ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE WORKSESSION MINUTES

January 26, 2023 at 5:00 PM

Assembly Chambers/Zoom Webinar

A. CALL TO ORDER

Deputy Mayor Gladziszewski called the meeting to order at 5:00p.m. in the Assembly Chambers.

B. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Ms. Hale provided the following land acknowledgement: We would like to acknowledge that the City and Borough of Juneau is on 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!*

C. ROLL CALL

Assemblymembers present: Mayor Beth Weldon, Deputy Mayor Maria Gladziszewski, Greg Smith (Zoom), Michelle Hale, ‘Wáahlaal Gíidaak, Carole Triem, and Alicia Hughes-Skandijs

Assemblymembers absent: Wade Bryson and Christine Woll

Staff present: City Manager Rorie Watt, Deputy City Manager Robert Barr, City Attorney Robert Palmer, Assistant City Attorney Sherri Layne, Municipal Clerk Beth McEwen, Engineering/Public Works Director Katie Koester, Port Director Carl Uchytil, Harbormaster Matt Creswell, Police Chief Ed Mercer, Deputy Chief David Campbell, Bartlett Regional Hospital (BRH) Chief Executive Office David Keith, and Federal Lobbyist Katie Kachel

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

E. AGENDA TOPICS

1. Federal Funding Issues Update

Ms. Kachel, CBJ’s federal lobbyist, gave an update about the work they’ve done in the last year and what they are going to work on in the future. This includes working with the federal delegation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) regarding the subport property; looking for Icebreaker funding in the FY24 Omnibus bill; looking at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill to change a law to allow the use of Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding; and working on the Assembly priorities for Congressionally Directed Spending.

Mayor Weldon asked for clarification about the FAA reauthorization bill. Ms. Kachel noted that a federal law needs to be changed; she said that there is currently a federal allocation of airport improvement funds that goes to the Juneau Airport, but it is not allowed to be used on FAA facilities.

Ms. Koester gave an update on Congressionally Directed Spending that has already been secured. She said there is $7 million dollars for an Environmental Permitting Study for the

Juneau-North Douglas Crossing and that they are pursuing a Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant to finish the permitting study and start the design phase. Ms. Koester said there is also $2.5 million for a municipal composting facility; she said they have not done much planning yet on the facility but are working with local experts. Ms. Koester said they are also applying for an additional grant to expand the municipal composting site, to allow for greater waste diversion.

Mr. Smith asked about local businesses coordinating for the composting project. Ms. Koester answered that the municipal composting facility will focus on large scale operations, specifically targeting commercial producers of organic waste. She said with over 5000 tons of organic matter going to the landfill each year there is an unmet need. Ms. Koester said they will pursue a public-private partnership, similar to how Household Hazardous Waste is managed; the goal is not to have a composting division of CBJ but to provide a public facility for a private company to run a needed program for the community.

Mayor Weldon wanted the general public to know that this facility will not be open to individuals but is for big commercial food waste such as restaurants and grocery stores.

Ms. Koester then talked about potential future Congressionally Directed Spending, and highlighted some of the capital priorities that she thought would be good candidates:

- Juneau Police Department radio system replacement
- Mendenhall Waste Water Treatement Plant (WWTP) for Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) removal
- Lemon Creek Multimodal path; they are pursuing other grants for this project as well
- Capital Civic Center

Ms. Koester provided an update on the Capital Civic Center. She said that since the Assembly appropriated $2 million to help scale down the initial design, they are now on the 6th draft of plans.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs asked at what design state these plans are, and how accurately do they reflect the cost to build. Ms. Koester said these plans are in the conceptual phase, so they do not provide a degree of certainty about the final build cost. The current cost estimate of the project is about $75 million.

Ms. Koester invited Susan Bell, with the McKinley Research Group, to give an overview of the economic analysis of the Capital Civic Center. Ms. Bell said the study was completed in August 2022. One key finding was that Juneau needs to upgrade facilities to stay competitive in the conference market. Ms. Bell's report projected modest growth in usage and spending in Juneau for large conferences and events, and estimated an additional $7 million a year in spending by year 5 of the new facility.

Mayor Weldon asked where that additional $7 million a year would go. Ms. Bell answered that some of that spending would be at the facility, but a significant portion would be in the community for hotels, transportation, restaurants, catering, florists, and other event planning specialties.

Mayor Weldon asked if reserving local funds would help secure congressional funding. Ms. Kachel said having dedicated funds shows local commitment and support and brings projects to

a level of readiness that lowers risk for the federal government. She said that Congressionally Directed Spending generally funds projects in the $1-5 million range.

Mayor Weldon asked about potential earmarks from Representative Peltola. Ms. Kachel said they are working with Representative Peltola, as she and her staff are new.

2. Legislative Capital Priorities (see supplemental materials also)

Ms. Gladziszewski asked if any members wished to make any changes to the prioritization of Legislative Capital Priorities.

MOTION by Ms. Hughes-Skandijs to move the Juneau-North Douglas Crossing to rank #2 on the priority list. *Hearing no objection, the motion passed by unanimous consent.*

Mayor Weldon asked about discussing BRH's request to add the Aurora Behavioral Health Center project for $4 million dollars to the Legislative Capital Priorities list.

'Wáahlaal Gíidaak, asked if there is anything preventing them from having a more robust discussion and adding it later. Mr. Watt answered that the discussion should happen now.

Ms. Hale said she was in support of the request as BRH supports the entire Southeast Alaska region, not just Juneau.

Ms. Hughes-Skandijs asked why this project was coming so late in the process. Mr. Watt said that BRH has been going through some transitions and that it does not diminish the fact that this is a good project with community need.

MOTION by Mayor Weldon to add the Bartlett Aurora Behavioral Health Center as number 23 on the Legislative Priorities List. She said that it is a good project and much needed in the community, but she could not rank it in front of anything else because of how late in the process it was added.

Ms. Triem said that the hospital board met on Tuesday and that the request has already been made to the State. She supports the project and the Mayor's motion, and echoed her frustration with the process.

Hearing no objection, the Bartlett Aurora Behavioral Health Center was added to the list as priority #23.

MOTION by Mayor Weldon to move the FY24 Legislative Capital Priorities, as amended to the Assembly for action. *Hearing no objection, the motion passed by unanimous consent.*

Mayor Weldon asked if the Capital Civic Center design shared tonight was ready to move forward for more funding. Ms. Koester said that they need approval from the Assembly that these plans are sufficient to bring forward and advocate for.

MOTION by Mayor Weldon for the Assembly to support the latest concept for the Capital Civic Center as it seeks state and federal funding. *Hearing no objection, the motion passed by unanimous consent.*

F. STAFF REPORTS

None.

G. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

3. 2023-01-25 Legislative Priorities FY24-DRAFT
4. Bartlett Regional Hospital FY24 Legislative Capital Budget Request - Bartlett Aurora Behavioral Health Center (to be distributed at the meeting)

H. NEXT MEETING DATE: February 13, 2023, 6:00p.m.

I. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the body, the meeting was adjourned at 5:48p.m.