



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 9, 2018  
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

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The City Council convened at 7:00 p.m. on the above date, following a 6:15 p.m. Work Session on the City's Strategic Plan, to conduct a Regular Meeting of the Fairbanks City Council at the City Council Chambers, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska, with Mayor Jim Matherly presiding and with the following Council Members in attendance:

Council Members Present: Joy Huntington, Seat A  
June Rogers, Seat B  
Valerie Therrien, Seat C  
Jonathan Bagwill, Seat D  
Jerry Cleworth, Seat E  
David Pruhs, Seat F

Also Present: Margarita Bell, Controller  
Paul Ewers, City Attorney  
D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk  
Jeff Jacobson, Public Works Director  
Mike Meeks, Chief of Staff  
Stephanie Johnson, Dispatch Center Manager  
Brad Johnson, Deputy Police Chief  
Carmen Randle, Chief Financial Officer  
Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director  
Christina Rowlett, Risk/Purchasing

City Clerk Danyielle Snider read the Mission Statement of the City of Fairbanks.

**INVOCATION**

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

**FLAG SALUTATION**

Mayor Matherly asked Ms. Huntington to lead the Flag Salutation.

**CEREMONIAL MATTERS**

Mayor Matherly reported Development Manager Pat Smith retired at the end of March and spoke to the nice retirement party put on by City staff. Mayor Matherly stated he would like to dedicate the evening's Council meeting to former City Council Member Jerry Norum who passed away on Easter Sunday.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS ON CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Mayor Matherly called for Public Testimony and, hearing none, declared Public Testimony closed.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

**Mr. Bagwill**, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to APPROVE the Agenda and Consent Agenda.

**Mayor Matherly** called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

City Clerk Snider read the Consent Agenda into the record.

## APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a) Regular Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2018.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Regular Meeting Minutes of February 26, 2018.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

## SPECIAL ORDERS

- a) The Fairbanks City Council considered the following request by Lavelle's Taphouse, LLC (Arlette Eagle-Lavelle) for an extension of premises of alcohol service area:

Type:	Beverage Dispensary, License #270
DBA:	Lavelle's Taphouse
Licensee/Applicant:	Lavelle's Taphouse, LLC
Physical Location:	414 2nd Avenue, Fairbanks, Alaska

**Mr. Pruhs**, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to PROTEST the extension of premises of alcohol service area until a Certificate of Occupancy is issued.

Arlette Eagle-Lavelle, 828 8th Avenue, Fairbanks – Ms. Eagle-Lavelle thanked the Council for hearing her request to extend the premise of service into the courtyard off of 1st Avenue.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked whether the extended area is owned by the same landlord; Ms. Eagle-Lavelle stated it is.

**Mayor Matherly** commended Ms. Eagle-Lavelle for her determination. He thanked Ms. Eagle-Lavelle for her professionalism each time she has come before the Council.

Ms. Eagle-Lavelle thanked City Clerk Danyielle Snider for all her help. She stated Ms. Snider is always quick to respond to her emails and gives her full attention.

Frank Turney, 329 6th Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Turney stated he did not support blocking off a street in order for the Taphouse to sell drugs. He stated alcohol is a drug, and it is hypocritical for the Mayor to give special treatment to the Taphouse. **Mayor Matherly** asked Mr. Turney whether

he understood that the request is to extend to an area behind the building, not into the street; Mr. Turney stated he is still opposed to it because it would bring more drugs downtown.

Hearing no more requests for public comment, **Mayor Matherly** declared Public Testimony closed.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO PROTEST THE EXTENSION OF PREMISES OF ALCOHOL SERVICE AREA UNTIL A CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY IS ISSUED AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien, Rogers, Pruhs, Bagwill, Huntington, Cleworth

NAYS: None

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- b) The Fairbanks City Council heard interested citizens concerned with the following Liquor License Applications for Renewal:

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Address
2565	El Dorado Bar & Grill	Beverage Dispensary	Eldorado Bar & Grill, Inc.	530 Third Avenue
1920	Gambardella's Pasta Bella	Beverage Dispensary	Gambardella's II, Inc.	706 2nd Avenue
4174	Big Daddy's Bar-B-Q & Banquet Hall	Beverage Dispensary	RTG, LLC	107 Wickersham Street
4720	Gallantino's Italian Restaurant	Beverage Dispensary	Gallantino's, Inc.	1446 S. Cushman Street
5504	Mayan Palace	Beverage Dispensary Duplicate	Taco Azteca, Inc.	3403 Airport Way

**Ms. Therrien**, seconded by **Ms. Huntington**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST of the Liquor License applications for renewal.

**Mayor Matherly** called for Public Testimony and, hearing none, declared Public Testimony closed.

**Mr. Pruhs** stated the El Dorado Bar & Grill was given a conditional approval last time they renewed, and the requested fixes appear to have been made.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO WAIVE PROTEST OF THE LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATIONS FOR RENEWAL AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Bagwill, Cleworth, Rogers, Huntington, Therrien, Pruhs

NAYS: None

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

### MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

- a) Special Reports

Karl Kassel, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks – Fairbanks North Star Borough Mayor Karl Kassel stated he is in attendance to brief the Council on the Mary Siah Recreation Center and the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District (FNSBSD) budget. Mayor Kassel stated that for the past 40 years the Borough has been dependent on State revenue sharing to help maintain its 217 facilities. He stated there are maintenance issues with many buildings, including Mary Siah. Mayor Kassel stated Mary Siah is a 68-year-old facility, and it would cost less to replace the building than it would continue maintaining the existing structure. He stated his budget has increases in fees for facility use as well as a reduction in hours of operation. He stated all of the facilities are well occupied, but Mary Siah is one of the least used with the highest cost to maintain. Mayor Kassel stated if the Borough tore down Mary Siah immediately and used Hamme Pool for the time being, they could build an aquatic center that would end up being less expensive to maintain. He stated he understands that people feel a historic draw to Mary Siah, but it does not make sense to keep it in operation with the extensive work that needs to be done. He stated it is time to stop kicking the can down the road, and it is time to change the business model of Borough maintenance. Mayor Kassel stated he is passionate about all of the facilities, and he cannot focus only on Mary Siah. He spoke to the recent closing of the main floor of the riverboat *Nenana* due to maintenance issues.

**Mayor Matherly** expressed appreciation to Mayor Kassel for coming to speak to the Council. He stated that he has received emails about shutting down Mary Siah which he has forwarded to Mayor Kassel.

**Mr. Pruhs** asked which would cost less: tearing down Mary Siah or continuing to subsidize it. Mayor Kassel stated that demolition would cost less than maintaining it.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked Mayor Kassel about the ordinance he is bringing to the Assembly at the next meeting; Mayor Kassel explained that the ordinance proposes transferring money from the facility maintenance and reserve account to six project funds for six different buildings.

**Ms. Therrien** asked Mayor Kassel what the other facilities on the list were. Mayor Kassel stated that the list includes Wescott Swim Pool, the demolition of Adler School out in Moose Creek, and a new roof for the Pioneer Hall at Pioneer Park. He stated he did not bring the list with him.

Mayor Kassel stated the State of Alaska has fiscal issues that trickle down and affect local government. He stated he received a budget request from the FNSBSD for \$50 million dollars, and so he budgeted for \$50 million dollars in his proposed budget. Mayor Kassel stated he has always supported education. He stated that when he was the Presiding Officer on the Assembly a few years ago, the Assembly authorized an extra \$4.5 million dollars for the School District, and the money is still sitting in the District's bank account untouched. He stated the District's fund balance is greater than it has ever been. Mayor Kassel stated that taxpayers paid an 1.5 mills that is just sitting in the bank, and he finds that troubling. He stated the if the District has a shortfall, the Assembly has to back them financially by law; he stated that the Borough also owns all the school facilities, so the maintenance and repair costs for those facilities falls to the Borough. He stated that the District currently has \$31 million in unrestricted funds distributed over several accounts. Mayor Kassel stated that in addition to those funds, they have \$11 million in impact aid funds from the federal government in holding that they will not use till the following year. He expressed concern that the District is cutting student programs when they have that much money in the bank; he commented

that they are blaming the Borough for the cuts. Mayor Kassel stated that students are getting the short end of the stick. He stated there needs to be a community-wide discussion about the issue.

**Mayor Matherly** asked how Mayor Kassel learned about the District's large fund balance. Mayor Kassel stated he has been tracking it, and it has been discussed at Assembly meetings. He stated that the Assembly has asked for some updated numbers, but the District has not provided them. He stated he will not advocate for anything less than a \$50 million allocation to the District, but some Assembly members do not agree with it.

**Ms. Rogers** stated she has great admiration for Mayor Kassel and commended him for his strength and integrity.

**Ms. Huntington** thanked Mayor Kassel for attending and for providing an update to the Council.

**Mayor Matherly** thanked Mayor Kassel for his tenacity and for all that he has done for the community. **Mayor Matherly** asked Chief of Staff Mike Meeks to give a staff report on the cannabis work session that will take place prior to the next Council meeting. Mr. Meeks stated that staff discussed how best to allow everyone an opportunity to speak at the work session. He stated there will be three topics to speak to and a signup sheet for each topic. He stated at the end of the session there will be a general public comment period for Ordinance No. 6070 if time permits.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked why the format changed from what was previously discussed; Mr. Meeks stated that selecting someone to represent each side would likely bring on a fight. He stated that a representative of the Police Department could answer Council Member questions.

**Mr. Bagwill** asked if it would be a 5:00 o'clock meeting; Mr. Meeks replied affirmatively.

**Mr. Pruhs** stated he liked the proposed format because it is apparent that the two sides of the issue do not get along.

**Mayor Matherly** stated he wants to make it possible for the public to engage in the process.

**Ms. Huntington** asked how the meeting would be advertised; Mr. Meeks stated it will be on the City's social media pages and website, and the City Clerk will advertise it in the newspaper.

**Mr. Cleworth** stated that he believes a staff report should be given at the work session.

**Mayor Matherly** thanked staff for the work that was put into coming up with an acceptable format for the work session. He stated he has received emails about the tattered flags along the Barnette Street Bridge, and he is working with Festival Fairbanks to address the issue. He spoke to the activities of his office since the last Council meeting.

Dawn Murphy, 101 Dunkel Street, Fairbanks – Ms. Murphy stated she is representing Explore Fairbanks, and she spoke to their clean audit for 2017. She stated 2017 bed tax collections were record-breaking and explained the differences between winter and summer tourist seasons. She spoke about the upcoming 16th Annual Visitor Walk for Charity, or "4K Graze," and she encouraged everyone to get involved. She invited the Council to the Explore Fairbanks Annual

Banquet at the Birch Hill Recreation area, and she thanked the Council for investing in destination marketing.

**Ms. Rogers** asked Ms. Murphy to speak to the work she is doing with the jobs program. Ms. Murphy stated she has worked with the FNSB Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee and the Alaska Can! Interior Steering Committee for future workforce development. She stated they held a conference in August of 2017, and they are looking at a matrix involving K-12 and post-secondary students to promote better education and workforce development.

**Mayor Matherly** stated April is Sexual Assault Awareness month, and he shared that there will be an awareness walk on April 25 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a) Ordinance No. 6073 – An Ordinance Authorizing the Lease of Golden Heart Plaza to Festival Fairbanks. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

**Mr. Bagwill**, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6073.

**Mayor Matherly** called for Public Testimony and, hearing none, declared Public Testimony closed.

**Mr. Pruhs**, seconded by **Mr. Bagwill**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6073 by changing the lease term in Section 1 from two years to three years.

**Mayor Matherly** called for objection, and hearing none, so ORDERED.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6073, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Rogers, Bagwill, Therrien, Pruhs, Cleworth, Huntington

NAYS: None

**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6073, as Amended, ADOPTED.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- a) Committee Reports

Fairbanks Diversity Council - **Mayor Matherly** reported that there would be a Diversity Council meeting the following evening at 5:30 p.m.

Legislative Priorities Meeting – **Ms. Therrien** stated the group met the prior week, and things are moving along.

FMATS Policy Board – Mr. Cleworth acknowledged Julie Jones for all the hard work she dedicates to the Golden Heart Plaza. He spoke to the possibility of FMATS becoming its own entity and stated that there has been a lot of back and forth discussion on the issue.

Opioid Task Force & Housing and Homeless Coalition – Ms. Rogers stated both groups are moving forward in positive motion.

### WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

- a) Board of Plumber Examiner Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2017

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2018

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of February 7, 2018

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- d) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of March 7, 2018

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- e) Appointment to the Fairbanks Diversity Council

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

### CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Frank Turney, 329 6th Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Turney offered his condolences to the family of Jerry Norum and shared how much his father respected Mr. Norum. Mr. Turney stated he wished Mayor Kassel was still present because he had some budget questions for him. Mr. Turney spoke to the need for the police department to use non-lethal weapons. He stated his sister told him to cool his jets at Council meetings and that he is trying to take her advice.

David van den Berg, 332 Slater Drive, Fairbanks – Mr. van den Berg stated he is the Executive Director of the Downtown Association, and he is interested in the goals the Council is focusing on through strategic planning. He stated when the Masonic Temple fell it took a significant amount of history with it. He stated the City should make a goal to maintain the historical integrity of the City of Fairbanks. Mr. Van den Berg stated there will be a meeting the following morning at The Venue to discuss a possible closure of 2nd Avenue for a pedestrian mall-type event. He shared that there will be a gathering of downtown folks to discuss activities, events and other downtown issues on April 25 at 5:30 p.m. at the Morris Thompson Cultural Center.

Kathryn Ottersten, 1435 3rd Avenue, Fairbanks – Ms. Ottersten thanked the Public Works crews for the magnificent job they did with all the snow they were tasked to deal with over the winter. She encouraged everyone to open storm drains in their neighborhoods and not wait for the Public Works crew to do it with their limited resources. She stated that it really helps with drainage.

Floyd Terry, P.O. Box 73514, Fairbanks – Mr. Terry provided a handout to the Council. He spoke to the need for Fairbanks to get a roller rink; he stated it would be good for the community. He spoke to the number of businesses leaving the City.

Christian Hood, P.O. Box 83091, Fairbanks – Ms. Hood stated she is the owner of Good Cannabis, and she thanked the Council for approving her license. She stated the most recent First Friday event raised funds for the Fairbanks Community Food Bank; she added that her business also volunteers at the Food Bank six hours per week.

### COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

**Ms. Rogers** thanked Mayor Kassel for engaging the community to discuss the important issues. She shared that she enjoyed all the years and memories she had with Mr. Norum and stated that he was a fun and talented man.

**Ms. Huntington** expressed her condolences to the family of Mr. Norum and shared that it was a pleasure serving with him. She thanked Pat Smith for his years of service to the City. She stated it was helpful to have Mayor Kassel attend and give a report; she encouraged everyone to attend the Borough Assembly meetings.

**Ms. Therrien** expressed her sadness for the loss of Mr. Norum. She shared that she spoke with Nancy Norum who stated the family would like people to make a donation to the charity of their choice in Mr. Norum's name in lieu of flowers.

**Mayor Matherly** shared that he recently learned of the passing of John Hajdukovich Sr.

**Mr. Pruhs** shared his condolences for the Norum family and stated he is thankful for the extraordinary family Mr. Norum left behind. **Mr. Pruhs** thanked the City Clerk for her report to the Council, and he congratulated Deputy Clerk Braniff for receiving a scholarship to attend training in June.

**Mr. Cleworth** stated he recently spoke with David van den Berg who indicated that the number of calls to the Community Service Patrol (CSP) had gone down. He questioned why the numbers presented by staff showed that ambulance calls had gone up. He stated in years past the CSP would take direct calls, but now everyone is directed to call 9-1-1. He stated it does not make sense that CSP calls are decreasing while Dispatch is being flooded. He spoke to the possibility of getting an outside source to analyze the issue. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that a task force did a study in 1989 or 1990 on snow removal, and one policy resulting from the study that the City has lapsed on is to get bids each fall from various companies in case of an unanticipated heavy snow fall. He explained that the City would then have the luxury of calling a company to help with plowing rather than taking five weeks to clear City streets. **Mr. Cleworth** recalled memories of recently-retired Development Manager Patrick Smith and stated it was nice to attend his retirement party; he added



that it was the first time he ever saw Mr. Smith in a suit. He stated Mr. Norum was a tenacious man whom he respected, and his wife Nancy is an angel in the community. He expressed his sympathy for Mr. Norum's passing.

FECC Manager Stephanie Johnson stated that CSP calls come into Dispatch, and she does not know why Mr. van den Berg said that calls are decreasing. She stated the City became responsible for CSP calls after the Downtown Association did not renew the services contract.

**Mr. Bagwill** offered his condolences to the family of Jerry Norum for their loss. He thanked City department heads and staff for the fantastic job they do.

**Mr. Bagwill**, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ENTER Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Fairbanks Firefighter Union (FFU) and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) labor negotiations.

**Mayor Matherly** called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

**Mayor Matherly** called for a brief recess.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- a) FFU Labor Negotiations
- b) IBEW Labor Negotiations

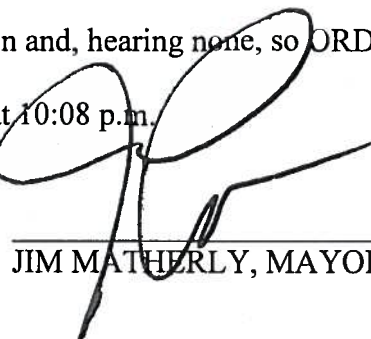
The City Council met in Executive Session to discuss FFU and IBEW Labor Negotiations. Direction was given to the negotiating team, and no action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Mr. Bagwill**, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

**Mayor Matherly** called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

**Mayor Matherly** declared the meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.



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JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



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D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, CMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: EB