

RESOLUTION NO. 4773, AS AMENDED

**A RESOLUTION STATING THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS
CAPITAL AND LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2017**

WHEREAS, the City is very grateful for the funding provided by the State of Alaska, which has added significantly to the City's ability to provide essential services; and

WHEREAS, many of the services the City provides are centered on protecting the lives and property of the citizens of Fairbanks; preparedness and infrastructure are key in that endeavor; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fairbanks has identified the following capital and legislative priorities; the public had the opportunity to speak to this Resolution at the December 5, 2016 City Council meeting.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAIRBANKS
RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:**

The legislative and capital priorities of the City of Fairbanks are stated on the attached list. In summary, the projects are ranked below:

2017 Legislative Priorities

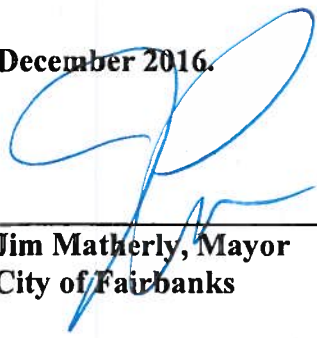
1. Maintaining current PERS contribution rates
2. Preserving municipal revenue sharing
3. Finding new State revenue sources
4. Continued legislative support for Title 47, Chapter 37 programs (Uniform Alcoholism and Intoxication Treatment Act)
5. Affordable energy
6. Medical insurance for surviving spouses
7. Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) System funding
8. Amendment of Title 29 to make the City Council the Board of Adjustment (for property within City boundary)

2017 Capital Priorities

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Emergency Service Patrol funding | \$225,000 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk is directed to forward copies of this Resolution to the Honorable Governor Bill Walker, the Alaska Interior Legislative Delegation, and the Alaska Congressional Delegation.

PASSED and APPROVED this 5th day of December 2016.

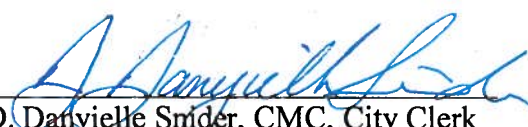


**Jim Matherly, Mayor
City of Fairbanks**

AYES: Rogers, Norum, Therrien, Pruhs, Cleworth, Huntington
NAYS: None
ABSENT: None
APPROVED: December 5, 2016

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



D. Danyielle Smider, CMC, City Clerk



Paul Ewers, City Attorney

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2017

Outline

1. Maintaining the PERS Contribution Rate:

Legislative action is likely necessary to address the rising costs of Alaska's Public Employee Retirement System's (PERS) unfunded liability and the impact of rising PERS liability costs on City taxpayers. The City supports keeping PERS past service costs at 22% of gross wages and the elimination of termination study requirements.

2. Preserving Municipal Revenue Sharing (Community Assistance):

The City of Fairbanks understands the State of Alaska's current fiscal situation and the need to remove unnecessary or duplicative expenses from the State's operating budget. The City of Fairbanks is concerned that budget reductions and subsequent reductions in services at the State level will manifest at the municipal level as increased demands for services. Because of this threat, municipal revenue sharing must be maintained.

3. Finding New State Revenue Sources

4. Continuing Support for Title 47 Programs:

Alaska's Uniform Alcoholism and Intoxication Treatment Act (AS 47.37) places upon the State and Municipalities certain duties related to persons incapacitated by alcohol or drugs. It is the City's understanding that due to budget restrictions, the Department of Corrections is planning to discontinue housing persons remanded under Title 47. Under Title 47, remand to a detention center is the last option for an incapacitated person. If the Department of Corrections opts to turn away individuals remanded under Title 47, there will be no viable alternative for these vulnerable citizens. The City requests that the status quo be maintained through the next fiscal year.

(a) Sobering Center: The City of Fairbanks has been working to develop a "sobering center" as an alternative to the Fairbanks Correctional Center for Title 47 remands. The City recognizes that such a facility would fill an essential gap in the Fairbanks continuum of services for chronically intoxicated and often homeless individuals and meet numerous identified needs in the community. Great progress in moving to a community solution has taken place. The City of Fairbanks strongly supports the development of a sobering center to meet the needs of adults in

Fairbanks who are so extensively intoxicated they are unable to care for themselves for a period of time and require observation.

(b) Emergency Service Patrol: Funding for this service allows for the operation of safe transportation services for incapacitated persons. This service expanded to citywide, seven days per week, approximately 19 hours per day, in April 2014. The Community Service Patrol is the most effective, most efficient way for the City to meet its obligations and is an essential part of the commitment the State of Alaska made when it enacted AS 47.37.

5. Affordable Energy:

- a. Support the Interior Energy Project (IEP) goals. The City supports the local goals of the IEP: build out of the gas infrastructure to as many people as possible, as fast as possible, and as inexpensively as possible.
- b. Combine Fairbanks Natural Gas (FNG) and Interior Gas Utility (IGU). The City believes that combining the two gas utilities is the most economical way of going forward. A consolidated system should be the goal.
- c. Conversion support for residential heating systems. Once additional gas arrives to the Interior the residents need assistance in converting their fuel oil boilers to gas boilers.

6. Medical Insurance for Surviving Spouses:

As a State we owe every assurance to our law enforcement officers and firefighters that medical care will be available to their spouse and children should the unthinkable happen to their loved ones. We urge your support in passing this critical bill. We must take care of our own, and not let these families shoulder this burden.

7. ALMR:

The Alaska Land Mobile Radio (ALMR) Communications System is a shared, standards-based Federal, State and local government land mobile radio (LMR) system. It provides a high degree of direct interoperability between its 123 user agencies for not only their day-to-day operations, but also during emergencies or disasters. The State of Alaska Telecommunications System (SATS) provides the essential backbone infrastructure that enables the wide area capability and interoperability of ALMR and is, likewise, critical to its continued success. In 2002, the SOA entered into a shared system venture to establish ALMR, and in 2007 they signed the ALMR Cooperative Agreement pledging their full support. In April 2015, the Governor signed the Codicil to the Cooperative Agreement reaffirming SOA commitment to the ALMR partnership and the original Cooperative Agreement. However, the SOA FY16 budget for the operations and maintenance of ALMR was underfunded by approximately \$1M. This action now puts the partnership and the

System in jeopardy. The ALMR Communications Systems is a critical and absolutely necessary day-to-day tool that allows public safety responders to rapidly respond to events that impact the lives and livelihoods of the citizens of Alaska. It is imperative that the State restore funding as recommended by the Department of Administration, including updating the system software to the current version and contracting for a long term maintenance and service agreement to include future updates as they occur.

8. City Council as the Board of Adjustment:

The City believes that an amendment to Title 29 is needed to direct that the local city council should serve as the board of adjustment for land use appeals involving land located within the corporate boundaries of a city that is located within a borough. Elected officials who live within the city and who are elected by the residents of that city are in a better position to understand local land use issues.