



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, APRIL 11, 2016
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

The City Council convened at 7:00 p.m. on the above date to conduct a Regular Meeting of the Fairbanks City Council at the City Council Chambers, 800 Cushman Street, Fairbanks, Alaska, with Mayor John Eberhart presiding and with the following Council Members in attendance:

Council Members Present: Joy Huntington, Seat A
Perry Walley, Seat B
Bernard Gatewood, Seat C
Jim Matherly, Seat D
Jerry Cleworth, Seat E
David Pruhs, Seat F

Absent: None

Also Present: Clem Clooten, Building Official
Ernie Misewicz, Assistant Fire Chief
Paul Ewers, City Attorney
D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
Stephanie Johnson, Dispatch Center Manager
Carmen Randle, Chief Financial Officer
Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director
Randall Aragon, Police Chief
Verg Scott, Public Works General Foreman
Bob Pristash, City Engineer IV
Shannon Kumpula, Purchasing Agent/Risk Manager
Jeff Jacobson, Chief of Staff
Brad Johnson, Deputy Police Chief
Jackson Fox, Environmental Manager
Tammy Misrasi, Communications Director
Jim Styers, Fire Chief

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

Mayor Eberhart led the Flag Salutation.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Lance Roberts, P.O. Box 83449, Fairbanks – Mr. Roberts stated he has moved back into the City, so he is now not only a City property owner but also a City resident. He spoke to the traffic

lights on Cushman Street and requested that some of the lights remain off because traffic flows fine without them. Mr. Roberts spoke to the Borough Ordinance that is coming up for public hearing at the next Assembly meeting; he stated that if the ordinance passes, the Borough will have the power to take away peoples' hydronic heaters that they purchased through the Borough-approved exchange program. He stated that the ordinance is going to hurt people and added that the ordinance is not good legislation. Mr. Roberts encouraged City Council Members and the public to come to the Borough Assembly meeting to testify against the ordinance. He stated that the ordinance is government overreach and that the Borough should not bother those that are correctly using the hydronic heaters.

Mr. Matherly asked what kind of heaters the Borough is proposing to ban.

Mr. Roberts stated that the ordinance would ban pellet stoves. He stated that wood stoves would have to meet a 0.1 pounds per million BTU standard; he stated only five types of stoves exist that meet that criteria. Mr. Roberts stated that no one in Fairbanks sells the stoves that the Borough would approve. He stated that two of the Borough-approved wood stoves are so large a building would have to be built to house them. Mr. Roberts stated it would take a citizen a great deal of effort to get one of the stoves that are on the approved list.

Mr. Pruhs asked if the ordinance was introduced by an Assembly Member or by the administration.

Mr. Roberts stated that two Assembly Members introduced the ordinance; he stated that he does not know the Administration's position on the issue.

Mr. Cleworth asked if the Borough has changed their standard. He stated that during their exchange program they approved some EPA-accepted stoves.

Mr. Roberts stated that some of the stoves that were changed out in the exchange program do not meet the new standard.

Mr. Cleworth stated that two of the air quality monitors inside City limits had not had violations in recent history, and he asked if the Assembly has taken a position on dividing the non-attainment area.

Mr. Roberts stated that the Assembly has not taken a position on dividing the non-attainment area but that he personally supports it.

Mr. Walley asked who chose the 0.1 pounds per million BTU standard.

Mr. Roberts stated that Borough Assembly Members chose standards.

Dawn Murphy, 101 Dunkel Street, Fairbanks – Ms. Murphy stated that she is in attendance on behalf of Explore Fairbanks. Ms. Murphy spoke to the audit packet that was provided to each Council Member showing that Explore Fairbanks' books are in good standing. She invited the Council to attend Explore Fairbanks' Annual Awards Banquet on April 22, 2016. Ms. Murphy invited everyone to attend the May 13, 2016 Annual Fairbanks Visitor Industry walk that starts at

Immaculate Conception Church and ends at the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center. Ms. Murphy stated that people can register online at the Explore Fairbanks website. She shared that over \$314,000 has been raised for charity over the 14-year history of the walk. She thanked the Council for reinvesting bed tax dollars into the community and destination marketing.

Frank Turney, 629 6th Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Turney reminded everyone that the Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC) meeting will be held the following evening and that he would be attending to speak to the lack of public restrooms inside the City. He stated he believes that racism is the reason why there are no public restrooms in the downtown area. Mr. Turney stated he has nominated himself as the “Director of Decrapulation” in the downtown area. He stated that he invited the Mayor to come downtown and see all the feces on the ground and after a few days of nobody coming he cleaned it all up. He stated that he is tired of cleaning up dog and cat waste and cigarette butts; he stated that there should be cigarette butt cans placed in the downtown area. Mr. Turney stated that he was happy to see a complaint department at the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD). He stated that Mr. Buberger is out of town but that he would have jumped for joy about the article in the News Miner relating to public restrooms. He provided his phone number to the public and asked people to contact him if they see anyone letting their pet go to the bathroom downtown without cleaning it up.

June Rogers, 1908 Esquire Drive, Fairbanks – Ms. Rogers stated that the City needs to address the lack of public restrooms in the downtown area. She recommended posting a brochure at the visitor’s center letting people know where restrooms are available. She thanked the City Clerk for the invocation at the beginning of the meeting referencing responsibility to the community.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Matherly, seconded by **Mr. Gatewood**, moved to APPROVE the Agenda and Consent Agenda.

Mr. Cleworth pulled Ordinance No. 6008 from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Pruhs pulled the Memo Regarding Public Restrooms in Downtown Fairbanks from the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Eberhart called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

City Clerk Snider read the Consent Agenda, as Amended, into the record.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2016.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

SPECIAL ORDERS

- a) The Fairbanks City Council, Sitting as a Committee of the Whole, heard interested citizens concerned with the following Liquor License Application for Renewal:

Lic #	Establishment Name	License Type	Licensee	Location
2565	El Dorado Bar and Grill	Beverage Dispensary	Eldorado Bar and Grill, Inc.	530 Third Ave

Mr. Pruhs, seconded by **Mr. Gatewood**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Liquor License Application for Renewal.

Mario Velderrain, 2350 Hawthorne Court, Fairbanks – Mr. Velderrain stated that he has installed a sprinkler system at the location but has not yet hooked the water up to it. He stated that he has had some issues with the installation and requested that the Council allow him to work through the tourist season before finishing the sprinkler system.

Mr. Gatewood asked Mr. Velderrain what kind of sprinkler system is in the restaurant.

Mr. Velderrain stated that the system is a dry system that will connect to the tank from the utility.

Mr. Gatewood stated that the sprinkler system was supposed to go into the restaurant three years ago and asked why it has not been done.

Mr. Velderrain stated he could not install the system in 2013 because he was involved in a lawsuit with the State. He stated that he will have to break the sidewalk, street and the floor inside his restaurant to become compliant. Mr. Velderrain asked the Council to allow him to work through the summer tourist season before making a mess of his restaurant.

Mr. Pruhs spoke to the importance of becoming building code compliant and stated that if he does not get the sprinkler system fixed the City will shut his restaurant down.

Mr. Velderrain stated that he understood and that he would fix the sprinkler system by the end of September 2016.

Mr. Cleworth asked Mr. Velderrain when the dry sprinkler system was installed.

Mr. Velderrain stated that the sprinkler system was installed in 2015.

Mr. Cleworth asked Mr. Velderrain if the installation would be a cost to him or his landlord.

Mr. Velderrain stated that he would bear the cost and that he is okay with a deadline to get it fixed.

Frank Turney, 629 6th Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Turney stated he hoped the Council would grant Mr. Velderrain an extension. He stated that the Council has given people waivers before and that they should allow Mr. Velderrain the same courtesy.

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

Mr. Pruhs spoke in favor of granting Mr. Velderrain an extension for the sprinkler system.

Mr. Matherly echoed Mr. Pruhs' comments and stated that he has known Mr. Velderrain for a long time; he stated that he knows he is a man of his word and that he will get the work done.

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

YEAS: Pruhs, Gatewood, Huntington, Cleworth, Matherly, Walley

NAYS: None

Mayor Eberhart declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- b) The Fairbanks City Council convened as a Board of Adjustment to schedule a hearing date for the appeal in the matter of the following decision of the Fairbanks North Star Borough Department of Community Planning (GR2016-082):

An administrative determination regarding grandfather rights for the property located at 1041 Pedro Street (Lot 16, Block 139, Weeks Field), owned by Dale and Marie Nielsen.

Mr. Pruhs, seconded by **Mr. Matherly**, moved to SCHEDULE the Board of Adjustment appeal hearing at the Regular Meeting of June 20, 2016.

Mayor Eberhart called for objection and, hearing none, ordered that the Board of Adjustment hearing be held at the June 20, 2016 Regular City Council Meeting.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Eberhart stated that Chief of Staff Jeff Jacobson and General Foreman Verg Scott will go downtown on a weekly basis to check that there are no feces or cigarette butts building up. He stated that the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) is tasked with taking complaints about FPD employees. He stated that the Fact Finding Commission cannot deal with personnel issues. **Mayor Eberhart** spoke to the qualifications and background of the new Executive Assistant and Communications Director Tammy Misrasi; he indicated that she had to step out of the meeting but that he would introduce her later. He encouraged the community to call Public Works to report potholes so they can be repaired. **Mayor Eberhart** spoke to the Borough's proposal to rename Terminal Street to Citizen's Way; he requested that Environmental Manager Jackson Fox come forward with a staff report.

Mr. Fox spoke to the Borough's proposal to change the name of Terminal Street; he explained that Borough employees came up with the idea. He stated that Borough Mayor Karl Kassel had employees make suggestions on what they would like the street to be renamed to, and they filed

the paperwork to make the change with the Platting Board. He stated that he did not know if the Council would have an opinion on changing the name but that he wanted to draw their attention to the issue. Mr. Fox stated that the City will have 30 days to act and possibly veto the action; he stated that the item can be added to the April 25, 2016 City Council Agenda.

Mr. Pruhs requested that the street renaming be on the April 25, 2016 meeting agenda.

Mr. Cleworth stated that he knew the street renaming was coming but that he is surprised it came up so fast. He stated that given his knowledge of the history of Fairbanks, he would not be inclined to support the renaming.

Mayor Eberhart requested that Mr. Fox speak to the memo on public restrooms. **Mayor Eberhart** stated that Festival Fairbanks will be placing a porta-potty in Golden Heart Plaza again this summer and that the City will pay \$250.00 a month toward keeping it there through the tourist season. He asked Mr. Fox give a brief summary of his memo regarding public restrooms in the City of Fairbanks.

Mr. Fox spoke to issues with the lack of public restrooms in the downtown area. He stated that there is a problem when people start using the streets and alleyways to relieve themselves. He stated that he has not seen a huge issue in Fairbanks but that it is a big problem in Anchorage. Mr. Fox stated that he spoke with Festival Fairbanks and Explore Fairbanks, and they did not believe there was a major problem in downtown Fairbanks with a lack of public restrooms. He discussed the various options for public restrooms, where they could be placed, how they would be maintained, and the cost of different options.

Ms. Huntington asked how much it would cost to have the restrooms cleaned twice a day.

Mr. Fox stated that he has not yet estimated the maintenance costs.

Mr. Walley asked what the cost would be to pipe water into a permanent restroom and if it would get shut down during the winter months.

Mr. Fox stated it would cost at least \$100,000.00 to purchase and install the units. He stated the units would have to be shut down during the winter months.

Ms. Huntington asked Mr. Fox about Ms. Rogers' idea to provide Explore Fairbanks and the Downtown Association with brochures directing people toward public restrooms.

Mr. Fox stated that both the Downtown Association and Explore Fairbanks provide visitors with maps, and he believes that public restrooms are marked on those maps. He stated that he would look into whether or not they provide that information, and if they do not, he would make that suggestion. Mr. Fox stated that way-finding signs could be added in the downtown area, and no map would be needed because buildings would be clearly marked with public restroom signs.

Ms. Huntington asked the difference between visitor and public restrooms.

Mr. Fox stated that a visitor restroom is a courtesy of a business owner to allow the public to use their businesses restroom. He stated that a public restroom is a restroom a person has a right to use and that is open to the public.

Ms. Huntington suggested that the term “visitor restroom” might be confusing to local residents, because they may think they cannot use the restroom since they are not a visitor.

Mr. Walley asked Mr. Fox if the restrooms that were placed last summer at Graehl Park and Golden Heart Plaza had been damaged or vandalized. He asked what kind of agreement the City would make with the maintenance contract if one of the units got damaged.

Mr. Fox stated that John Haas deals with Parks & Recreation at the Borough and that there were issues with the SaniCans getting tipped over and burned, and hand sanitizer getting stolen; he stated that hazardous materials have also been left inside the units. Mr. Fox stated that there is tension between the Borough and the sanitation company due to vandalism.

Mr. Walley asked Mr. Fox to research the cost of purchasing a chemical toilet unit.

Mr. Matherly applauded Mr. Fox for his thorough and thoughtful memo that he provided in the agenda packet. He stated that if he was a downtown business owner he would not want a chemical toilet sitting in front of his business.

Mayor Eberhart asked if the Council would like to set a date for a work session or just have Mr. Fox report back at a later date.

Mr. Pruhs and **Ms. Huntington** requested that there should be a work session to discuss the public restroom issue further.

Mayor Eberhart introduced Ms. Misrasi, and she gave a brief history of her work experiences. Ms. Misrasi stated that she retired after 30 of public service in the State of Utah. She stated she is a Certified Public Manager, and she moved to Fairbanks to be closer to family.

Mayor Eberhart spoke of the many activities of the Mayor’s Office since the last meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6007 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Chapter 14, Article IX Commercial Refuse Collector. Introduced by Council Members Cleworth and Matherly. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Pruhs, seconded by **Mr. Gatewood**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6007.

Ms. Huntington requested a moment of silence in honor of the man whose body was recovered from the Chena River earlier that evening. A moment of silence was observed by all those present.

Mayor Eberhart called for a five minute recess.

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

Mr. Cleworth thanked the Clerk and Attorney's Office for all the work they did to clean up the Code relating to Commercial Refuse Collectors.

Mr. Matherly echoed Mr. Cleworth's comments.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6007 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Huntington, Matherly, Gatewood, Pruhs, Cleworth, Walley

NAYS: None

Mayor Eberhart declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6007 ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6008 – An Ordinance Amending the 2016 Operating and Capital Budgets for the Second Time. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

Mr. Matherly, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6008.

Mr. Cleworth stated that he has several questions; he requested that Chief Financial Officer Carmen Randle come forward for a staff report. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that the Council was supplied with a copy of the offer letter that was given to Fire Chief Jim Styers in November of 2015. He stated that after Styers received the offer letter, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) voted to reallocate wages. He asked why Chief Styers was exempt from the reallocation.

Ms. Randle stated that Chief Styers' position was not exempt from the reallocation but that there was a misunderstanding and an error in the offer letter. She stated that the wage reallocation was not applied to Chief Styers' wage. Ms. Randle stated that the IBEW shop steward felt that the offer was negotiated with the higher rate of pay. Ms. Randle stated that the IBEW shop steward set up the wage package and that she was shocked when she discovered what had happened.

Mr. Cleworth expressed concern that the reallocation was not applied Chief Styers' position.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6008 by striking the \$11,353.00 increase to the Fire Chief's benefit package.

Ms. Huntington asked what the outcome would be if the Council approved striking the increase.

Ms. Randle stated that normally if there is a mistake in pay the employee just pays it back to the City. She stated that since it is a significant amount and since the offer letter was not correct, she felt that Council approval was necessary in order to make the change.

Ms. Huntington asked what the downside of decreasing the wage package would be.

Ms. Randle stated that the employee would experience a significant cut in pay and that he is an innocent party in the whole matter.

Chief of Staff Jeff Jacobson stated that the offer letter dated November 16, 2015 was not correct.

Mayor Eberhart stated that Chief Styers took the job based on the contents of the offer letter and that the Council should honor the offer. He stated that it is not Chief Styers' fault that the City made a mistake, and the employee should not be punished for it.

Mr. Cleworth stated that every other employee in that bargaining unit took a salary reduction and argued that Chief Styers' position should not be exempt from the wage reallocation.

Mr. Jacobson stated that Chief Styers is not exempt but that the offer letter was incorrect. He questioned who is at fault and who should absorb the monetary error in the offer letter. He asked if the employee should be held accountable or if the employer should be held accountable. Mr. Jacobson stated that the employee should be held harmless in the situation because it was no fault of his own that the error was made.

Mr. Cleworth asked what specifically was not correct in the offer letter.

Ms. Randle stated that the Council-approved budget for Chief Styers' position is \$11,352.66 less than what he is currently being paid. She explained that the wage reallocation occurred for all other employees but Chief Styers was hired during the time it was being discussed, so it was not applied to his wage package.

Mr. Walley asked if the \$11,353.00 would be a one-time increase.

Ms. Randle stated that it would affect the future of Chief Styers' wage; she stated that when wages were reallocated, his hourly rate did not decrease by \$5.38 an hour, but his benefit package was increased the same as that of the other IBEW employees.

Mr. Gatewood asked if Chief Styers has already received the \$11,353.00 and if he would receive that kind of a pay increase every year.

Ms. Randle stated that it was a one-time increase but that he would annually receive more in his benefit package than any other IBEW member.

Human Resources (HR) Director Angela Foster-Snow stated that the wage reallocation happened around the same time that Chief Styers was hired, and there was a lot of confusion relating to Chief Styers' benefit package.

Mr. Pruhs thanked Ms. Randle and Ms. Foster-Snow for their explanations and stated that Chief Styers is an innocent party in the City's misunderstanding. He stated that he would not be voting

in favor of the motion to reduce the wage because Chief Styers signed the offer letter and took the job based on what was set forth in the letter.

Ms. Huntington stated that it would not be right for the Council to go back on the letter of offer and decrease Chief Styers' wage.

Mr. Cleworth stated that Chief Styers is a member of the IBEW just like every other employee, and that he should be subject to the same wage reallocation. He stated that a mistake was made and that he would not support the tax payers bearing the burden of the City's error. He stated that the Fire Chief is a union member and that the Council should not show him preferential treatment above other City employees.

Mr. Gatewood stated that he leans toward Mr. Pruhs' statement that the Council should honor the signed offer letter. He asked if Chief Styers' package rate is higher than everyone else in the IBEW bargaining unit.

Ms. Randle stated that his package rate is higher; she explained that it is a one-time increase that would keep his benefit package higher than everyone else's every year.

Mayor Eberhart asked Ms. Foster-Snow if the shop steward and Payroll Clerk was the person who made the changes and is arguing for the increased benefit package rate.

Ms. Foster-Snow replied affirmatively.

Mr. Jacobson stated that the package should have been offered at \$64.00/hour but that the offer letter given to Chief Styers stated a \$69.00/hour rate. He stated that the Council has to decide if the employee has to eat the mistake or if the City has to absorb the costs of the error.

Mr. Matherly asked whether Chief Styers' annual wage would still be \$106,000.00 if \$11,353.00 was taken away.

Ms. Randle stated that his hourly wage would decrease by \$5.38 an hour and that money would go toward his own health contribution and pension. She stated that the IBEW shop steward and Payroll Clerk took it upon herself to automatically make the health and pension higher, because she believed that was the intent of the offer letter.

Mr. Matherly asked Ms. Randle if it is the union's fault that the wage was not correctly reallocated.

Ms. Randle stated she did not want to say whether it was or was not the union's fault but that she thinks it is the shop steward's belief that Chief Styers' position has a special increase that is separate from all the other IBEW employees.

Mr. Matherly stated that it does not make sense that an employee can change another employee's benefit package on a whim.

Mr. Pruhs asked Ms. Randle to repeat her statement about the shop steward taking it upon herself to change Chief Styers' wage.

Ms. Randle stated that one of the issues that the City has is that an IBEW Union Steward is also the Payroll Clerk. She stated that when Chief Styers was hired, the Payroll Clerk automatically set his benefit package at the higher rate. Ms. Randle stated that she asked the Payroll Clerk about the wage reallocation and that the Payroll Clerk believes that Chief Styers received the reallocation before any other union member.

Mr. Matherly stated he is not sure it is appropriate that a union shop steward is also the Payroll Clerk. He asked if Fire Chief Warren Cummings was treated in the same special way.

Ms. Randle stated that the union likes to have the Payroll Clerk as the shop steward. She stated there has never been a wage reallocation like the one that happened in this case.

Mr. Matherly stated that if the shop steward made the decision on her own to increase Chief Styers' package, he would tend to agree that the taxpayers should not have to bear the burden of her actions.

Mayor Eberhart stated that Chief Styers signed the offer letter and that it is wrong for the Council to reduce his wage based on the clerical error in the document.

Ms. Foster-Snow reminded everyone that Chief Styers was hired during the reallocation period and that her office was trying to honor the 2016 approved budget amount.

Ms. Huntington stated that she does not think it is right for the Council to decrease Chief Styers' wages because the offer letter was signed; she stated that he should be compensated according to what was stated in the letter.

Mr. Matherly asked Ms. Randle how adjusting Chief Styers' wage would affect his salary.

Ms. Randle stated that his pension and health contributions would remain the same but his hourly wage would be reduced by \$5.38 per hour.

Mayor Eberhart clarified that Chief Styers' wage would decrease by \$11,353.00 annually.

Mr. Cleworth stated that every IBEW member must be treated equally.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6008 BY STRIKING THE \$11,353.00 INCREASE TO THE FIRE CHIEF'S BENEFIT PACKAGE AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Matherly, Cleworth, Walley, Pruhs

NAYS: Huntington, Gatewood

Mayor Eberhart declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Cleworth asked Mr. Jacobson to give a history of the grievance that was filed relating to the Public Works Director and City Engineer positions.

Mr. Jacobson stated that the grievance was filed because a non-IBEW member was tasked with the responsibilities of an IBEW employee.

Mr. Cleworth spoke to the history of the City controlling the growth of staff; he stated that the population has not increased and staff should not either. He spoke to the issue of having temporary employees turn into full-time staff. He stated that one of the reasons he voted in favor of additional positions in Dispatch and FPD was because the PW/Engineering position was eliminated. **Mr. Cleworth** stated he could not vote in favor of adding another position at the City. He stated that it is sad that General Foreman Verg Scott cannot take the position because he is in the wrong union.

City Attorney Paul Ewers stated that the unions involved are going to discuss the issue in the fall.

Mr. Cleworth asked what would happen if the City hired someone to be the Director of Public Works at \$130,000.00 a year only to have the unions negotiate the position away.

Mr. Jacobson stated that the administration understands Mr. Cleworth's concerns, and they would like to come up with a solution before the next Regular City Council Meeting.

Mr. Cleworth asked about the salary increase for the City Surveyor and stated he would like to bring it up at the next Finance Committee Meeting.

Ms. Huntington stated she would have some budget questions at the Finance Committee meeting as well. She asked about proposed funding for the sleep-off center.

Mayor Eberhart spoke about hiring a consultant to research what it would take to get a sleep-off center in Fairbanks. He stated that it will cost Tanana Chief's Conference, The Hospital Foundation, Fairbanks Native Association, and the City of Fairbanks \$1,250.00 each to pay to have the grant written for a sobering center.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6008, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Pruhs, Walley, Huntington, Matherly, Gatewood

NAYS: None

Mayor Eberhart declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- b) Ordinance No. 6009 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Section 50-461(c) Political Activity, to Clarify the Prohibition on Use of City Resources to Support Proposed Legislation. Introduced by Council Member Cleworth.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

- a) Memo Regarding Public Restrooms in Downtown Fairbanks

This item was discussed and a staff report was given during Mayor's Comments and Report.

Mr. Matherly, seconded by **Mr. Walley**, moved to ACCEPT the Memo Regarding Public Restrooms in Downtown Fairbanks.

Mayor Eberhart called for objection and, hearing none, declared the MOTION CARRIED.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Huntington thanked the FPD for the care they provided her cousin who was recently found deceased near the river. She stated that the family does not entirely know the cause of his death, but it is another reason she is passionate about a sobering center. She stated it was comforting to be at the meeting.

Mr. Walley asked City Clerk Danyielle Snider if the numbers in the memo she provided relating to business licensing is similar to other years around the same time. Ms. Snider stated that the percentage is slightly higher this year because Deputy Clerk Tanya Clooten and Tax Specialist Howard Zach have been working closely with each other to inactivate accounts that are no longer in business. **Mr. Walley** stated that he will be resigning from the City Council effective after the April 25, 2016 Regular City Council Meeting. He explained that his family purchased a home in North Pole, and he will no longer be living inside City limits. He stated that it has been a very tough decision for him and his family to make but, in the end, moving is the best thing for his family. **Mr. Walley** stated that his wife got a job at Eielson, and the 27-mile drive to work each day has really worn on her. He stated that it is with a heavy heart that his will be resigning.

Mr. Gatewood stated he does not begrudge Mr. Walley for making the right decision for his family but that his resignation will be a tremendous loss for the City. He shared his support for a sleep-off center in Fairbanks. **Mr. Gatewood** stated that the nation has some major problems with behavioral health problems that need to be addressed and that he hopes the City of Fairbanks can make some strides to improve the situation.

Mr. Pruhs stated that he changed his vote on Chief Styers' wage after the discussion on the nefarious actions of the shop steward and Payroll Clerk. He stated that her actions in changing Chief Styers' wage were not acceptable, and regardless of how it affects Chief Styers, he could not allow it to happen. **Mr. Pruhs** stated that he already misses Mr. Walley and that he will miss what he brings to the meetings. He welcomed Ms. Huntington back and offered condolences for the loss of her cousin. He stated that the Brownfield Funding for the Polaris Building was denied but that he will be meeting with Lisa Murkowski's Office to discuss other funding options. **Mr. Pruhs** asked Mayor Eberhart to work with Development Manager Pat Smith to put together a price for an option to purchase.

Mr. Cleworth gave his condolences to Ms. Huntington for the loss for her cousin. He thanked the City Clerk for the report and stated it was very informative. He stated that in the past there have been issues of animal waste being in a neighbor's yard but that pet waste piling up in the downtown area has not come up before. **Mr. Cleworth** requested that Mr. Ewers to look into the Code relating to animal waste and provide a list of pros and cons in amending the Code. He stated that he is looking forward to hearing testimony on the Borough's request to change the name of Terminal Street. **Mr. Cleworth** asked Police Chief Randall Aragon and Deputy Police Chief Brad Johnson to come forward and speak to second hand stores and pawn shops. He stated that an owner of a second hand store told him that someone from FPD has contacted them trying to purchase an item.

Deputy Chief Johnson stated that there was a time that FPD was going to require pawn shops to report items that they receive. He stated that to the best of his knowledge, FPD does not purchase items at pawn shops or second hand stores.

Chief Aragon stated that there is a program is called Leads Online, and it nationally reports pawned items and helps in the recovery of stolen items. He stated that detectives are working with pawn shops on a voluntary basis if they sign up for the program. Chief Aragon stated that it is a great program for recovering stolen property, and it is an internet-based company.

Mr. Cleworth asked how much the program costs and who would pay the bill.

Chief Aragon stated that the agency would pay for it, and it runs about \$2,500.00 a year. He stated that the program has already helped recover a Rolex watch that showed up in California.

Mr. Cleworth stated that the owner he heard from felt pressured to sign up and asked the officers to please advise whoever is working with pawn shop owners to pass along that it is on a voluntary basis. He distributed a handout of the deadliest jobs in America that he found to be interesting. **Mr. Cleworth** spoke to SSHB66 and to Mayor Eberhart's recent letter to Juneau in support of the bill. He stated that the City Council has not taken a stand on the issue. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that garbage collectors have a higher fatality rate than police officers and that he has trouble supporting legislation that isolates one occupation for favorable treatment. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that if the Mayor's letter had already been sent to Juneau, he would like Ms. Snider to send a letter clarifying that the Mayor's letter was the opinion of the Mayor, not the City Council.

Mr. Matherly offered his thoughts and prayers to the family of the gentleman that was found in the Chena River earlier in the evening. He stated that he would save his comments to Mr. Walley for the next meeting and spoke to what a loss it will be for Mr. Walley to leave the Council. **Mr. Matherly** asked if anyone has spoken to the Borough about having a Borough Assembly Member give an update once a month at City Council meetings. He spoke to Mr. Turney's concern about dog waste in the downtown area and shared that his family has been going on poop patrol lately. **Mr. Matherly** stated that he was almost ran off the road recently by someone who was texting and driving. He stated that he also sees a lot of people throwing cigarette butts out of their vehicle windows and commented that it creates a litter issue.

Mr. Matherly, seconded by **Mr. Walley**, moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Fairbanks Firefighters Union (FFU) Labor Negotiations.

Mayor Eberhart called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Mayor Eberhart called for a five minute recess.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) Labor Contract Negotiations – Fairbanks Firefighters Union (FFU)

The City Council met in Executive Session to discuss FFU Labor Negotiations. Direction was given to staff and no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Matherly, seconded by **Ms. Huntington**, moved to ADJOURN the meeting.


Mayor Eberhart called for objection and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Mayor Eberhart declared the meeting adjourned at 10:57 p.m.



JOHN EBERHART, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, CMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: EB