

SPECIAL ASSEMBLY MEETING 2024-18

DRAFT MINUTES

August 05, 2024 at 6:00 PM



Assembly Chambers/Zoom Webinar

<https://juneau.zoom.us/j/95424544691> or 1-253-215-8782 Webinar ID: 954 2454 4691

Immediately followed by Assembly Committee of the Whole Worksession

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Weldon called the Special Assembly Meeting to order at 6:03p.m. in the Assembly Chambers located at 155 Heritage Way.

B. ROLL CALL

Assemblymembers present: Mayor Beth Weldon, Deputy Mayor Michelle Hale, Wade Bryson, Alicia Hughes-Skandijs, Greg Smith, Paul Kelly, Ella Adkison

Assemblymembers absent: 'Wáahlaal Gidaag, Christine Woll

Staff Present: City Manager Katie Koester, City Attorney Robert Palmer, Municipal Clerk Beth McEwen, Lands Manager Dan Bleidorn, Eng/PW Director Denise Koch, Meeting Clerk/Tech Support Kevin Allen, and via Zoom: Deputy Manager Robert Barr, Parks & Recreation Director George Schaaf, Assistant Attorney Emily Wright, Assistant Attorney Sherri Layne, Assistant Attorney Nicole Lynch, CDD Planner Irene Gallion

C. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Alicia Hughes-Skandijs provided the following Land Acknowledgement: We would like to acknowledge that the City & Borough of Juneau is on unceded lands of the Tlingit people, 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!

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. July 25, 2024 Special Assembly Meeting #2024-16 DRAFT Minutes

MOTION by Deputy Mayor Hale to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2024 Special Assembly meeting and asked for unanimous consent. *Hearing no objection, the July 25, 2024 minutes were approved.*

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS *(Limited to no more than 20 minutes, with each speaker limited to a length of time set by the Mayor not to exceed three minutes.)*

None.

F. AGENDA TOPICS

2. New City Attorney Appointment

Mayor Weldon noted that City Attorney Palmer reminded her that while the Assembly has had executive session on this topic, they have not brought anything back to the public in open session. As such, they will discuss it tonight and talk about a few minor changes needing to be made to the contract but they will not be taking action on the appointment until a Special Assembly meeting being held on Wednesday, August 7 just prior to the Assembly Finance Committee meeting.

Mayor Weldon announced that the Assembly is pleased to announce they will be hiring Emily Wright as the next City Attorney. Her start date will be August 26, 2024 and her annual salary will be \$188,000. She noted that along with that, they have prepared an offer letter and there have been some conversations back and forth and Mayor Weldon noted that the main changes was to include the following:

- Each party (Assembly and City Attorney) will be required to provide a 90 day notice of termination.
- Ms. Wright has asked that her leave accrual be adjusted from the current 8.3 hours to 11.1 hours per pay period.
- The Assembly has requested that she grow in place so she has requested that the Assembly pay for two annual trainings for the first and second year and after that, the Assembly will pay for one annual training or conference each year following the second year.

Mayor Weldon asked if all Assemblymembers were in agreement with those modifications to the initial terms provided and they indicated that they were in agreement. She noted that the final version of the contract terms will be brought forward to the Special Assembly meeting on Wednesday, August 7 for action.

Mayor Weldon noted that this was a tough decision to make as the candidates were neck to neck and she shared the appreciation of the Assembly with the all the applicants, particularly Megan Costello and Becky Convery, as well as the Assembly's City Attorney Search Committee Chair Christine Woll and members Michelle Hale, Wade Bryson and Ella Adkison. She extended a huge thanks to HRRM Director Dallas Hargrave who did the lion's share of the work.

3. Ordinance for Introduction

Ordinance 2024-32 An Ordinance Establishing a Waiver Process for Airport Board Appointments and Temporarily Waiving the Three Tenant Rule.

This ordinance establishes a process to waive the "Three Tenant Rule" for appointments to the Airport Board in Juneau. The "Three Tenant Rule" limits the number of Airport Board members who can be tenants to three. The ordinance allows the Assembly to temporarily waive this rule to appoint a fourth tenant if necessary, due to low community interest in the position and the need to avoid prolonged vacancies that can strain the board and harm airport governance. The ordinance includes provisions to prevent conflicts of interests and requires the Airport Board to notify the Assembly if tenant conflicts reduce the board's majority vote.

The City Manager recommends the Assembly introduce this ordinance and set it for public hearing at the next regular Assembly meeting.

MOTION by Ms. Hale to introduce Ordinance 2024-32 and set it for public hearing at the next regular Assembly meeting and asked for unanimous consent. *Hearing no objection, the motion passed by unanimous consent.*

G. SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

H. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Assembly, the meeting was adjourned at 6:09p.m.

Signed: _____
Elizabeth J. McEwen
Municipal Clerk

Signed: _____
Beth A. Weldon
Mayor