

THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Meeting Minutes - January 14, 2015

The Assembly Retreat of the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly, held in the Assembly Chambers of the Municipal Building, was called to order at Noon by Mayor Merrill Sanford.

I. ROLL CALL

Assembly Present: Mary Becker, Karen Crane, Maria Gladziszewski, Loren Jones, Jesse Kiehl, Jerry Nankervis, Merrill Sanford, Kate Troll and Debbie White.

Assembly Absent: None.

Staff Present: Kim Kiefer, City Manager; Rob Steedle, Deputy City Manager; Amy Mead, Municipal Attorney; Laurie Sica, Municipal Clerk; Beth McEwen, Deputy Clerk; Di Cathcart, Executive Assistant III; Hal Hart, Community Development Director; Bryce Johnson, Police Chief; Rich Etheridge, Fire Chief; Rorie Watt, Engineering/Public Works Director; Kirk Duncan, Parks and Recreation Director; Bob Bartholomew, Finance Director; Greg Chaney, Lands and Resources Manager; Mila Cosgrove, HRRM Director; Dan Bleidorn, Deputy Lands Manager; Patti DeLaBruere, Airport Manager.

II. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

A. Assembly Goals

Mr. Jones recapped the activity of the Treadwell Ice Arena Task Force and presented the report. He said the task force determined the Assembly should appoint a Treadwell Ice Arena Advisory Board that includes a liaison from the Parks and Rec Advisory Committee, that it should report to the Assembly by May, 2016 regarding a list of tasks and metrics. Reading through the Parks and Recreation Department Report, it mentions some of the tasks that are needed to be done. He recommended that Assembly work with law on a resolution to establish the board and determine board qualifications and duties.

MOTION, by Jones, to accept the report. Hearing no objection, it was so ordered.

The Assembly discussed the makeup of such an advisory board, its role, the lines of communication and reporting. Mayor Sanford said this issue would be before the Assembly on January 26 at the COW meeting. Ms. Kiefer said she would not be able to attend the meeting but would put a memo in that packet with questions she has for the Assembly to discuss.

MOTION, by Jones, to dissolve the task force. Hearing no objection, so ordered.

Mayor Sanford directed staff to draft a thank you letter to the participants on the task force.

Mayor Sanford outlined a schedule for major issues coming before the Assembly:

NOAA Task Force Report - Jan 26 Committee of the Whole

Treadwell Ice Arena Task Force Report - Jan 26 Committee of the Whole

Economic Development Plan - Assembly Introduction on February 2, Assembly Public Hearing and adoption on February 23.

Aquatics Empowered Board Plan - February 9 Committee of the Whole

Tax Exemption Review Committee Recommendations - February 11 Special Finance Committee at 5:30 pm

Auke Bay Plan - March 2 Committee of the Whole

Subdivision Ordinance Review - March 2 Committee of the Whole (tentative)

The Assembly discussed Ordinance 2014-51(b) which was referred to the Human Resources Committee. Mr. Jones said he scheduled it for the HRC on February 2, to start at 5:30 p.m. The Assembly discussed placement on the Assembly agenda and decided to place it on the Assembly agenda for February 2, and if there were significant changes, it could be moved forward at that point to a future meeting.

Goals Discussion:

Mayor Sanford said this discussion would be informal. He said the information in the packet was a draft. The goals from the previous year were outlined, and goals from previous years were broken down to one year, 2 - 5 year and ongoing time frames. There is also a list of completed goals. There were also two goals removed from action. The Assembly agreed to delete the two goals, "increase sustainability fund" and "explore circuit breaker option."

The Assembly reviewed the completed goals. The Assembly moved "Decide North Douglas density and zoning in light of sewer extensions" from completed goals to 2-5 year goals. The Assembly appreciated having a list of completed tasks and Ms. Kiefer said a new list of completed tasks could be started for 2015.

The Assembly reviewed ongoing goals. Mayor Sanford explained that any of the ongoing goals could move into active status in one of the time period categories. The list was an acknowledgement of previous Assembly's goals.

Mayor Sanford asked for new goals, which were outlined on the white board and recorded for prioritization. After refining the list, the Assembly members each ranked their top priorities, and added the following items to the "One Year by December 2015" list:

- 1) Promote Housing Availability and Affordability
- 2) Childcare
- 3) Downtown Revitalization Action Strategy (Including Gastineau Apartments)
- 4) Biosolids
- 5) West Douglas Road Extension
- 6) Marijuana Initiative Implementation
- 7) Transit Improvements / Decisions

The following goals were added to the 2-5 year category:

Lemon Creek Area Plan
Communications with the Public
Expanding Juneau's position as a research center
Asset Management
Technology - website update / online payments/etc.
Fireworks Noise

The Assembly discussed consultants and planning contracts and their interest in getting an update on outstanding and ongoing projects, such as the housing action plan, economic development

plan, etc.

Ms. Kiefer suggested she provide a report on departmental improvements that have been brought forward by department directors in lieu of going forward with additional 3rd party reviews of individual departments. Mayor Sanford spoke about the benefit of an independent 3rd party review.

In response to discussion by the Assembly on its goal to adopt a sustainable budget, Mr. Bartholomew explained the budget shortfall and said that in past, non-sustainable portions of budget were used to balance budget - those pieces were shrinking and the real and sales tax were flattening. He said non-sustainable funds should not be used to balance the budget the manager provided to the Assembly. The Assembly should weigh in on use of the non-sustainable funds. Juneau was a financially stable community with reserves. This change brought awareness to the need for changes. Finance staff was getting an excel based tool to use to create budget scenarios, which would be helpful to determine sustainability. If the entire economy was effected by oil prices, those were difficult to predict. We have to have a plan to balance the budget without things like federal PILT money, fund balance, etc. The Assembly discussed reductions in CIP which also lead to increased deferred maintenance costs.

The Assembly discussed how to proceed with the marijuana initiative implementation. There being no objection, a task force would be created to include four Assemblymembers and 3 Planning Commissioners to begin review. Assemblymembers included Jesse Kiehl, Chair, Mary Becker, Debbie White and Maria Gladziszewski.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

IV. ASSEMBLY COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

None.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Assembly, the meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Signed: _____
Laurie Sica, Municipal Clerk

Signed: _____
Merrill Sanford, Mayor