

Presented by: The Manager
Presented: 3/26/2020
Drafted by: R. Palmer III

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA

Serial No. 2887(am)

A Resolution Repealing Resolution 2883(am) and Temporarily Amending Resolution 2862 Related to the Assembly Rules of Procedure and COVID-19.

WHEREAS, COVID-19 or coronavirus is a contagious virus that has actively spread across the world, including in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, Alaska Health Mandate 9 (Issued March 23, 2020) prohibits gatherings of more than ten people and requires people to stay six feet apart; and

WHEREAS, the boards, commissions, and committees of the City and Borough of Juneau normally host multiple public meetings a week; and

WHEREAS, consistent with Resolution 2686 Rule 9, the Assembly Rules of Procedure govern the Assembly's advisory boards, commissions, and committees; and

WHEREAS, upon balancing the health risks of COVID-19 and transparent government principles, the Assembly finds it necessary to temporarily change how City and Borough of Juneau public meetings are conducted; and

WHEREAS, public comment opportunities still exist at public meetings, and members of the public are encouraged to submit comments in writing, like by emailing BoroughAssembly@juneau.org or by filling out the online Assembly Contact Form, <https://beta.juneau.org/assembly/assembly-contact-form>; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 2862 Rule 16.N defines telephone or telephonic as “any system of synchronous two-way voice communication,” which could include traditional telephones and internet-based internet audio or video applications.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE CITY AND BOROUGH OF JUNEAU, ALASKA:

Section 1. Repeal of Resolution 2883(am). Resolution 2883(am) is repealed.

Section 2. Telephonic Participation. Rule 16(A-C) of Resolution 2862 is amended as follows:

- A. Up to nine members may participate via telephone in an Assembly meeting or an Assembly Committee meeting.
- B. Reserved.
- C. Reserved.

Section 3. COVID-19 Public Meeting Prevention and Mitigation. Resolution 2862 is amended by adding a new Rule 18 as follows:

Rule 18. COVID-19 Public Meeting Prevention and Mitigation.

- A. Public seating area.** Consistent with Alaska Health Mandate 9 (Issued March 23, 2020) unless amended, no more than 10 people are allowed in the meeting area. Critical staff should participate remotely if possible. Members of the public are also encouraged to participate remotely and submit comments in writing.
- B. Alternative public broadcasting.** This provision applies to public meetings of the City and Borough of Juneau Assembly and its committees, boards, and commissions. In addition to regular Assembly meeting broadcasts, meetings with substantial public interest should be live broadcast in a manner that is reasonably calculated to provide meaningful public observance of the public meeting. The chair of a committee, board, or commission has discretion, unless overruled by majority vote, if and how a meeting should be broadcast. Broadcast can include but is not limited to video conferencing, conference call, listen only conference call, and radio broadcasting.
- C. Essential agenda items only.** The committees, boards, and commissions of the City and Borough of Juneau shall only hold meetings for essential agenda items. Non-essential agenda items must be delayed. Essential items can include time sensitive permit decisions, legislation, appropriation matters, continuity of operation matters, and public health matters. The chair of a committee, board, or commission has discretion to determine if a potential agenda item is essential or non-essential. An agenda with an item the chair proposes to be non-essential shall be publicly posted a reasonable time prior to the meeting. A majority of the members of the body may call the proposed non-essential item for consideration at the meeting within 24 hours of agenda posting. Non-essential public meetings must be canceled. Public meetings with essential items in which public comment is required should allow for public comment by telephone. Meeting agendas should be evaluated one month at a time. The Manager shall prioritize the use of room space and availability of technology to allow prioritized scheduling for the Boards and Commissions.

Section 4. Sunset Provision. This resolution shall automatically expire and no longer have effect after November 24, 2020.

Section 5. Effective Date. This resolution shall be effective immediately after its adoption.

Adopted this 26th day of March, 2020.



Beth A. Weldon, Mayor

Attest:



Elizabeth J. McEwen, Municipal Clerk