

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES

April 24, 2023 at 6:00 PM



Assembly Chambers/Zoom Webinar

A. CALL TO ORDER

The April 24, 2023 Assembly Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order by Deputy Mayor Gladziszewski at 6:04p.m.

B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Ms. Triem provided the following land acknowledgement: "We would like to acknowledge that the City and Borough of Juneau is on unceded Tlingit land, and wish to honor the indigenous people of this land. For more than ten thousand years, Alaska Native people have been and continue to be integral to the well-being of our community. We are grateful to be in this place, a part of this community, and to honor the culture, traditions, and resilience of the Tlingit people. Gunalchéesh!"

B. ROLL CALL

Present: Michele Hale, Greg Smith, Christine Woll, Carole Triem, Alicia Hughes-Skandijs, Wade Bryson, Deputy Mayor Maria Gladziszewski, Mayor Beth Weldon (via zoom)

Absent: 'Wáahlaal Gíidaak

Staff Present: City Manager Rorie Watt, Deputy Manager Robert Barr, Acting City Attorney Sheri Layne, City Clerk Beth McEwen, Deputy Clerk Diane Cathcart, Lands Manager Dan Bleidorn, Parks and Recreation Director George Schaaf, Eaglecrest Manager Dave Scanlan, Law Office Manager Deb Senn, Assistant Attorney Emily Wright

D. MANAGER'S REQUEST FOR AGENDA CHANGES -- *None*

E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – *Approved by unanimous consent*

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. August 8, 2022 DRAFT Assembly Committee of the Whole Minutes

Hearing no objection, the minutes of the August 8, 2022 Assembly Committee of the Whole were approved by unanimous consent.

G. AGENDA TOPICS

2. Childcare Update

Mr. Barr provided an update on childcare, referencing the memo in the packet which outlined current childcare programs: a per child stipend and HEARTS, a program for retaining teachers. Mr. Barr said they expect these to remain unchanged from FY23 to FY24. Mr. Barr, Ms. Blue Shibler from Association for the Education of Young Children (AEYC), Mr. Brian Holst from Juneau Economic Development Council (JEDC), and people from the National League of Cities have been working a plan for the new funding approved by voters last year; the process has also involved meeting with current childcare providers to solicit feedback and advice.

Mr. Barr reminded the Assembly that their past practice has been to fund the per child stipend program at a rate that allowed for growth – funding more than the current need to allow new providers to receive the stipend if they open. Mr. Barr said that last year he requested that extra funding become a higher per child stipend to providers; this year Mr. Barr is requesting the Assembly allocate the extra funding on a start-up grant for new

childcare providers. He said they would go through a competitive solicitation process to select the new providers. Then the funding would be used as a grant to help the top one or two applicants open a new facility.

Mr. Barr shared potential plans for the new childcare funding approved by voters – the current lead proposal would be a new program focusing on per employee stipends. Providers would receive a dollar amount per licensed childcare provider in their program which would allow them to raise local wages approximately \$2.5-3 per hour for staff. Mr. Barr said that providers reported to him that the most challenge problem they face is hiring and retaining staff. Currently, Juneau providers have licensing for about 430 children, but only serve about 250 due to staffing shortages.

Mr. Barr said the State of Alaska is looking at changing from a market rate model for assessing who is eligible to receive childcare assistance to a true cost of care model. He said they have applied for a \$2,000,000 grant from the State, which is pass-through federal money. Mr. Barr said that if CBJ receives the grant they will use it to supplement all three programs over the next two years, as well as create a new apprentice program for childcare administrators. He noted that the grant from the state has a strict time limit for spending the money; if CBJ receives it they plan to move some local grant money to a future fiscal year to avoid a sharp spending increase followed by a sharp spending decrease in a short period of time. Mr. Barr said this came from conversations with childcare providers who said they appreciated consistency in funding which better allows them to plan.

Mr. Bryson asked what current wage ranges are. Mr. Barr said it varies; some providers pay as low as \$14-15 an hour, some significantly more. He said there is also variability in whether other benefits are provided.

Ms. Woll asked about eligibility for these programs. Mr. Barr said the current practice is that providers who receive regular operating funds through another governmental source have not been eligible for CBJ funds. He said the last time he looked, programs that received a different government subsidy have significantly higher wages for employees than the providers who receive these grants.

MOTION by Mayor Weldon to direct staff to proceed with the FY24 programs as outlined in the memo and to reallocate the remaining FY23 per child stipend funds to create a startup childcare grant program.

Hearing no objection, the motion passed by unanimous consent.

3. Election Code Changes:

Ordinance 2023-25 Assembly District Boundaries (CBJ 11.10.030)

Ordinance 2023-24 Rewrite of Election Code (CBJ 29.07)

Mr. Barr asked the Assembly for three things:

1. To introduce an ordinance to codify by mail elections as the default (covered in Ordinance 2023-24)
2. Housekeeping Election Code changes (covered in Ordinance 2023-24)
3. To adopt precinct maps, in order to provide results by precinct. CBJ has two Assembly districts, which dictates where someone running for the Assembly may live; the two districts must have a similar population. The State redistricting process has interim maps adopted. CBJ believes they can use the State maps with one exception: the Glacier Valley precinct (04-130) with approximately 2100 people is currently placed in Assembly District 1. For CBJ to have proportional maps, CBJ requests that precinct (04-130) be placed within Assembly District 2 (covered in Ordinance 2023-25)

Ms. Triem asked about major differences between these boundaries and the previous. Ms. McEwen said the boundaries of the precincts are different than in the past. Ms. McEwen reminded all people that everyone in

Juneau gets the same municipal ballot regardless of where they live; the districts only impact those running for Assembly. The eligibility for the District 1 and District 2 seats is based on where the Assembly candidate lives. Mr. Watt said the precincts are different, but the Assembly districts are relatively close to what they previously were.

Ms. Woll asked for a comparison map between what is being proposed compared to the previous boundaries.

MOTION by Mayor Weldon to move Ordinance 2023-25 Assembly District Boundaries, with the red folder amendment, to the full Assembly.

Hearing no objection, that motion passed by unanimous consent.

Mr. Smith asked about the procurement process for election materials and services. Mr. Watt said they do not want to low bid election work. Ms. McEwen said that the procurement process language did not change, just the location of where that language appears within the code.

Mr. Smith asked about prepaid return envelopes. Ms. McEwen said that business reply mail, which would allow CBJ to prepay the return envelopes, is not automatically postmarked. Election code requires that a ballot must be returned by 8pm on election day, or if returned after election day be postmarked on election day. When CBJ did business reply mail, the post office did not postmark many of those envelopes so there were over 700 ballots received after election day with no postmark that could not be counted. When CBJ required voters to add a stamp there were approximately 10 ballots received after election day with no postmark that could not be counted.

MOTION by Mayor Weldon to move Ordinance 2023-24 Rewrite of Election Code to the full Assembly.

Hearing no objection, the motion passed by unanimous consent.

4. Community Schools

Mr. Barr provided an update on Community Schools, specifically looking at the feasibility of the Parks and Recreation Department running the program. Mr. Barr said they are still waiting for information from the Juneau School District (JSD) to provide more details and an eventual recommendation to the Assembly. Mr. Barr said the Parks and Recreation Department is the single largest user of the Community Schools programs and that *potentially* Parks and Recreation might be able to run the program with fewer staff; currently the program utilizes 3.5 FTE and Parks and Recreation estimated they could run it with an additional 2 FTE to their current staffing. Mr. Barr reiterated that these are preliminary numbers and that a more complete analysis needs to be done before any recommendation can be made.

Ms. Triem asked what the next steps are if the JSD does not provide additional information. Mr. Barr said he thought it would be more prudent to wait and deal with this after the budget if the information is not provided in a timely manner.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs asked why the 3.5 FTE number was pulled from the 2017 budget. Mr. Schaaf said that was the most recent budget available on the JSD website that included FTEs.

Ms. Hale asked if Parks and Recreation can utilize volunteers to do tasks such as monitoring buildings. Mr. Schaaf said that adult sports pay recreation aides to monitor the school buildings, but youth sports use community school staff to monitor the buildings because they are coached by volunteers.

Ms. Woll asked about the \$65,000-100,000 that Parks and Recreation used to pay to Community Schools, outside of additional funds appropriated to the program by the Assembly. Mr. Schaaf said that money was in the areawide recreation budget as rental fees that were paid to JSD. In 2017 JSD passed a policy that an organization operating under a bilateral agreement, such as CBJ, did not have to pay rental fees.

The Assembly gave direction to Mr. Barr to continue to work on this issue.

5. Gondola Revenue Sharing Agreement with Goldbelt

Mr. Watt said on January 10, 2023 the Assembly authorized the Manager to sign an agreement with Goldbelt; before the Assembly today is an outline of what has changed since January. Mr. Watt said that it is a good deal

for both parties. Mr. Watt highlighted the material changes, including: CBJ will receive all ten million dollars at one time, the date of the gondola opening has been extended a year to 2028, the agreement switched from simple interest to compound interest. In the event that CBJ terminates the agreement, CBJ removed some force majeure language, CBJ agreed to a quicker reporting requirement, the indemnification language was updated, and they removed language regarding mutual non-disparagement. Mr. Watt said most of the economic terms of the original agreement stand.

Ms. Triem asked about the indemnification language changes. Ms. Layne said that the indemnification language is relatively standard in CBJ contacts for entities that require indemnification. Ms. Hughes-Skandijs asked if there is a future intention to seek indemnification. Ms. Layne said that this does not commit the Assembly to any future action. Mr. Watt and Ms. Layne provided several examples of indemnification for the Assembly.

H. STAFF REPORTS – None.

I. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS – None.

J. NEXT MEETING DATE: May 22, 2023, 6p.m.

K. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

6. RED FOLDER version of Ordinance 2023-25vCOW-Assembly Election District Boundaries
7. RED FOLDER - Exhibit A of Ordinance 2023-08 Revenue Sharing Agreement-CBJ and Goldbelt Gondola Project - Redline version

L. ADJOURNMENT – adjourned at 7:02p.m.

There being no further business coming before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 7:02pm.