



## CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Dawn Murphy, 101 Dunkel Street, Fairbanks – Ms. Murphy stated Explore Fairbanks passed an official audit of the books. Ms. Murphy stated June Rogers of the Fairbanks Arts Association won the Golden Heart Award for her support of the visitor industry. Ms. Murphy stated Mayor Luke Hopkins won the Aurora Award for his contributions toward the developments of the Fairbanks visitor industry. Ms. Murphy stated the Jim and Mary Binkley Award went to Hoodoo Brewery for their creation and innovation of the new attraction they have opened in the community. Ms. Murphy stated the Raven Award went to Alaska Skylar Travel for promoting a distinct local, statewide, national and international interest in Alaska among travelers. Ms. Murphy stated Hilda McDonald was awarded the Golden Heart Greeter Award for her dedication to making sure visitors' experience is special and memorable. She stated Explore Fairbanks won silver in the Destination Video category from the North American Travel Journal Association. Ms. Murphy stated that the Annual Walk for Charity will take place May 8, 2015, and that all funds from the proceeds will go to local non-profits. Ms. Murphy thanked the Council for reinvesting City bed tax funds into destination marketing.

Marylee Bates, 1290 St. Anton Drive, Fairbanks – Ms. Bates stated she is the Director of Fairbanks Youth Advocates; she stated The Door is a facility that houses homeless youth ages 12-18. Ms. Bates shared the various reasons youth come to stay at the shelter. Ms. Bates stated that many of the youth that come to the shelter do not have supportive adults in their lives and so the staff steps in and helps fill that role. Ms. Bates stated on behalf of the Fairbanks Youth Advocates that she would like to publically thank the City of Fairbanks for making a difference in the lives of teens and families in the area. Ms. Bates invited the Council to the public presentation hosted by the Greater Fairbanks Women's Club on April 28, 2015 at the Noel Wien Library.

**Mr. Gatewood** thanked Ms. Bates for her community service. **Mr. Gatewood** asked Ms. Bates how she determines a youth's need for shelter. Ms. Bates stated that it is a process over time that determines why a youth has sought The Door for shelter.

Jeff Whipple, 441 Keeling Road, North Pole – Mr. Whipple stated he was in attendance to share his disappointment in the IBEW negotiations and the proposal the Council has offered employees. Mr. Whipple stated he was offended that City employees were not offered cost of living raises. Mr. Whipple stated that when Mr. Cleworth was Mayor he sent out an email titled swan song, in which he broke down how the City should be operated. Mr. Whipple stated Mr. Cleworth's email sited the good financial standing of the City. Mr. Whipple stated he did not understand why City employees are forced to pay an astronomical amount for no opt-out, required insurance. Mr. Whipple stated he was disappointed that the Council does not take care of valued, professional employees.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked Mr. Whipple if the package the Union offered employees four years ago would have better spent if it was applied to healthcare rather than a wage increase. Mr. Whipple stated this year alone his out of pocket medical cost went up 5% and the 2.5% package that the Union offered would not cover the cost of that increase. **Mayor Cleworth** asked Mr. Whipple if he would be interested in plans outside of the IBEW plan. Mr. Whipple stated the IBEW has a no

opt out clause and that he would be interested in hearing other options to the IBEW healthcare plan.

Dominic Lozano, 1101 Cushman Street, Fairbanks – Mr. Lozano stated he was the president of the Fire Fighters Union and that he was attending the Council meeting to urge the members to allow for changes to the current insurance contract. Mr. Lozano expressed his disappointment in the Council for not holding good faith arbitration tactics. Mr. Lozano stated the high cost of health care has nullified and voided any promotion pay he has received.

Doug Fournier, 105 Oak Drive, Fairbanks – Mr. Fournier stated he has worked for the Fire Department for 22 years. He stated he likes to look at life with a “glass-is-half-full” kind of attitude but that some of the recent decisions of the Council he is developing negative feelings. Mr. Fournier stated that when he was hired in 1993, he was immediately given a pink slip because the City hid money in an attempt to only fund the Fire Department for half of the year. He stated that he has a lack of trust for the members of the Council. Mr. Fournier stated that when he got hired his healthcare was funded at 100%; he stated that his paycheck amount has not gone up because of the increased cost of employee paid insurance premiums. Mr. Fournier stated that the fire department and police department are continually at risk while on the job and that the City should fund more of their healthcare. Mr. Fournier stated that when the Council takes away an employee’s ability to care for themselves, they are putting that employee at risk.

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

#### APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

- a) Regular Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2015.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

#### MAYOR’S COMMENTS AND REPORT

**Mayor Eberhart** stated he was going to make a presentation to thank Mike Schmetzer for his years of service to the City of Fairbanks. **Mayor Eberhart** stated that the F-16’s would be staying at Eielson Air Force Base. **Mayor Eberhart** expressed the importance of revenue sharing and stated his concern for future fiscal declines. **Mayor Eberhart** spoke to the healthcare issues that are affecting employees, specifically the firefighters’ Superior Court case and the arbitrator’s suggestions. **Mayor Eberhart** spoke to the various meetings and activities he had participated in since the last Council Meeting.

**Mayor Eberhart** expressed his gratitude to Mike Schmetzer for his 9 years of service to the City of Fairbanks. He stated Mr. Schmetzer was a tremendous asset and that he will present Mr. Schmetzer with his goldpan at a future date.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 5970 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Section 46-42 Disturbing the Peace by Adding a New Subsection Relating to Marijuana Smoke. Introduced by Mr. Pruhs. PUBLIC HEARING was held on April 6, 2015. POSTPONED from the Regular Meeting of April 6, 2015.

NOTE: Because Ordinance No. 5970 was postponed, the motion to ADOPT was already on the floor (the motion to ADOPT) was made by **Mr. Pruhs**, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth** at the Regular Meeting of April 6, 2015.

**Mr. Gatewood**, seconded by **Mr. Matherly**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 5970.

**Mr. Cleworth** stated he was the person who requested a postponement and that he shared his concerns at the Finance committee meeting and shared his concerns. He stated he spoke with Public Safety and that he no longer has an issue with the Ordinance; he stated his concern was that of the warning process prior to ticketing.

**Mr. Pruhs** spoke to the existing Code on disturbing the peace and that it speaks only to noise violations. He stated that marijuana smoke would be treated like noise if it transfers from one property line to another. **Mr. Pruhs** stated he did not believe it would be a commonly used tool but that the police do get phone calls from citizens in regard to the matter. He stated that this Ordinance gives a citizen their right of life and peaceful enjoyment to not be disturbed.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 5970 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

**Mayor Eberhart** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 5970 ADOPTED.

- b) Ordinance No. 5972 – An Ordinance Amending the Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the City of Fairbanks and the Fairbanks AFL-CIO Crafts Council. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

**Mr. Matherly**, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 5972.

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

**Mr. Pruhs** thanked City Chief of Staff Mr. Williams for all the work he did in preparing Ordinance No. 5972.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 5972 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Gatewood, Walley, Pruhs, Matherly, Staley, Cleworth  
NAYS: None  
**Mayor Eberhart** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 5972 ADOPTED.

- c) Ordinance No. 5973 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Chapter 2-119. Order of Business; Citizens Addressing City Council. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

**Mr. Matherly**, seconded by **Mr. Walley**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 5973.

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

**Mr. Pruhs** shared his concern with the language in the Ordinance regarding a five minute time limit per topic. **Mr. Pruhs** asked Mr. Ewers if a citizen would they get multiple five minute increments to testify if they had multiple topics to speak about. Mr. Ewers stated that the practice has always been limited to five minutes in total.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 5973 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Matherly, Cleworth, Walley, Staley, Gatewood, Pruhs  
NAYS: None  
**Mayor Eberhart** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 5973 ADOPTED.

### NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 4666 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Funds from the Alaska Highway Safety Office for the FFY2016 DUI Traffic Enforcement Unit. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

**Mr. Cleworth** requested that Deputy Police Chief Jewkes to come forward to answer some questions. **Mr. Cleworth** stated he has some confusion about personnel positions at FPD. He asked Mr. Jewkes to clarify which positions have been eliminated and what positions are still active. Mr. Jewkes stated there are two Clerks in the data management office and one Clerk in the administrative office. **Mr. Cleworth** asked Mr. Jewkes which positions were eliminated by the Union; Mr. Jewkes replied one-and-a-half officers were eliminated in exchange for the Clerk positions. **Mr. Cleworth** asked Chief of Staff Williams if he could clarify which positions were current and which had been eliminated. Mr. Williams stated at the end of 2014, three temporary Public Safety Assistants (PSA) were eliminated. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that in looking at the grants the Student Resource Officers' (SRO) funding stopped in May of 2014; Mr. Jewkes stated they are funded through August of 2015. **Mr. Cleworth** stated his confusion at the grant-funded positions and shared his concern that the SRO's went from grant-funded to payroll employees. Mr. Jewkes stated there are two officers retiring in May of 2015 and that the grant funding is

hard to track. **Mr. Cleworth** stated he no longer believes the grant-funded positions are lucrative for the City.

**Mr. Gatewood** expressed confusion with **Mr. Cleworth's** comments regarding the grant-funded positions. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that the positions that were added several years ago were funded at 90% by the grant and now the positions are funded at 25%. **Mr. Gatewood** agreed that it did not make good sense to him either.

**Mr. Walley** asked whether the 2015 budget would need to be increased by \$45,000 if Resolution No. 4666 were approved. He also asked how much the budget would increase for 2016. **Mr. Jewkes** quoted a \$137,500 increase for 2016. **Mr. Jewkes** also stated that it would be a shame to hire someone, train them, increase then give them a pink slip on January 1; he said it would make more sense to look to the future and fund them for 2016.

**Mr. Cleworth** stated the traffic unit is a four person unit; he asked if the City could apply for the grant and use it toward the two existing officers that are on the force now. City Grants Administrator Margarita Bell stated that would not be possible.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4666 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: None  
NAYS: Walley, Matherly, Gatewood, Pruhs, Cleworth, Staley  
**Mayor Eberhart** declared Resolution 4666 was FAILED.

- b) Resolution No. 4667 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Accept Funds from the Alaska Highway Safety Office for the FFY2016 Traffic Safety Programs. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Resolution No. 4668 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Accept Funds from the United States Department of Justice for the FFY2015 Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- d) Resolution No. 4669 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Funds from the Alaska Division of Homeland Security for the FFY2015 State Homeland Security Program. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

**Mr. Walley**, seconded by **Mr. Gatewood**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 4669

**Mr. Cleworth** spoke to the list of rankings for the most important projects that need to be completed. **Mr. Cleworth** stated he did not agree with the list of rankings and he thought police car video cameras and portable radio replacements for the fire department should be moved up on the list. **Mr. Cleworth** suggested a shuffle of the order of importance of the projects.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Mr. Walley**, moved to AMEND Resolution No. 4669 by changing the project ranking so that Item #1 is moved down to become #4 and the other Items are moved up accordingly.

**Mr. Gatewood** stated his understanding of the ranking was that it did not matter what order the projects were in just that they were important projects that were important and needed attention.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION NO. 4669 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Pruhs, Walley, Staley, Matherly

NEYS: Gatewood

**Mayor Eberhart** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4669, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

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

NEYS: None

**Mayor Eberhart** declared Resolution No. 4669, as Amended, APPROVED.

- e) Resolution No. 4670 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Accept Funds from the Alaska Division of Homeland Security for the FFY2014 Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive Grant Program. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- f) Ordinance No. 5974 – An Ordinance Amending the 2015 Operating and Capital Budgets for the Third Time. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

**Mr. Gatewood**, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 5974.

**Mr. Cleworth** spoke to the financial matters regarding revenues and expenses. He spoke to what adopting Ordinance No. 5974 would do to the City's budget. He stated that if all obligations were met there would only be \$22,000.00 left in the General Fund. **Mr. Cleworth** stated there is a real problem leaving the General Fund so close to the bottom line and that Ordinance No. 5974 would leave the City with virtually nothing to work with on a day-to-day basis. **Mr. Cleworth** stated the City needs to be more self-sufficient and needs to not dip into savings. **Mr. Cleworth** spoke to Mr. Lozano's comments during public testimony; he quoted his statement that no effort was made by the City to meet the FFU halfway. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that the City made a proposal and the Union made a proposal; the City rejected the Union's pricey proposal. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that the City did make a second offer to pay 80% of the expenses that would incur in 2013, which the Union again rejected. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that the City funds all unions equally and that the FFU proposal would have been an astronomical increase in costs leaving other City employees out. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that the City's proposal was not allowed to be presented to the arbitrator. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that the City made an

effort to negotiate but that the Union refused to respond to the City's counter-offer. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that the PSEA contract proposal the past calendar year included a force reduction of 10% with a City healthcare contribution increase of \$250 a month per person, equating to \$3,000 per year per employee. **Mr. Cleworth** stated if the City approved that increase they would have to increase all healthcare contributions for all employees by the same amount to make it equal and fair. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that if every employee was funded at that rate that would create a \$600,000 a year increase to the City budget; he stated it is not a sustainable increase. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that the Code requires a balanced budget and shared his concern for funding Ordinance No. 5974 because it would create an unbalanced budget. **Mr. Cleworth** stated his disapproval of the Ordinance.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 5974 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Gatewood, Staley

NEYS: Pruhs, Cleworth, Matherly, Walley

**Mayor Eberhart** declared Ordinance No. 5974 FAILED TO ADVANCE.

- g) Ordinance No. 5975 – An Ordinance Authorizing the Release of an Easement in Lemita Subdivision. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- h) Ordinance No. 5976 – An Ordinance Authorizing the Engineering Department to Enter into a Developer's Agreement for the Construction of the Bentley Retail Area Loop Road and for the Public Works Department to Take and Additional Road Maintenance Responsibility in the Bentley Retail Area. Introduced by Council Member Pruhs.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- i) Ordinance No. 5977 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Section 2-118.1 to Provide for Council Appointment of Public Members of the Finance Committee. Introduced by Council Member Matherly.

ADVANCED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- a) Committee Reports

**FMATS Policy Committee** - **Mr. Walley** stated the FMATS Policy Committee agreed to convert Federal Community Transportation Program (FCTP) funds that FMATS uses to operate the office and the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) into planning funds. **Mr. Walley** shared his concern of low funding. **Mr. Walley** spoke to plans for a bike path from Fairbanks to North Pole. **Mr. Walley** stated he is in support of rebuilding bridges that have structural deficiencies.



Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC) - **Mr. Gatewood** stated that the FDC met on April 14, 2015; he stated it was a good informative meeting but that there was not a quorum in attendance. **Mr. Gatewood** stated that the Chief of Police spoke about community oriented policing and that he captured the attention of attendees with the information he provided. **Mr. Gatewood** thanked Chief of Staff, Jim Williams and Communications Director Amber Courtney for their work dedicated to the Diversity Action Plan (DAP). **Mr. Gatewood** stated the FDC has been aggressive in identifying the six main goals they want included in the DAP and the importance of diversifying the work force of the City. **Mr. Gatewood** stated the next meeting would be on the second Tuesday in May and that he hoped the FDC would have a quorum to vote on the DAP. **Mr. Gatewood** stated the FDC wants to make a difference in cross cultural relations and they hope to live up to that expectation.

### COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

- a) Board of Plumber Examiner Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2015.

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

- b) Chena Riverfront Commission Meeting Minutes of March 11, 2015.

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA

### COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

**Mr. Gatewood** requested to be excused from the Regular Council Meeting of May 18, 2015.

**Mayor Eberhart** called for objection to Mr. Gatewood's request to be excused on May 18, 2015 and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

**Mr. Walley** stated his concern for the increasing cost of healthcare. **Mr. Walley** thanked Mr. Cleworth for sharing the numbers and stated that it helped put into perspective what the actual cost would be. **Mr. Walley** stated he would miss Mr. Schmetzer and that he had relied on his wealth of knowledge on the FMATS Committee; he wished Mr. Schmetzer the best.

**Ms. Staley** apologized for being out of town so long; she stated it is flooding on the east coast. **Ms. Staley** echoed Mr. Walley's statements on Mr. Schmetzer and shared that she too would miss him. **Mr. Staley** spoke to funding issues for the Community Service Patrol (CSP) and that she was concerned that the funding will go away. She stated that she wants to explore measures that could be taken to extend funding.

**Mayor Eberhart** stated he had a discussion with Mr. Vandenberg and the Chief of Police at the Downtown Association Mixer regarding CSP. He shared that they discussed having a meeting and inviting top-level businesses in Fairbanks in the hopes of raising funds to support CSP for FY2016. **Mayor Eberhart** shared his disappointment that Ordinance No. 5974 was struck down.

**Mr. Matherly** gave condolences to the family of Dale Carlson. **Mr. Matherly** shared that he was given a wonderful recommendation for Jackson Fox by a citizen who worked on an issue with him. **Mr. Matherly** shared another citizen's story who had an issue with standing water on their property the year before. He stated the City took care of the issue last year and showed up this year without being called. **Mr. Matherly** attributed that great service to Mr. Schmetzer and shared that he hated to see him leave. **Mr. Matherly** stated the weather has been nice but that there are still icy spots; he cautioned the public to drive safe.

**Mr. Cleworth** echoed the Council's comments on Mr. Schmetzer and stated he was a great asset and had excellent customer service skills. **Mr. Cleworth** asked if the IBEW and the City were still in negotiations; Mr. Whipple replied affirmatively. **Mr. Cleworth** stated the IBEW chooses to put the CPI increases toward hourly wages and has never put an increase toward healthcare. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that the issue is the Union's problem, not the City Council's. **Mr. Cleworth** stated the CPI is generated in Anchorage and that it does not properly address the cost of living in Fairbanks. **Mr. Cleworth** stated he hoped to go back and revisit proration to get the amount adjusted. **Mr. Cleworth** asked Mayor Eberhart if he addressed Explore Fairbanks when he attended the gathering a few weeks ago. **Mayor Eberhart** stated he attended the awards banquet. **Mr. Cleworth** asked if Mayor Eberhart made a comment expressing his disappointment that no City Council members attended the F-35 hearing. **Mayor Eberhart** stated he did make a comment of that nature. **Mr. Cleworth** spoke to his defense and that he has attended so many military scoping meetings over the years that he could no longer track. **Mr. Cleworth** stated Ms. Staley presented at one of the meetings and that she did a great job. He stated that the F-16 Scoping meetings became Mayor Eberhart's responsibility with office and that he appreciated his attendance. He asked that he not state his disappointment because he cannot attend every single meeting because of other conflicts. **Mr. Cleworth** asked Mayor Eberhart if the PSEA grievance for the use of outside contractors for background checks had been filed yet. **Mayor Eberhart** stated it has been filed and that the City has responded to the grievance.

**Mr. Pruhs** spoke to the Polaris Building and how to secure funding to demolish the building down. He discussed the legalities of taking the property back and to future possibilities for the property. **Mr. Pruhs** stated Mr. Marlow has been given plenty of time to do something with the building and that nothing has been done. **Mr. Pruhs** stated he thought it would be a good idea to hold a future work session that at the Pioneer Home.

**Mr. Matherly** stated he meant to say during his comments that he had spoken with Mr. Marlow earlier in the day; he stated he remains skeptical that he will be able raise the necessary funds.

**Mr. Matherly**, seconded by **Mr. Walley**, moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Labor Negotiations: Fairbanks Firefighters Union (FFU) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW).

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

**Mayor Eberhart** called for a five minute recess.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) Labor Contract Negotiations – FFU & IBEW

The City Council met in Executive Session to discuss labor negotiations. Direction was given to staff and no action was taken.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

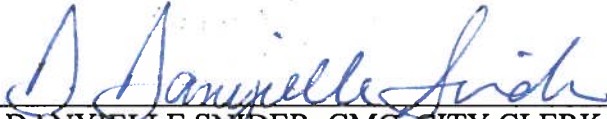
**Mayor Eberhart** declared the Meeting adjourned at 11:30 P.M.



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JOHN EBERHART, MAYOR

ATTEST:



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D. DANYELLE SNIDER, CMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: EB