

**THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA**  
Meeting Minutes - March 31, 2020 6:00 PM

**MEETING NO. 2020-13:** The Special Meeting of the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly held in the Assembly Chambers of the Municipal Building, was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Mayor Beth Weldon.

**I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

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

**Assemblymembers Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** City Manager Rorie Watt, Deputy City Manager/Incident Commander Mila Cosgrove, Municipal Clerk Beth McEwen, City Attorney Robert Palmer, Library Director Robert Barr, Finance Director Jeff Rogers.

**Also Present:** Amy Michelle – Sign Language Interpreter

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** *There being no objection and no changes, the agenda was approved as presented.*

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**A. Telephonic Public Participation**

Christina Benge – Juneau Urgent Family Care offered their services to the city.

Vikki Jo Kennedy – Thanked the city for allowing call in testimony and requested it remain when the COVID-19 emergency is resolved. Thanked the city for all of the communication efforts at this time.

**IV. AGENDA TOPICS**

**A. COVID-19 Update and Actions**

Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) Division of Public Health (DPH) update was provided by Sarah Hargrave focusing on “Contact Tracing,” which is used to identify who may have been exposed to a positive case of COVID-19, and provide these individuals with appropriate information, testing if warranted, and placed in isolation or quarantine, depending on the situation.

She reported 163,000 cases in United States with 300 deaths. As of today, March 31, there are 133 cases in Alaska with 3 deaths. There are 22 cases in Southeast AK, with 9 of these cases in Juneau. Ms. Hargrave spoke on “Transmissibility,” how one person, without intervention, can infect 2 to 3 additional people on average, statistically equaling 2.4 people or “R0” “R naught.” Goal is to provide interventions and move the number below 1, (indicating other people are not being infected,) or “Flatten the Curve” to allow the health care system time to build capacity.

DPH has agreements in place to coordinate contact investigations. Ms. Hargrave detailed the process of notification once a positive case is identified. Epidemiology is notified by lab, who then notifies local Public Health Nurse, who is given known details. If provider is known, patient is informed of test results by provider. Public Health nurse will notify patient only if there is no provider or provider is unable to call the patient.

Contact investigation is then made by a Public Health nurse, with data gathering taking one- two hours, over one or more conversations. COVID-19 is considered infectious for 2 days prior to symptoms, so contact tracing time frame is from 2 days prior to time of conversation. Goal is to identify who may have been exposed while patient was infectious. If no close connection to another confirmed case can be identified, tracing goes back 14 days prior to symptoms. Social distancing behaviors make this process easier.

The client is provided information on disease experience, and what quarantine and isolation may require. “Close contact” is defined as being within 6 feet of an individual for 10 minutes or longer. Public Health goes through a similar process with each identified “close contact.” Each person is called each day for 14 days for a check in. Successful case isolation, social distancing and quarantine can reduce the need for hospital beds by half.

Ms. Hargrave answered Mr. Jones’ question regarding close contact exposure of people living in the same household, and stated household members are at higher risk of exposure due to proximity and length of exposure. 80% of secondary cases in Alaska come from the same household. Isolation is not always possible, so people are asked to do their best: frequent handwashing, infected person wearing a mask, frequent cleaning of high touch areas, cleaning of bathroom after use, etc.

In response to Ms. Gladziszewski’s question, Ms. Hargrave stated there are not different guidelines given to families who are isolating together if no one displays symptoms or has tested positive. Ms. Hargrave stated that there is good capacity to handle the current case load of contact tracing. DPH is staffed with 80 people statewide, who could be available across the state, if needed.

Mr. Edwardson asked for definition of “comorbidity” which are identified as underlying medical conditions, which may predispose an individual to be at higher risk of complications from the virus infection.

Ms. Hargrave responded to Ms. Hale’s question if the public would be notified if there was a confirmed case of someone in a public building. Being in the same building does not increase risk of exposure. Close proximity to the infected person poses the risk. When a “cluster” or group of associated cases are identified, then location information is part of the reporting.

Ms. Hargrave responded to Mr. Bryson’s suggestion to facilitate contact tracing by notification of a person testing positive in the newspaper. Ms. Hargrave stated this would likely discourage people from seeking testing, and would violate HIPPA laws. HIPPA laws are specifically relaxed only within the context of the contact investigation.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs asked for updates on the supply of tests available and if close contacts were being tested. Ms. Hargrave replied that having more testing supplies would be great. Close contacts are tested when they become symptomatic.

Ms. Hargrave clarified for Mr. Smith that “Non-travel” category on the dashboard currently represents unknown source of transmission. Terminology will be changed for clarification, perhaps by April 1.

Mr. Smith requested information on modeling projections. Ms. Hargrave spoke of University of Washington (UW) and University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) models. Mr. Watt will have models made available on the website.

Mayor Weldon requested clarification on what is the status of a person who has recovered from the virus. Ms. Hargrave stated that after a person is free from fever for 72 hours, AND minimum of 7 days have passed since the onset of symptoms AND a person is clinically improving, the person may be removed from isolation. Viral shedding may still occur but is determined to be at a rate unlikely to infect another person. A person will have immunity, but it is unclear how long immunity lasts. Testing would find antibodies, at a date well after clinical recovery, information which would be useful for Epidemiological purposes.

Ms. Hargrave stated the “within 6 feet distance for 10 minutes or longer” guidelines are as determined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO.)

### **Bartlett Regional Hospital (BRH) Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Tiered Surge Response**

Operations Section Chief Lawhorne expressed gratitude to the Assembly and to the community for their support in this emergency. The tiered response is designed to 1) keep staff, physicians and patients w/out COVID-19 safe from the virus. To achieve this goal, physical space was evaluated. Stopping non-emergency procedures and surgeries freed both space and personnel resources. Staffing models and strategies were evaluated to ensure safety of care provision. Other staffing resources were considered, identifying retired and traveling nurses and physicians as a potential resource. Overview of supplies needed (beyond bed count) has been done.

BRH currently has 25 ventilators, including non-traditional items, i.e. anesthesia machines that can be modified. Oxygen supply and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) have been increased.

Careful consideration has been given to include the acuity and care required by certain patients into the plan, and to create different pathways of response based on the volume and acuity of need.

Due to the spread of the disease through droplets, BRH Facilities Department responded by increasing air circulation and filtration, use of pressure or Negative air flow and HEPA filters. In addition freestanding units which increase air exchange are used in some rooms.

BRH Medical floor has 28 patient rooms, 4 which have negative air flow. A wing of the facility, 6 rooms, has been sealed off with creation of an anteroom to provide additional safety in

transitions. Tiered service model allows for additional beds to be added to these rooms, for patients meeting specific criteria. If needed, all 28 beds could be used, followed with doubling up rooms, based on EOC process.

With the goal of keeping all patients safe, a tent entry has been established, for screening upon arrival to the hospital, to immediately mask and move patients with symptoms of COVID.

Due to the unique attributes of the pandemic, particularly the easy spread of the illness, an alternate case site, Rainforest Recovery, has been identified, with the ability to accommodate 30-35 additional patients with less-acute needs.

Capacity of the hospital is essentially doubled through maximum implementation of tiered plan.

BRH is not working on its' own, although they are prepared to do so, if required. They will do their best, plan for the worst, and use deliberation in preparing to face the pandemic together. All existing partners are offering resources and affirm working together.

In response to Ms. Gladziszewski's inquiry of any planning for even worse case scenarios, Ms. Lawhorne stated that through the CBJ Incident Structure additional resources would be sought from the state. AK Respond, a statewide volunteer list for health care workers of many specialties, had 150 sign-ups in 2 days.

EOC Surge Plan includes reaching out, through CBJ EOC, to provide additional off-site care. SEARHC and Urgent Care, are represented in the Incident Command Structure and, as community service partners, included in the plan.

An Alternate care site has been established in the hospital to treat non-COVID patients in a separate area. There is an operating room suite set up for COVID patients. The triage tent at arrival routes patients to the appropriate treatment area.

In response to Mr. Smith's inquiry of what is currently happening in the ER, Ms. Lawhorne stated the hospital has been "eerily lull." Communications with the public is working and public is not coming to the hospital. Capital City Fire and Rescue (CCFR) is educating their patients to ensure that all treatment options are explored and understood, which has translated to not as many being transported to the ER.

Bartlett's Logistics Section is working to acquire more PPE. Due to our existing remote location, BRH routinely stocks a good back up supply. They are also utilizing strategic methods to most effectively utilize existing supplies of PPE.

Ms. Lawhorne expressed deep personal and professional gratitude to all community members who donated to help her keep staff safe, and provide additional layer of protection to our community.

Mayor Weldon expressed her appreciation to Ms. Lawhorne and all health care providers for all they are doing for our community.

## **Emergency Operations Center Update**

Incident Commander Cosgrove provided the update.

President Trump extended the stay at home order to April 30.

Ms. Cosgrove thanked all EOC staff for working hard and creatively.

We are in Operational Period 4 – Issues in the Critical Path are Decompressing Shelters, planning Quarantine and Isolation Facilities, and Child Care for essential employees.

Work continues on refining communication strategies, including creation of a “Dashboard” which is being tested to ensure it provides accurate, predictable and reliable information.

## **Operational Highlights**

At the Juneau Airport, 19 of 29 arriving passengers submitted to voluntary screening.

Alaska Airlines has reduced flights to Juneau from 12 to 7 daily, effective April 1. Deployment of staff for airport screening is being evaluated and scheduled in response to volume required.

One Hoonah passenger disembarked from the ferry and was met for screening questioning.

Mobile screening: 15 people called the Hotline, with 10 tests resulting. To date, 136 people have been screened, with 75 samples taken.

The Juneau Arts and Culture Center (JACC) housed 38 clients on the night of March 30. Hours were extended due to the extreme cold weather and was open 4 p.m. – 11 a.m. A portion of Centennial Hall (CH) was opened for cold weather sheltering while JACC was being cleaned. Personnel who staffed these facilities worked long, unpredictable hours. Their work is deeply appreciated.

The Volunteer Task Force continued coordinating production of masks and gowns, as well as many additional efforts.

Sheltering/Quarantine/Isolation plans continue to be developed, specifically addressing the following issues: Decompressing homeless populations, identifying alternate care capacity, providing quarantine and isolation facilities for not only the unsheltered, but other community members should the need arise. Attention is being given to ensure the plans are scalable, legally compliant, and practical. In addition, plans must include efficiencies of staffing and services, provided with fiscal prudence, and achieve appropriate behavioral outcomes.

Long term planning is based on predictions of how quickly the disease will spread, projections of how long this may last, and how great will be the need. There are no crystal balls. King County is looking at providing 18 month period of sheltering for homeless.

The current plan is to create a “Campus” with JACC and CH. Kensington sourced portable shower trailers for use. Additional options for future implementation are identified, if greater need occurs.

Mayor Weldon promoted utilizing the volunteer form available online @ [juneau.org](http://juneau.org).

Mr. Watt requested feedback from the Assembly on their perception of how policy points and communications are being communicated to the community. Mr. Edwardson hoped the Dashboard will provide a good resource.

Ms. Hale requested clarification of continuing confusion between CBJ and Governor's "Hunker Down" and "Shelter in Place" messaging. Attorney Palmer clarified that the Governor's Travel Mandate and Hunker Down mandates supersedes local legislation. At core they are identical – strong statements, from elected officials, advising the public to stay home and leave only to engage in essential activities. Mr. Watt added that he has responded to many of these questions from the public "Follow the intent" and Hunker Down, as much as possible.

Ms. Gladziszewski received the CBJ postcard and applauds the overall message. She encouraged sustaining communication with the public, through every avenue available. She questioned whether the EOC report to assembly is being promoted to the public? Ms. Cosgrove replied that a simplified version of the briefing is being prepared to share with the community, likely through the dashboard.

Break from 7:25 – 7:35

Mr. Watt reported that Federal CARES (Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security) Act passed, with many provisions, and 1.25 billion dollars coming to Alaska. Mr. Max Mertz and Mr. Rogers were available on phone to respond to comments. Mr. Andreasson of Alaska Municipal League (AML) has formed a work group to prepare for the money coming.

Mr. Mertz, Co-Chair of the Economic Stabilization Task Force, provided a brief overview of two (2) business provisions, under Title 1 of the Federal CARES Act. These are both loan programs, both have forgiveness provisions. Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) provides up to 250% of average annual payroll, subject to adjustment, with up to 8 weeks of payroll costs forgiven starting on date of loan approval, plus forgiveness on interest on mortgage/leases. This program is funded at \$350 billion. EIDL (Economic Injury Disaster Loan,) an existing loan program, available to Alaska due to the Governor's Disaster Declaration, provides \$10,000 forgiveness per loan, is more broad-based, can be used to replace lost revenue due to COVID-19 impact, has lower forgiveness threshold and potentially higher loan amounts, up to \$2,000,000. EIDL is funded at \$10 billion. There will be high demand. EIDL application process has been streamlined effective March 30. PPP applications should be available within a week.

Mr. Mertz provided additional clarification. Federal programs are not designed for microbusinesses, which would describe most Juneau businesses. Businesses may use one or the other of the loans, not both, however a PPP loan could be rolled into an EIDL loan. The best guess is that Federal loan guidelines and application will be released in the next week, with money released in three weeks. There is no minimum loan amount in the PPP 250% salary cost. There is a minimum \$10,000 grant in EIDL. Neither of these programs allow use of the funds to pay other loans.

For PPP loan, payroll costs are computed by dividing annual payroll by 12 to arrive at average monthly expense, or can use a trailing 12 months. For seasonal businesses, specific dates are

provided for computation to determine allowable loan amount. Forgiveness is based on starting day of loan; if business does not have hired staff on that date, they will not be able to use the salary forgiveness aspect of loan.

Mr. Rogers and Mr. Watt provided information on the State level, reporting the Legislature wrapped up at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 29, and passed the Budget to the Governor. The budget fully funded Community Assistance, included \$2.4 million in supplemental funding for coastal communities affected by cancellation of cruise sailings, but did not include any supplemental funding for business assistance. Mr. Rogers stated the Governor has 15 days from the date he receives the Budget (not including Sundays) to make any line item vetoes and pass the budget.

The Legislature also passed SB 241 Coronavirus Emergency Response, which applies to local municipalities, providing residential protections through moratorium on foreclosures, evictions for non-payment of rent, and utility disconnections for non-payment. Mr. Watt anticipates the utility protection will translate into delayed revenue on utilities, increased enforcement efforts, but not much impact by the end of the year. Mr. Watt further anticipates that owners of rental properties may experience distress as impacted by non-payment of rent. Under the bill, property taxes normally due on September 30, will be due on November 15, for people experiencing economic hardship. Mr. Rogers stated further information is needed before the impact of SB 241 can be fully understood. He also stated the Governor has no constitutional authorization to line item veto anything that is not an appropriation.

Mr. Mertz stated there is nothing in the statute in either of these acts that would disallow a business that receives assistance through Resolution 2888. 7B funding has provisions that specifically waive rules that would generally apply to business that receive other funding.

Mr. Bryson followed up on a previous suggestion to provide a credit for single family fixed rate household utility bills. Mr Rogers stated it would not be hard to implement. Mr. Watt provided details. There are roughly 8,000 water accounts and 7,000 sewer accounts, with 2000 of each being multi-use or commercial accounts, with a monthly cost of approximately \$550,000.

#### Economic Assistance

#### **B. Resolution 2888 An Emergency Appropriation Resolution Appropriating \$3,000,000 to the Manager for Small Business Loans Administered by the Juneau Economic Development Council Related to COVID-19.**

COVID-19 has drastically changed 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. As a result, many local businesses are experiencing financial hardship until state and federal money is available. This resolution would provide emergency loans to small businesses as bridge financing for the economic engines of our community.

Mr. Palmer provided a disclaimer that as the Resolution is currently written, no Assemblymember (or family member) who has a business (for profit or not) would be eligible to

participate in this program, which allows all assembly members to participate in discussion and vote on this Resolution.

**Public Comment:**

David Sanden of Hidden Treasures requests Juneau consider forgiving or mitigating Sales Tax receipts due for at least 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter of calendar year 2020, believing keeping this money in the hands of the businesses at this time would help in not incurring additional debt, and surviving these circumstances.

Wayne Coogan questioned the lack of collateral requirement, and suggested using a system of payroll reimbursement since payroll is the primary expense of many Juneau businesses, rather than straight loan. He encouraged the Assembly to use caution in spending.

Phillip Moser questioned giving \$3 million to businesses, when the goal is to help preserve the health and lives of the people of our community, particularly given how many people are out of work, or working in some position that endangers their lives. This provides no help to them. There is no worker protection. In addition, \$500,000 to Housing Assistance supports only one set of properties. Many people need housing and rent relief. Mayor Weldon clarified Alaska Housing Development Corporation is serving as the clearinghouse for the funds, and assistance will be available broadly.

**MOTION** by Ms. Triem, to adopt Resolution 2888 and asked for unanimous consent.

**Objections:**

Mr. Jones referred to page 2, Section 3 (c) (4) referencing businesses with more than 25 employees in the first quarter of 2020 are not eligible. No other dates are included, specifying numbers of employees, time period or anything else. Ms. Triem stated the intention was for the first quarter to be used to establish all employee numbers with businesses submitting first quarter IRS Form 940 to substantiate personnel.

Mr. Jones referred to page 3, Section 3 (c) (10) and requested property tax compliance be added, not only sales tax.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs objected for a question regarding Section 3 (c) (7) No more than one loan per business. Could one person own two businesses, run separately, qualify for two loans? Mayor Weldon responded that Section 3 (c) (11) Exceptions, would serve to respond to that type of situation and others that may arise.

Ms. Gladziszewski acknowledged the need for rapid response and objected to taking action at this meeting. She wanted to ensure CBJ limited resources are used as effectively as possible, and wanted more information before dedicating resources to this system. She anticipated there could be a large default rate, since these businesses won't be having revenue for some period of time. Mayor Weldon responded that a loan program was chosen over grant program, since loans are expected to be paid back, unlike Sales Tax forgiveness, where the revenue is permanently gone. In conversation with Mr. Holst, Executive Director of Juneau Economic Development

Corporation (JEDC) the company administering the loans, it is anticipated that default rates will be within the standard 10-15%.

Ms. Triem added that Loan program, with interest, was chosen to dissuade businesses from applying for “free money.”

Mr. Edwardson requested background information on why the specific recommendations were brought forward. Ms. Triem provided the following information:

- 3 (c) (1) 30 months will cover three summer seasons to allow revenue recovery
- 3 (c) (2) Interest rate of 2%, low but in line with economy at this time
- 3 (c) (3) Focused assistance on smallest businesses to maximize effectiveness of available money. Also group most likely to be too small for Federal and possible state loans. Loan amount based on short term need assessment as identified by business professionals.
- 3 (c) (4) Number of individual employees, not FTE.
- 3 (c) (5) Focus assistance on need from this situation, not other reasons.
- 3 (c) (6) Mr. Palmer made clear all businesses may apply.
- 3 (c) (7) answered earlier in response to Ms. Hughes-Skandijs’ question
- 3 (c) (8) Indicates ongoing commitment to operations. Intent to maintain all personnel, not expectation.
- 3 (c) (9) Lack of collateral speeds time to money disbursement.
- 3 (c) (10) Sales Tax compliance is an indicator of viability of business.
- 3 (c) (11) Exceptions. Allows response to unanticipated situations.
- 3 (c) (12) Interest payment deferment allows time for business to recover.

Ms. Hale and Ms. Hughes-Skandijs questioned the “bridge” function of this program. If Juneau businesses are too small for Federal money, who will assist when this money is spent and the need continues? Ms. Hale also questioned expending this money while there are so many questions of how long this pandemic will last and what may CBJ needs look like in the near and far future. If there is large default on this loan program, how will the city rebuild Reserve funds? What is the extent of the roll of Unemployment Insurance in covering lost wages? Yes, the need is large and immediate, but there are too many unanswered questions at this time to obligate these funds.

Mr. Watt provided additional framework for decision making, acknowledging the tension between need to move quickly to respond to the economic impact of COVID-19 and need for deliberative decision making. On policy level, protecting existing small businesses is the goal, honoring their essential contributions to our economy and their attendant function of providing employment opportunities. This is one mechanism to achieve that goal. The second Ordinance of this evening’s agenda will offer another mechanism.

Mr. Bryson stated that every day a business is closed increases the likelihood it would not reopen, and supports moving quickly. He questioned whether businesses that have not yet reopened due to lack of summer tourists would qualify for the loan program. Having no employees, could they use the money for vendor or rental expenses? He questioned the 25 employee number as being too low. Would inventory loss qualify? Mr. Bryson stated that all loan application processes, even “streamlined,” are a difficult process.

Ms. Triem noted that there are no conditions in the Ordinance limiting what expenses a business may cover with the loan, only the “good faith effort to maintain payroll.”

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs questioned the length of interest-free time, given the length of the loan.

Mayor Weldon stated this will serve as a “bridge” for some companies, who will qualify for Federal funds, credit-line, or covering “Hunker Down” time until they can reopen to foot traffic.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs asked Mr. Palmer if it was necessary to identify anticipated default amount in this Resolution to comply with Resolution 2629 plan to replenish Budget Reserve. Mr. Palmer responded this is a loan program, with the expectation that repayment of loans will replenish funds.

Mr. Smith inquired about the legal order of expectation of loan repayments. Mr. Palmer stated generally the first loan takes priority, with other variables having influence. Mr. Smith offered information on Unemployment Benefits in response to Mr. Moser’s testimony, with benefits now offered to a broader group. People whose employment has been impacted are encouraged to apply, and eligibility will be evaluated.

Ms. Triem and Mayor Weldon responded to Mr. Smith’s concern about the viability of loan program. JEDC are experienced at loaning to small businesses, and will use their experience in their role as the clearinghouse. Sales Tax compliance is a proxy for business viability.

Mr. Bryson stated that businesses are concerned with their credit rating, and will take loans seriously.

Mr. Rogers answered Mr. Edwardson’s question of the balance of the Reserve Fund at \$16.5 million. As of July 1, 2019 the Unrestricted Fund balance was upwards of \$18 million.

Mr. Edwardson questioned the \$3 million figure. Ms. Triem and Mayor Weldon responded the figure was computed to help approximately 100 business with an average of \$30,000 each.

Break from 9:25 – 9:35

Mr. Jones questioned the wording of the Resolution that states: “WHEREAS, federal and state resources “are limited” as misstatements. Mr. Jones questioned Section 3 (b) last two sentences and requested Mr. Palmer answer who is issuing the loan and who has the legal right to collect on default of the loan. He further questioned the legality of multiple assignees on a single loan. The provision was included by the Attorney to offer protection to CBJ should JEDC limit their collection to the scope of the loan duration, the city has recourse to collect any amounts in default.

Ms. Gladziszewski suggested narrowing the target of eligible businesses to those that would not qualify for other funding, and limiting the amount of money committed at this time. Mayor

Weldon responded the 100 businesses were identified at risk, with greatest benefit to quick cash flow assistance, and it did not set limits regarding other potential funding sources.

Ms. Hale also expressed concern with information that “bridge” loan could not be repaid with SBA loan, as previously understood. Mayor Weldon clarified that Unemployment Insurance (UI) is for paid workers who had lost their jobs, or had their hours limited. PPP would assist businesses who continue to have employees working, keeping people out of UI.

Mr. Bryson stated first and second priority of loans is applicable only to access to collateral. All loans are due when they are due.

Ms. Triem brought forth ideas submitted via emails regarding tax deadline extensions. Mr. Watt re-stated the Assembly’s goal is to protect small business and deciding how best to accomplish that goal through this resolution, possibly amended. He clarified terminology - Sales Tax “forgiveness” would apply to purchaser. “Remitters” are businesses that have collected the tax. Mr. Watt recommended against allowing non-payment of taxes collected. Property tax forgiveness would involve State law issues, and does not closely align with the purpose of protecting small business.

Mayor Weldon passed the gavel to Mr. Jones, in the physical absence of Ms. Gladyszewski, for purposes of making amendments to the Resolution.

#### **AMENDMENT #1**

**AMENDMENT PART 1** by Ms. Weldon, that item 3 (c) (3) be modified to add “Employee count comes from the first quarter report of 2020.” as last sentence.

**AMENDMENT PART 2** by Ms. Weldon, item 3 (c) (10) Bold title be modified to read “Sales and Property Tax compliance” and insert “or property” following “sales” in the first sentence, to read “A business with any sales or property tax delinquency...”

Mr. Jones’ confirmed each of the members understood the two part Amendment. Hearing no objections, **AMENDMENT #1 (parts 1 & 2)** passed as presented.

Mr. Jones returned the gavel to Mayor Weldon.

Ms. Gladyszewski requested a point of order. She asked if this Resolution, being an emergency resolution and having no prior hearing, required seven (7) affirmative votes in order to pass. Mayor Weldon and Mr. Palmer confirmed that was correct, and Mr. Palmer referred to the initial WHEREAS clause of the Resolution where this is stated.

#### **AMENDMENT #2**

**MOTION** by Ms. Hale to amend the last WHEREAS on page one (1) to strike “are limited and” from the first statement, to read “WHEREAS, federal and state resources may be available too late...”

Ms. Hale spoke to Amendment #2 that federal funds are significantly greater than CBJ, to support idea of bridge loan as stated in Section 3, (a) Intent.

Objection by Ms. Triem. There are limits on SBA loan programs, particularly since this is a nation-wide disaster, and needs are already greater than available funds.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON AMENDMENT #2**

Yeas: Edwardson, Gladziszewski, Hale, Hughes-Skandijs, Jones and Weldon

Nays: Bryson, Smith, Triem

**Motion passed 6:3**

**MOTION** by Ms. Hughes-Skandijs to delay action on Resolution 2888 until Thursday.

Recessed for 5 minutes.

Mr. Palmer confirmed this is an allowable time to make a motion.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs stated that due to the great number of unknowns, additional time would allow more information and investigation to occur. Two days delay in action would still allow a relatively rapid response to the needs of our business community, while providing a greater degree of confidence in the decision-making.

Ms. Triem objected and expressed trust in the Assembly to move forward quickly as they have been doing, stating a delay would be too great of cost to our community. Ms. Triem spoke of this as a bridge to survival, not only to loans, and a three week delay will equal businesses closing.

Mr. Bryson expressed appreciation to Ms. Triem and Mayor Weldon for their work on this resolution, and expressed the opinion two additional days would not be likely to change the voting outcome, but could change the outcome for individual businesses. The value of this tool is in the speed of getting money into the community.

Ms. Gladziszewski agreed a two day delay to allow further consideration would be worthwhile. Not all businesses agree that this is the best tool.

Mr. Edwardson supported moving forward tonight, this plan is good, not perfect.

Ms. Hale agreed two days is an allowable time for further attention that could make the Resolution work more effectively for our community. She expressed hesitation at dedicating 20% of the reserved funds as a tremendous commitment, and didn't want to vote while feeling her hand was forced.

Mr. Smith expressed support for the delay and requested JEDC participate to help resolve some of the unanswered questions.

Mayor Weldon stated two days isn't much time for the Assembly, but many business have payroll due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month, or next week April 5<sup>th</sup>, and lack of action tonight means

payroll would be missed. In addition, she didn't think there would be enough additional information available from the State to influence the decision.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON MOTION TO POSTPONE RESOLUTION 2888, AS AMENDED TO THURSDAY.**

Yeas: Gladziszewski, Hale, Hughes-Skandijs, Smith

Nays: Bryson, Edwardson, Jones, Triem, Weldon

**Motion failed 4:5**

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs questioned Mr. Palmer, regarding the consequences of failing to pass this Resolution. Mr. Palmer responded reconsideration options do exist. In addition, if the whole body, as a committee, decides a different or similar legislation should be presented, they may do so.

Mr. Jones expressed his objection and is torn, understanding arguments on both sides, and remains conflicted due to the extent of the unknowns.

Mr. Bryson spoke to his experience as a business owner. Not voting for this would hurt businesses further. Previous action on the part of the State and Assembly has harmed business through the closures. This is an opportunity to help.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs concurred with Mr. Jones' statements, of intent to support and concern regarding the effectiveness of this action.

Ms. Gladziszewski expressed desire to support concept, goal, timeliness, and not needing perfect legislation. In the instances of previous actions taken, scientific support was provided, experience of other communities was available. Dedicating \$3 million from limited fiscal resources requires a greater degree of surety, since this action will foreclose future possible actions.

Mr. Edwardson agreed with Mr. Jones, Ms. Hughes-Skandijs, and Ms. Gladziszewski, but agrees now is the time to support business.

Ms. Triem concurred with Mr. Edwardson.

Ms. Hale stated her appreciation for everyone's contributions to the conversation, but cannot support the resolution due to lack of sufficient consideration. She expressed concern that isolated decisions are being made in the emergency context, with many "what's next" issues to address.

Mr. Smith stated the impact to business was not exclusively due to Assembly actions, but also Governor's actions, and worldwide impact of pandemic. He expressed need for additional time and information before supporting this.

Mayor Weldon stated the City is not in a position to offer grants, as many businesses have requested. CBJ is in a position to offer loans, hence this Resolution. Mayor Weldon stated that if this resolution did not pass at this meeting, the matter would die at that point.

Mr. Smith and Ms. Hughes-Skandijs asked the attorney for clarification of what action could be done if the vote failed to pass the resolution. Mr. Palmer said it would all depend on the outcome of the initial vote but if the vote did not pass procedurally, it could be reconsidered but he doesn't know what the practical effects would be.

Mr. Jones said that he sees two avenues procedurally. If the resolution is voted down, the Assembly's rules of procedure permit a member from either the prevailing or the losing side to request reconsideration and if that happens, it could be brought up at the next meeting. Mr. Jones said that if the vote failed and no one requested reconsideration, this resolution dies but someone could request a similar piece of legislation to be drafted and brought back to the Assembly for consideration. He asked the attorney if his interpretation of these two processes was correct. Mr. Palmer concurred that he was correct and provided a note of clarification that if reconsideration were given, there was a special Assembly meeting scheduled for April 1 just prior to the Assembly Finance Committee so it would have to be brought back for reconsideration at that meeting, if at all.

Mayor Weldon noted that the reason they chose to do this via an emergency resolution was that due to the timing for a regular ordinance, the Assembly would not be able to take action on it until April 15 and since time was of the essence so they chose the path of an emergency ordinance instead.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON RESOLUTION 2888 AS AMENDED WITH AMENDMENTS 1 & 2**

Yeas: Triem, Jones, Edwardson, Bryson, Hughes-Skandijs, Weldon

Nays: Gladziszewski, Hale, Smith

**Motion failed 6:3**

**MOTION** by Ms. Gladziszewski for reconsideration to occur at the next Assembly meeting.

**C. Ordinance 2019-06(X) An Ordinance Appropriating to the Manager the Sum of up to \$500,000 as Funding for an Emergency Rental Assistance Program; Funding Provided by the General Fund.**

Mr. Watt stated this is a draft ordinance, based on the concept presented by Mr. Bryson to provide rental assistance. It would best be implemented by routing the funds to the Juneau Community Foundation, who would pass the money to Alaska Housing Development Corporation, with program open to all renters, targeting people who have lost employment due to COVID-19. Mr. Watt said that if the Assembly desires a different funding level or another manner in which to administer it, time was limited at this meeting for in depth discussion.

**MOTION** by Mr. Jones to extend the meeting to 11:15.

Objection by Mr. Bryson and Mayor Weldon.

Mr. Jones requested additional time to adequately address the ordinance.

Objection withdrawn by Mayor Weldon.

Mr. Bryson objected stating if addressing economic needs of the community is being delayed, this too should be delayed.

Ms. Triem requested and received clarification from Mr. Palmer that since the dollar figure is included in the Ordinance wording, it could not be changed after action.

Motion withdrawn by Mr. Jones.

**MOTION** by Mr. Jones to introduce Ordinance 2019-06(X) and set it for public hearing at a future Assembly meeting.

Ms. Triem objected as once the ordinance is introduced the amount cannot be changed since that is part of its title.

Mayor Weldon objected for purpose of an Amendment. She discussed this with Mr. Ciambor and asked him what he thought about the amount. He suggested an amount in the range of \$150,000-\$250,000 would be more appropriate.

**AMENDMENT #1 by Mayor Weldon to change the amount from \$500,000 to \$200,000.**

Objection by Mr. Jones. Due to the lack of supporting documentation, unknown length and impact of this emergency, unknown consequences of not passing previous Resolution, Mr. Jones supports the larger figure.

Motion to amend withdrawn by Ms. Weldon and she suggested that this matter be moved to Thursday for more in depth conversation

Mr. Edwardson expressed agreement with Mr. Jones. The wording “up to \$500,000.00” allows for lower expenditures.

Ms. Triem recalled from previous conversations that funding would be provided from the Affordable Housing Fund.

Mr. Watt suggested the Assembly may want to consider this as a draft ordinance and it should be considered as an information item at this time. He said they can bring it back with more information, scope and purpose, analysis of dollar amounts and funding sources can all be presented and considered at Thursday night’s meeting, with the participation of Mr. Ciambor. Mr. Watt requests guidance from the Assembly on whether this should go through regular Ordinance process or Emergency Resolution process.

Mayor Weldon asked if there were any objections for the Manager to bring this back on Thursday night. Hearing none, it will be brought back to the Assembly on Thursday.

## **V. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Assembly, the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 p.m.

*Clerk's Note: Special Thanks to M. J. Grande 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