

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WORKSESSION MINUTES

April 03, 2023 at 6:00 PM



Assembly Chambers/Zoom Webinar/YouTube Livestream

Assembly Committee of the Whole Worksession-no public testimony will be taken.

A. CALL TO ORDER

The Assembly Committee of the Whole meeting, held in the Assembly Chambers and via Zoom, was called to order by Deputy Mayor Maria Gladziszewski at 6:00p.m.

B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Mr. Bryson provided the following land acknowledgment: "We would like to acknowledge that the City and Borough of Juneau is on Tlingit land, and wish to honor the indigenous peoples 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!*"

C. ROLL CALL

Assemblymembers Present: Maria Gladziszewski, Christine Woll, 'Wáahlaal Gíidaak (via Zoom), Carole Triem, Greg Smith, Michelle Hale, Wade Bryson, Alicia Hughes-Skandijs (via Zoom), and Mayor Beth Weldon.

Assemblymembers Absent: None.

Staff Present: City Manager Rorie Watt, Deputy City Manager Robert Barr, Acting City Attorney Sherri Layne, Municipal Clerk Beth McEwen, Deputy City Clerk Diane Cathcart, Engineering/Public Works Director Katie Koester, Port Director Carl Uchtyl, Tourism Manager Alix Pierce, Lands Manager Dan Bleidorn, Law Office Manager Deb Senn, Assistant City Attorney Emily Wright, Parks & Recreation Manager George Schaaf, Finance Director Jeff Rogers, Community Development Director Jill Maclean, CDD Planner Irene Gallion

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda, as presented, was approved by unanimous consent.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. June 27, 2022 Draft COW Minutes

Hearing no objection, the minutes of the June 27, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting were approved by unanimous consent.

F. AGENDA TOPICS

2. Fee to Trust Update

Assistant City Attorney Adam Gottschalk gave a presentation on Fee to Trust lands. Mr. Gottschalk said there are several parcels in the area of town traditionally known as the Indian Village owned by Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (CCTHITA). He said those lands are eligible to be taken into Trust by the Department of the Interior; one parcel is currently held in Trust as of November 2022. CBJ and CCTHITA are working on an intergovernmental agreement to clarify potential jurisdictional issues. The current intent is that CBJ will continue to provide public services on this land until CCTHITA can create comparable services.

Mr. Smith asked how land in trust is different than tribal land. Mr. Gottschalk answered that land in Trust is not subject to local taxes or codes.

Ms. Triem asked if CBJ can enter into a government-to-government relationship regardless of land being in Trust. Mr. Gottschalk said CBJ can so long as there is no state law prohibiting it.

Mr. Gottschalk and Mr. Watt answered further questions from the Assembly.

Mr. Watt told the Assembly that CBJ is losing a valuable employee as Assistant City Attorney Adam Gottschalk is moving to Anchorage to go into private practice.

3. Ordinance 2023-20 An Ordinance Amending the Duties of the Systemic Racism Review Committee (SRRC).

Ms. Gladziszewski noted that there were proposed amendments in the packet and Ms. Hale said that she had another possible amendment.

AMENDMENT #1

MOTION by Mr. Smith to amend Ordinance 2023-20 at Sec. 2, subsection (b) Duties, by adding a new subsection (7), to read:

...

(7) Meeting with the Assembly in a joint meeting at least once a calendar year.

...

Mr. Smith spoke to the reasons behind his amendment and said this would allow the Systemic Racism Review Committee (SRRC) and the Assembly to better communicate about goals.

Objection by Ms. Hughes-Skandijs who said the SRRC should set their own priorities and not the Assembly.

Roll Call Vote on Amendment #1

Yeas: Mr. Smith, Mr. Bryson, Ms. Hale, Ms. Triem, Waahlaal Giidaak, Ms. Gladziszewski, Mayor Weldon

Nay: Ms. Hughes-Skandijs, Ms. Woll

Amendment #1 passed 7 yeas: 2 nays

AMENDMENT #2

MOTION by Ms. Hale to amend Ordinance 2023-20 to add a new WHEREAS after the second WHEREAS, on Page 1, Line 12, to read:

WHEREAS, systemic racism includes policies and practices that exist throughout a whole society or organization, including historical actions and practices, and that result in and support a continued unfair advantage to some people and unfair or harmful treatment of others based on race; and

Ms. Hale spoke to the reasons behind her amendment, and she asked for unanimous consent. Ms. Hale said the original creation of the SRRC was focused on reviewing current legislation, but it is more common that existing and historical practices perpetuate a framework of systemic racism. ***Hearing no objection, Amendment #2 passed by unanimous consent.***

AMENDMENT #3

Ms. Hale noted that her next amendment was sent out in a revised version that was posted online under Supplemental Materials. Her revised version is listed below:

MOTION by Ms. Hale to amend Ordinance 2023-20, amending the fifth WHEREAS, on Page 1, Line 16, to read:

WHEREAS, the residents of Juneau and the Assembly benefit from having a systemic racism review committee that works with the Assembly to address systemic racism, including reviewing legislation and policies and procedure and making recommendations to the Assembly; and

~~WHEREAS, the Assembly would benefit from having a systemic racism review of legislation before a resolution or an ordinance is up for public hearing; and~~

Ms. Hale spoke to the reasons behind her amendment and she asked for unanimous consent. Ms. Hale said she did not want to remove the SRRC's requested language but wanted to add additional language.

Objection by Ms. Hughes-Skandijis. Ms. Hughes-Skandijis noted that the sixth Whereas clause on page 1 of the ordinance, lines 18-19, currently has language underlined that includes the SRRC's requested language. She noted that inserted language already expands SRRC review to include policies and procedures and if Amendment #3 passes and the fifth Whereas is replaced, it would be duplicative.

Ms. Hale thanked Ms. Hughes-Skandijis for pointing that out. Ms. Hale said that her intention was to remove lines 17-19 and asked Ms. Gladziszewski how best to proceed. Ms. Gladziszewski called for a 2 minute at ease.

The Committee resumed its meeting at 6:30p.m.

Ms. Hale withdrew the previous Amendment #3 and replaced it with the following Amendment #3:

MOTION by Ms. Hale to amend Ordinance 2023-20, by removing the fifth and sixth WHEREAS clauses on Page 1, Lines 17-19, and replacement them with the following:

WHEREAS, the residents of Juneau and the Assembly benefit from having a systemic racism review committee that works with the Assembly to address systemic racism, including reviewing legislation and policies and procedure and making recommendations to the Assembly; and ...

Objection by Ms. Hughes-Skandijis for purposes of amending Amendment #3 with #3A. Ms. Hughes-Skandijis said that she feels this brings back a portion of the fifth Whereas clause that Ms. Hale left out by accident.

AMENDMENT #3A

WHEREAS, the residents of Juneau and the Assembly benefit from having a systemic racism review committee that works with the Assembly to address systemic racism, including reviewing policies and procedures and reviewing legislation prior to public hearing and ~~policies and procedure and making~~ recommendations to the Assembly; and ...

Hearing no objection, Amendment #3A passed by unanimous consent.

Hearing no objection, Amendment #3, as amended, passed by unanimous consent.

AMENDMENT #4

MOTION by Ms. Triem to amend the sunset date on page 3 of the ordinance, line 14 changing the date from August 31, 2023 to August 31, 2026.

Hearing no objection, Amendment #4 passed by unanimous consent.

AMENDMENT #5

MOTION by Ms. Hale to amend the sunset date clause to read as follows:

Section 3. Sunset Clause. The Committee created by Section 2 shall cease to exist and the provisions of Section 2 shall automatically terminate August 31, 2026, unless the Assembly extends the Committee to

exist until disbanded by the Assembly. In a joint meeting prior to December 31, 2025, the Committee and the Assembly shall review the Committee's work product to date and the provisions of this ordinance to determine if any changes are necessary.

Ms. Hale discussed the reasons for her amendment. Ms. Hale said having a discussion focused on the work product of the SRRC will allow the Assembly to better meet the goals of the SRRC.

Objection by Ms. Hughes-Skandijs; she said she feels that the amendment from Mr. Smith establishes joint meetings between the Assembly and the committee.

Roll Call Vote on Amendment #5

Yeas: Mr. Smith, Mr. Bryson, Ms. Hale, Ms. Triem, Waahlaal Giidaak, Ms. Woll, Ms. Gladziszewski, Mayor Weldon

Nay: Ms. Hughes-Skandijs

Amendment #5 passed 8 yeas: 1 nays

MOTION by Mayor Weldon to forward Ordinance 2023-20, as amended, back to the Assembly for public hearing. Hearing no objection, Ordinance 2023-20, as amended, was referred back to the Assembly for public hearing.

4. Animal Control/Sheltering

Mr. Barr talked about the services Juneau Animal Rescue (JAR) provides to the community on behalf of CBJ under Title 8. JAR provides enforcement, licensing of dogs, impoundment and disposition, rabies control, quarantine services, and care for stray animals. He said it is one of CBJ's larger contracts.

Mr. Barr asked the Assembly for direction for renegotiating the contract, specifically around cost recovery. JAR recovers about 7.5% of their operating costs, primarily from licensing fees. Other CBJ programs recover between 20-70% of their cost. Mr. Barr provided options including raising licensing fees on dogs, adding new licensing fees for cats, and/or creating new incentives or disincentives to increase licensing compliance.

The Assembly discussed various options. The Assembly provided direction to explore licensing for cats, creating a new puppy license, incentives for licensing compliance, and raising rates slightly.

5. 2023 State of the Visitor Industry

Tourism Manager Alix Pierce and City Manager Rorie Watt presented about tourism in Juneau in 2023 and answered questions from the Assembly. Ms. Pierce said that as the market gets more crowded cruise ship itineraries will change, but that Juneau remains a highly desirable port of call. She said they are working on the "best ship at best dock" concept, which includes normalizing dockage fees and having an expanded role in scheduling. Mr. Watt said that Juneau's best outcome is to work with the cruise industry to advance local goals instead of using highly disruptive levers like closing a city owned dock. Ms. Pierce highlighted that shoreside activities are mostly locally owned and provide local economic activity.

MOTION by Mayor Weldon to draft an appropriation ordinance for \$120,000 of marine passenger fees to fund a public process around commercial use throughout the borough.

Hearing no objection, the motion passed by unanimous consent.

MOTION by Mayor Weldon to draft an appropriation ordinance for up to \$80,000 of marine passenger fees the Juneau Trails Plan.

Ms. Hale asked if the trail plan funding would include unimproved roads. Mr. Watt answered yes.

Hearing no objection, the motion passed by unanimous consent.

6. New City Hall

Ms. Koester asked the Assembly for direction about New City Hall. Voters did not pass a New City Hall in 2022, but since then multiple changes have occurred, including Walmart no longer being vacant, Sealaska Heritage Institute

purchasing the Municipal Way Building which houses 34 CBJ employees, and further deterioration of the Marine View Building which houses 51 employees. Ms. Koester said she is not asking the Assembly to decide tonight about putting it back on the ballot, but to consider other factors like changing the location, design or bond request.

The Assembly asked questions of Ms. Koester and Mr. Watt. The Assembly gave direction for a study about repurposing already existing buildings for New City Hall, to look at a lower bond request, and to create a public education component.

G. NEW BUSINESS – None.

H. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.

I. STAFF REPORTS – None.

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

K. NEXT MEETING DATE - April 24, 2023; 6:00p.m.

L. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

- 7. Supplemental Material - Ord. 2023-20 Systemic Racism Review Committee - Michelle Hale Substitute Amendment #2**

M. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Assembly, the meeting adjourned at 8:52pm.