

PRESS RELEASE



Special Meeting Cancelled as Anchorage Assembly Updates and Continues Thorough Public Process for Deliberation of COVID-19 Relief Dollars

March 24, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The scheduled Special Assembly Meeting this upcoming Thursday, March 25 has been cancelled as we are still waiting for information from the U.S. Treasury Department. As soon as Treasury is able to confirm the dollar amount we will be receiving in local government funding through the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, meetings will be scheduled to get a portion of the money received out into the community as quickly as possible.

The Anchorage Assembly began its thorough public process to determine the allocation of new COVID-19 relief dollars last Friday, March 19.

During that meeting, the Assembly heard from a variety of program partners, the Municipal Administration, and a few businesses and nonprofits to assess the prior CARES Act programs created in 2020.

The Assembly also began its discussion around allocating the expected COVID-19 relief dollars.

You can listen to a recording of this meeting here:

<https://meetings.muni.org/AgendaOnline/Meetings/ViewMeeting?id=4141&doctype=1>

As a reminder, the MOA received \$156 million last year through the CARES Act and a variety of programs were created to assist our community with those dollars, including small business relief, tourism relief, hospitality relief, rent and mortgage relief, and more.

Below is a review of the remainder of the public process. **NOTE:** Dates have changed from the prior press release.

Phase 1: Assess, Review, Public Dialogue, and Initial Allocations

- Friday, March 26, 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., In-Person, Second Worksession and First Town Hall in the Assembly Chambers with meeting Live Streamed on YouTube and GCI Channel 9
 - o 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Worksession to review any new federal guidance, further discussion on initial allocations, and begin discussion to determine allocations of remainder of funds.
 - o 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.: Town Hall style discussion.

- As soon as the Municipal administration hears from the U.S. Treasury Department, we will be able to schedule meetings to 1) introduce and 2) hold a public hearing and vote on a resolution to accept the money and consider an initial allocation.

Phase 2: Plan, Public Dialogue, and Final Allocations

DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON EVOLVING FEDERAL GUIDANCE

- Friday, April 9, 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., In-Person, Third Worksession and Second Town Hall in the Assembly Chambers with meeting Live Streamed on YouTube and GCI Channel 9
 - o 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.: Second meeting to discuss and finalize allocations.
 - o 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.: Town Hall style discussion.
 - o The intent is to have a draft final allocation available for public review some time after this meeting.
- April and May, Individual Assembly Member / District Member Outreach
- Wednesday, May 12, 5 p.m., Regular Assembly Meeting, In-Person, in the Assembly Chambers
 - o Meeting to introduce the resolution or ordinance with final allocations.
- Friday, May 21, 12noon to 1 p.m., In-Person Worksession and Town Hall in the Assembly Chambers with meeting Live Streamed on YouTube and GCI Channel 9
 - o Review of resolution or ordinance with final allocations.
- Tuesday, May 25, 5 p.m., Regular Assembly Meeting, In-Person, in the Assembly Chambers
 - o Public hearing and vote on resolution or ordinance with final allocations.

Individual Assembly Members / District Members are encouraged to organize District or Community Council dialogues in addition to the process outlined above.

###

Contact: Felix Rivera, Assembly Chair
907-764-0841 | felix.rivera@anchorageak.gov