

**ASSEMBLY STANDING COMMITTEE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA
MINUTES**

June 23 2014, 6:00 PM.
Municipal Building - Assembly Chambers

Assembly Work Session

I. ROLL CALL

Deputy Mayor Mary Becker called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Assembly Chambers.

Assemblymembers Present: Mary Becker, Karen Crane, Loren Jones, Jesse Kiehl, Jerry Nankervis (teleconference), Merrill Sanford, Carlton Smith, and Randy Wanamaker.

Assemblymembers Absent: Kate Troll.

Staff present: Kim Kiefer, City Manager; Rob Steedle, Deputy City Manager; Laurie Sica, Municipal Clerk; Robert Barr, Library Director.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Hearing no objection, the agenda was approved as presented.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 16, 2014 Assembly Committee of the Whole Draft Minutes

Hearing no objection, the minutes of the June 16, 2014 Committee of the Whole meeting were approved with minor corrections.

IV. AGENDA TOPICS

A. Juneau Economic Development Plan Update

Jim Calvin, Barbara Sheinberg, Kristin Shelton were present to discuss the project.

Mr. Calvin presented a power point presentation and said work to date included the economic baseline study findings (included in the packet), preliminary business survey results, the household telephone survey (in the packet), and he would discuss the next steps. The team held a well attended town meeting, made 25 presentations with community groups, and was maintaining a website, a facebook page, had an email contact list, and met with the juniors and seniors in both high schools. In addition to the phone surveys, there were on line surveys with 563 responses from households and 198 responses from businesses.

Mr. Calvin highlighted some statistics from the economic baseline study regarding income, employment, unemployment and changes in those. Mayor Sanford was interested in hearing conclusions drawn regarding what could account for increased seasonal employment. Ms. Becker asked for information on the loss of 30 state jobs and Mr. Calvin said state employment was growing statewide but not in Juneau, and those jobs could be retirements and non-filling of positions. Mr. Jones asked about non-resident workforce. Mr. Calvin said that out of necessity, local seasonal businesses need to find a sufficient labor pool.

Mr. Calvin reported on preliminary business survey results. Housing was seen as the single most important challenge facing Juneau's economy over the next 5 years, followed by diversification, cost of living, CBJ spending/deficit, attracting labor, declining oil revenues and aging population, among

others. Affordable housing was the highest factor rated as a barrier to potential economic development, followed by cost of living, state oil revenue, cost of transportation, residential land and commercial land development and child care services, among others, including CBJ regulations, policies and practices. Important economic development strategies included preserving Juneau as the capital (ranked highest), then supporting existing businesses, expanding seafood industry, expanding university and vocational education, among others. He reported on a question asked about the view of local government related to the business climate and they are still deciphering the data, however, Juneau ranked fairly positively.

Mr. Calvin reported on some highlights from the Household Survey. High costs of living, housing costs, wages, unemployment, medical and childcare were all barriers to economic development noted by householders. Housing was the message on people's mind and again, households felt the most important strategy for economic development was to preserve Juneau as the Capital City. Mr. Jones asked if the responses to the survey were from suggestions provided by the surveyors and Mr. Calvin said yes. The Assembly asked about measures of success as more year round jobs ranked the highest as a measure, and how that related to overcoming the barrier of lack of affordable housing.

Mr. Calvin said the six next steps of the plan were to prepare a business survey report, summarize on-line household survey results, meet with the assembly to answer questions and hold a work session in late July to review the outline for the plan, review a draft vision, goals, and focus areas for the plan and lining out next steps, identifying and evaluating specific strategies (return on investment), town meetings in the fall, and development of the draft plan. The planners will review the draft plan with the Assembly in November.

Ms. Crane asked how information from meeting with interest groups would be incorporated into the plan. Mr. Calvin said once they had some direction from the Assembly on the next steps, they would reengage with the groups to flesh out the strategies for development with specifics. Mr. Jones asked about an analysis of cost of living in Juneau with a variety of towns outside of Alaska. He asked about adjusted cost of living and unadjusted cost of living statistics. Mr. Calvin said Juneau had both higher income and higher cost of living - basically, Juneau was on par with several communities in the lower 48. They spoke about inflation and factors of which came first, higher wages or higher cost of living.

Mr. Smith said he was concerned with a baseline of understanding and awareness on the part of the public.

Flash drives with more information were distributed to the Assembly, and the website would be updated the next day

B. NCADD Presentation on e-Cigarettes

Ordinance 2014-34 An Ordinance Amending the Second-hand Smoke Control Code to Regulate the Use of Electronic Cigarette Vapor.

Kristin Cox, representing the National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence, explained the anatomy of e-cigarettes and their components. She showed the various generations of devices. Many who use e-cigarettes do not believe they are smoking, they are "vaping." She explained the tank systems, which are refillable, are customizable with "e-juice" and she explained what was in e-juice. Safety had not been assessed for a major ingredient, propylene glycol, and e-juice was unregulated. She said the e-juice could be mixed at vape shops by any employee. Liquid nicotine cartridges were highly toxic. The tank devices could also be used to smoke whole herb or tobacco and some looked like glasses or lipstick cases. People were using these devices indoors and in schools.

Ms. Cox spoke about the effects of second-hand aerosol and the toxicity. The argument for the devices was smoking cessation but the industry did not have the e-cigarettes reviewed as such. After a year, 90% of smokers were still using both regular and e-cigarettes. There were other Food and Drug Administration (FDA) cessation tools that were regulated and approved. Harms included its use

as an initiation tool for nicotine addiction and tobacco use in youth, re-normalizing smoking in public, and exposure to second hand aerosol. She spoke about statistics related to youth use and youth were being targeted by e-cigarette marketing. Middle school students believed these devices were harmless. e-cigarettes could be advertised on television and various flavors in the e-juice were attractive to youth.

Ms. Cox said e-cigarettes should be subject to all laws and regulations that govern tobacco products and she understood CBJ had a proposed ordinance to include them in the clean air ordinance. She said her goal was a tobacco free generation and the tobacco industry was in direct competition with her goal.

Mr. Smith asked how this message would be disseminated. She said this presentation was a start and the public opinion was that e-cigarettes produced harmless water vapor. If CBJ included e-cigarettes in its ordinances regarding the prohibition of smoking that would send a message.

Mr. Sanford asked about studies to show that these were harmful. Ms. Cox said there were already results, but the products were changing so fast and the rate of innovation was exploding, that it was very difficult to get ahead of the issue.

Ms. Becker asked about the cost of the e-cigarettes. Ms. Cox said people used them because they were new, high tech, and thought they were safer. They were likely cheaper because they were refillable, which was problematic for deterring use. Youth were sensitive to price and they could be bought on line. SEARHC and the school district had prohibited e-cigarette use in their policies.

Mr. Jones asked if the prohibition on e-cigarette use would include every location that the clean air ordinance was in effect. Would it include Bartlett Campus, as a separate ordinance was required to do that before? Ms. Kiefer said she would need to look at Bartlett's policy and if they referred to the ordinance in their policy.

Mr. Jones asked if there was any way these fell under the tobacco tax either local or state. Ms. Cox said e-cigarettes did not fall under any tax at this time - it was difficult because there were different components to the product. Communities were interested in taxing these products but had not figured out how to do so yet. Taxes deterred users due to increased prices.

Mr. Kiehl suggested on line 19, regarding heating a liquid nicotine solution, the units now all heated the liquid, but the problem being chased was not the heat, but the mist or vapor. He suggested a language change to a unit that produced vapor. Ms. Cox said she had some model language and she would provide that to the Assembly, and hoped that would be inclusive.

Ms. Kiefer said this ordinance was introduced on June 9 and was set for public hearing on June 30.

C. Ordinance 2014-37 An Ordinance Amending the Election Code.

Ms. Sica explained that the ordinance made three substantive changes. One was the ability to provide ballots to voters prior to 15 days before the election as outlined in the current code, in order to facilitate voting for a few cases in which voters requested ballots because they were leaving town, but had no set address or fax number to which to issue the ballots, and at the same time the ballots were available in the Clerks office as they had arrived from the printer prior to 15 days before the election. Ms. Sica said she did not see this as increasing turnout significantly, but would facilitate voting for a few voters that had previously been unable to vote. Mr. Kiehl and Mr. Jones were concerned that the language should reflect that in all methods of absentee voting, there would not be a period of less than 15 days prior to the election for the ballots to be available to the voters.

A second change was moving the date for withdrawing from the ballot to 46 days, rather than 40 days prior to the election. Ms. Sica said that in many elections the ballot measures were completed and the only thing to prevent the ballot from being sent to the printer was waiting for the candidate withdrawal date. This would change the withdrawal date to the Friday immediately following the final

closing of the filing period on a Monday, or four days to consider a withdrawal, rather than ten. Mr. Kiehl asked if there had been problems receiving the ballots in a timely manner and Ms. Sica said no, the printer was very reliable, it would just provide a little more leeway. Several Assemblymembers felt that this period of time may be too short, and if the candidate profile was due on the day of withdrawal, that was not enough time to submit the profile.

The third substantive change was the new section allowing candidates to submit a candidate profile to be posted to the CBJ website. Ms. Sica said that the League of Women Voters and the Juneau Empire had published a voters guide in the past, but there was no guarantee that this would always happen and often the guide came out after voting had started. The optional candidate profile would provide voters with information on the candidates in a uniform format. She referred to a memo in the packet and asked to make an amendment to the ordinance in a version b, that would remove the language regarding partisanship from the non-partisan CBJ election. She said she had originally copied the language from state statute that referred to the state voter pamphlet and had missed deleting those sections. No objection was expressed regarding this matter. There was interest in providing additional time to allow candidates to file the candidate profile. A different deadline would be recommended in a version b.

V. COMMITTEE MEMBER / LIAISON COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS

None.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by Laurie Sica, Municipal Clerk