

# MONTHLY UPDATE

*Current news and updates from the Anchorage Assembly*

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## **1st Quarter Budget Revisions**

In April, the Assembly traditionally takes up the first quarter budget revisions, which is the process to true up the budget, make any needed adjustments, and set the mill levy which sets property taxes. The General Government mill levy was raised by \$9 / \$100,000 of assessed value. The Anchorage School District mill levy was raised by \$52 / \$100,000 of assessed value. It is important to note that \$48 of the \$52 increase in the ASD mill levy is due to the Governor's veto of school bond debt reimbursement.

## **Assembly Approves Home for Good Contract**

The Assembly approved a \$300,000 sole-source contract with UnitedWay to continue the pilot Home for Good/Pay for Success program through December of 2020. The original pilot enrolled 22 individuals in permanent supportive housing. With the approval of this contract, there is a new goal of 40 individuals enrolled in the program and put into permanent supportive housing. In total, 150 permanent supportive housing units will be brought online for those who qualify for this program. Home for Good/Pay for Success is an outcome-based program through which the Municipality would pay back private investors based on the success of agreed-upon outcomes.

## **Anchorage Answers Census**

As of April 30, the Anchorage self-response rate for the 2020 Census is 53.3%. You can take the 2020 Census online, over the phone or by paper. For more information visit: [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov)

# April 28 Meeting Recap

In addition to the first quarter budget revisions, and the approval of the contract with United Way, the Assembly passed several other items.

## Assembly Agenda Update

Two ordinances put forward by Assembly Member Austin Quinn-Davidson, **AOs 2020-29** and **2020-30(S)**, were approved by the Assembly with some amendments. These ordinances change the Assembly agenda and how we handle certain appropriations. These changes include:

- Adding a second public participation opportunity at the beginning of the agenda,
- Adding a Native Land Acknowledgement at every meeting alongside the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Adding a section titled “Appropriation Items” which identifies appropriations that are not set for public hearing.
- Adding a “Quasi-Judicial” section which identifies items where the Assembly steps out of its legislative role and into a quasi-judicial role.
- Requiring a two-thirds vote for the Assembly to take up any laid-on-the-table items, which are items that the Assembly receives between Saturday and the day of the Tuesday meeting. This will allow the public more time to engage on these issues

The second ordinance made several changes to how the Assembly handles certain appropriations. In short, appropriations up to \$500,000, items included in the already-approved budget, and categorical grants or donations all no longer require a public hearing. Rather, an Assembly member could pull those items from our consent agenda and ask for a public hearing, which would require a second and a third.

## Deteriorated Properties

The Assembly approved AO 2020-47, which designated three lots in downtown Anchorage currently owned by Peach Investments as deteriorated properties. This designation allows for Peach Investment to apply for tax incentives on these three lots. Peach Investments owns four adjacent lots, including the Fourth Avenue Theatre, which are currently designated as deteriorated properties and are therefore eligible for tax incentives.

**Questions? Email all of the Assembly Members at [wwmas@muni.org](mailto:wwmas@muni.org)**

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# Upcoming Items

## COVID-19 Funding Request

The administration has put forward EO 2020-4, which is a request for additional financial resources of \$10M to address the Municipality's COVID-19 response.

In March, the Assembly approved \$3M in spending. If approved, the total allowed spending would total \$13M, which is expected to last through May.

The administration has already spent or encumbered approximately \$10M. Expenses are reported to the Assembly every 15 days and are available to the public.

## Bag Ban Fee

Assembly Members Crystal Kennedy, Jamie Allard, and Meg Zaletel have put forward an ordinance, AO 2020-40, to enact a sunset date for the requirement to charge a \$0.10 fee for providing an alternative bag, like a paper bag. The proposed sunset date is June 5, 2020. This item is up for public hearing on May 19.

## Land Swap

The administration has put forward AO 2020-36, which authorizes a non-competitive property exchange between the Heritage Land Bank and the Alaskan Sled Dog and Racing Association (ASDRA). The ASDRA land in question is commonly known as the Tozier Track and is home of the Tour of Anchorage trail. An amendment was put forward by several Assembly members to ensure protection and public access of the trail. This item is up for public hearing on May 5.

## Emergency Powers

The administration put forward AO 2020-21 in February, which was meant to ensure that emergency powers can be exercised in the temporary absence or incapacity of the Mayor or other delegated authority. This item has been postponed several times but is back before us on May 5. An amendment was put forward by several Assembly members to ensure that at least three Assembly members are in the line of succession as outlined in the ordinance. No further public testimony will be heard on this item, but members of the public are free to email the Assembly with their thoughts.

# COVID-19 Update

## Emergency Authority

Assembly Members John Weddleton and Suzanne LaFrance have put forward a resolution, AR 2020-154(S), with the intent to submit to the agenda every meeting until the end of the emergency declaration. The resolution allows the Assembly to end or extend the emergency declaration, as well as gives the Assembly the ability to remove or delete any of the emergency orders or individual regulations within those orders. This is not a public hearing item, but members of the public are free to email the Assembly their thoughts.

## Ongoing Updates

For information on the current Municipality's COVID-19 response, as well as the "Easing" phase we are currently in, please visit [this website](#). *If you are struggling with job loss, income loss, or food insecurity, please call 2-1-1 to be connected to available resources that are right for you.*

## Extend Emergency Declaration

On April 14, the Assembly extended the emergency declaration to June 5. On June 2, the Assembly will be deliberating whether to extend the emergency declaration. As of the time of this newsletter, the administration had not proposed a date for a further extension. The Assembly will be receiving a public report outlining the administration's rationale for any proposed extension.

## Can't get enough?

The Clerk's office is a great place to go for the most up to date info on many municipal issues. Follow the Anchorage Municipal Clerk on Facebook:

[facebook.com/ANCMuniClerk/](https://facebook.com/ANCMuniClerk/)

## Who Wore It Best? Which Assembly Member's mask selfie nails COVID chic?

