. The City and Borough of Juneau will receive a \$50,000 donation for the purchase of reusable EMS gear for front line responders in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This one-time appropriation will outfit approximately 48 first responders with EMS gear that can be regularly and easily decontaminated, protecting our providers as well as the public.

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

d. Ordinance 2019-06(AA) An Ordinance Appropriating to the Manager the Sum of \$111,535 as Funding for the Bonnie Brae Trail to Treadwell Ditch Trail Reroute; Funding Provided by the US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Federal Lands Highway Division.

This ordinance would appropriate \$111,535 for the construction of a portion of the Bonnie Brae Access Trail to the Treadwell Ditch. A section of the trail has been washed out for over twenty years. Trail users have created a new route through the muskeg. Damage to the muskeg has occurred and the mud and erosion expands each year. This funding will improve the rerouted section by creating a 1000' long stable gravel trail that will prevent erosion.

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

VI. RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES FOR PUBLIC HEARING

A. Ordinance 2020-15: An Ordinance Amending the Continuity of Government Code to Improve City and Borough of Juneau Procedures for Emergencies.

A continuity of government code was created in 1962 during the height of the Cuban Missile Crisis when communities were concerned about physical attacks. While the underlying concepts in the continuity of government code remain relevant today—like designation of successors for certain municipal officers—some code provisions are outdated. This ordinance would modernize the continuity of government code.

This ordinance was reviewed at the Assembly Human Resources meeting on March 13, 2020.

The City Manager recommends the Assembly adopt this ordinance.

MOTION by Mr. Jones for the Assembly to approve Ordinance 2020-15.

Mr. Jones objected to passage of this ordinance and speaking to his objection, he stated that he had not yet had a chance to review the ordinance. Considering the various emergency resolutions and ordinances that they have passed recently, along with all the various Assembly meetings and other duties, he has not had the time to go through this ordinance in detail yet.

AMENDMENT by Ms. Gladziszewski to postpone consideration of Ordinance 2020-15 to a time certain for the April 20, 2020 Assembly meeting.

Ms. Hale initially objected to the amendment and said that the Assembly has had a month to review this ordinance, and she would like to move this along in order to focus on other important issues. After hearing comments from other Assemblymembers, Ms. Hale withdrew her objection.

Hearing no objections, the amendment passed with unanimous consent and the Ordinance was moved to the April 20, 2020 meeting for further consideration.

B. Ordinance 2020-16: An Ordinance Amending the Civil Defense Code to Improve City and Borough of Juneau Procedures for Emergencies.

Chapter 03.25 was originally created in 1967. This ordinance would amend the Civil Defense Organization chapter to be consistent with current emergency management practices and to clarify out of date code sections.

This ordinance was heard at the March 13, 2020, Assembly Human Resources Committee.

The City Manager recommends the Assembly adopt this ordinance or postpone it until the next meeting on April 20, 2020.

MOTION by Mr. Edwardson for the Assembly to adopt Ordinance 2020-16 and asked for unanimous consent.

Objection by Mr. Jones for the same reasons he objected to Ordinance 2020-15 and that he has not yet had the time to review this ordinance.

Mr. Edwardson withdrew his motion.

MOTION by Mr. Edwardson to postpone Ordinance 2020-16 to the April 20, 2020 meeting and asks for unanimous consent.

Hearing no objections, the motion passed with unanimous consent and the Ordinance was moved to the April 20, 2020 meeting for further consideration.

**C. Emergency Resolution 2889 An Emergency Appropriation Resolution
Appropriating \$200,000 to the Manager for an Emergency Rental Assistance
Program; Funding Provided by the Affordable Housing Fund.**

COVID-19 continues to change our community. To protect the public health and welfare, social distancing requirements have been implemented, including the closure of non-essential businesses and ordering people to hunker down. Many people who work in businesses that have closed are people that rent. As a result, demand on existing rental assistance programs is up and expected to rise. This resolution would provide funds to support the rental assistance program currently offered by the nonprofit Alaska Housing Development Corporation.

This topic was discussed at the Special Assembly meeting on April 2. An opportunity for public testimony was provided at the Regular Assembly meeting on April 6 after which the Assembly continued this resolution to April 13.

On April 9, the Economic Stabilization Task Force recommended the Assembly postpone action on this item for a week to give the task force additional time to make an informed recommendation.

This emergency appropriation resolution is set for Assembly action.

Mr. Max Mertz, co-chair of the Economic Stabilization Task Force (ESTF), spoke to this resolution, saying that the ESTF had discussed this resolution for several days. He noted that ESTF members co-chair Linda Thomas, Bruce Botelho, and Lauren MacVay have gathered facts and information and provided a letter that was shared with the Assembly on this topic.

Ms. MacVay shared some information with the Assembly that outlined some of the emergency relief provisions that were already in place as well as other relief that may be available for people unable to work due to loss of childcare, income loss, and the threat of eviction. SB241 was just signed into law by the Governor which provided

some relief with respect to eviction threats. She said there were a number of other support benefits that are out there but the ESTF was not able to get full information on those due to lack of time available to pursue that information.

Mr. Jones asked Ms. MacVay why the Assembly would approve of a delay in the process to help individuals when the process has been moving fairly quickly so far for businesses.

Mayor Weldon responded that the reason for that delay is due to the task force has not been able to meet to be able to give the Assembly a recommendation and the task force will be meeting the following day.

Ms. MacVay agreed with Mayor Weldon, saying that the task force has not had the time to make an official recommendation.

MOTION by Mr. Smith to postpone consideration of Emergency Resolution 2889 until the April 20, 2020 meeting.

Objection by Ms. Hughes-Skandijs, in speaking to her objection, she said that if the Assembly moved the resolution tonight, they would be providing people with grant money and peace of mind to the community. She added that giving funding through an already established mechanism, like the Alaska Housing and Development Corporation, would be a good use of resources.

Mr. Bryson said that even though evictions are suspended, that suspension does not forgive the rent. The past months' rent will still be due retroactively. He added that the Affordable Housing Fund is a resource that does not come out of the CBJ's savings or fund balance. He said that it doesn't necessarily matter whether the resolution is passed tonight or Monday night (April 20, 2020), what really matters is that the resolution is passed.

Ms. Gladziszewski said that it would be reasonable to wait until April 20, 2020 so that the ESTF can have more time to help those who need assistance.

Mr. Edwardson supported the motion to postpone until April 20, 2020 and added that since SB 241 has been passed which provides protection for renters, that allows the Assembly a little more time to think on this resolution.

Roll Call vote on the Motion to postpone Emergency Resolution 2889 until April 20, 2020.

Ayes: Edwardson, Gladziszewski, Hale, Smith, Mayor Weldon.

Nays: Bryson, Hughes-Skandijs, Jones, Triem.

Motion passed. Five (5) Ayes, Four (4) Nays.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Executive Session Regarding CBJ Litigation Risks Caused by Some of the State COVID-19 Health Mandates

MOTION by Ms. Triem for the Assembly to recess into Executive Session for a candid discussion of the facts and litigation strategies with the Municipal Attorney regarding the superseding provisions of the state health mandates.

The Assembly recessed into Executive Session at 6:11 p.m. the Assembly returned from Executive Session at approximately 6:35p.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come to the Assembly, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35p.m.

Clerk's Note: Special Thanks to Lacey Davis from the Juneau Public Libraries for her work on preparing these minutes for approval.

Signed: _____

Elizabeth J. McEwen
Municipal Clerk

Signed: _____

Beth A. Weldon
Mayor