



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, NOVEMBER 7, 2016
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

The City Council convened at 7:00 p.m. on the above date, following a 5:30 p.m. Work Session for the Explore Fairbanks Annual Report and a 6:10 p.m. Work Session for the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation (FEDC) Annual Report, 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
Jerry Norum, Seat D
Jerry Cleworth, Seat E
David Pruhs, Seat F

Absent: None

Also Present: Paul Ewers, City Attorney
D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk
Kyle Green, Deputy Fire Marshal
Stephanie Johnson, Dispatch Center Manager
Carmen Randle, Chief Financial Officer
Jeff Jacobson, Public Works Director
Pat Smith, Development Manager
Jackson Fox, City Engineer
Bill Rogers, Engineer II
Brad Johnson, Acting Police Chief
Annie Witt, Acting General Foreperson
JB Brainerd, Deputy City Attorney

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

FLAG SALUTATION

Mayor Matherly led the Flag Salutation.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Brittney Smart, 907 Terminal Street, Fairbanks – Ms. Smart offered her condolences for the loss of Sergeant Allen Brandt. She gave an update on the Borough's recycling plan and stated that hiring a Recycling Manager will be crucial to recycling services. She requested that members of the public come to the next Assembly meeting to show support for hiring a manager.

Lance Roberts, P.O. Box 83449, Fairbanks – Mr. Roberts stated that the Borough’s recycling plan will affect tipping fees and the cost of garbage service. He spoke to the Public Safety Employee Association (PSEA) contract and urged the Council not to give away their authority. Mr. Roberts spoke to the impact marijuana licenses have on the community.

Mary Nordale, 309 Haines Way, Fairbanks – Ms. Nordale requested that the City withdraw its appeal regarding the PSEA contract. She stated that the appeal would take a long time to process and that the costs the City would incur would outweigh the cost of funding the contract.

Jake Metcalfe, 9228 Laurel Street, Fairbanks – Mr. Metcalfe spoke in favor of the City Council funding COBRA insurance coverage for the family of Sgt. Brandt. He stated that PSEA’s major legislative priority has been survivor medical benefits for the families of fallen officers. Mr. Metcalfe stated that four officers have been killed in the line of duty in the last three years, and now their families are struggling financially. He stated that the City Council should not appeal the court’s decision and that they should fund the PSEA contract.

Ron Dupee, 672 Hillcrest Drive, Fairbanks – Mr. Dupee echoed Mr. Metcalfe’s thoughts regarding the City’s appeal. He thanked the community for the support they have given the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) following the shooting of Sgt. Brandt.

Mr. Pruhs stated that the City Council is prepared to fund the COBRA benefits for the Brandt family, and he encouraged Mr. Metcalfe and Mr. Dupee to get that benefit written into the contract during the next negotiation.

Ms. Therrien asked Mr. Dupee if the issue of the 36-hour work week could be renegotiated. Mr. Dupee stated that the 36-hour work week was to be in place for a minimum of 12 months and that it is well past that time period. He stated that either party could opt out of it.

Christopher Dean, P.O. Box 71129, Fairbanks – Mr. Dean stated that a hero had been laid to rest the day before and that it was hard to believe that Sgt. Brandt had spoken at the last Council meeting. He spoke in favor of the City Council funding the PSEA contract. He stated that two years ago the community mourned the loss of two State Troopers and spoke of the problems around the country with people targeting police officers.

Brenda Riley, 312 7th Avenue, Fairbanks – Ms. Riley stated that she has lived in downtown Fairbanks for 30 years; she spoke in favor of the City Council funding the PSEA contract. She stated that the FPD has been short-staffed and morale is low as a result. Ms. Riley stated that on the night that Sgt. Brandt was shot, he had worked an overtime shift. She stated that he should have been able to spend that time with his family.

Kara Carlson, 782 7th Avenue, Fairbanks – Ms. Carlson welcomed the new Council Members and the Mayor. She encouraged the City Council to support the grant from the Mental Health Trust to get a Housing and Homeless Coordinator employed at the City.

Daniel Peters, 2604 Davis Road, Fairbanks – Mr. Peters congratulated the new Council Members and the Mayor. He spoke to the kindness he saw in Mr. Norum when he helped a man get a ride

home who was inebriated in the City Hall parking lot. Mr. Peters thanked the Council Members who responded to those who had written in support of his marijuana retail license.

Victor Buberger, P.O. Box 58192, Fairbanks – Mr. Buberger welcomed the new Council Members and Mayor Matherly. He spoke to the importance of the City making traffic a priority in 2017. He stated that many intersections in the City have blind corners and that drivers have to pull into the intersection to see if a vehicle is approaching. Mr. Buberger encouraged the Council to have the cross walks in the downtown area painted for the safety of the tourists. He spoke to the need for public restrooms in the downtown area.

Marcus Swart, 1013 D Street, Fairbanks – Mr. Swart spoke in support of the FPD, and he urged the City Council to stop the appeal to the Supreme Court. He stated that police officers cannot strike and that the City is acting in bad faith by not funding their contract. He asked the Council to act in good faith and fund the PSEA contract.

Floyd Terry, P.O. Box 73514, Fairbanks – Mr. Terry spoke to the murder of Sgt. Brandt and stated it should not take such a tragedy to bring the community together. He thanked the City Council for listening to all of the public testimony. He spoke to the history of roller-skating rinks in Fairbanks. He encouraged everyone to go to The Diner and look at all the historical photographs on the walls.

Brad Johnson, 911 Cushman Street, Fairbanks – Acting Police Chief Johnson thanked the Fairbanks community for all the support they have given FPD since the shooting of Sgt. Brandt. He stated that the outpouring of financial support has been overwhelming. Acting Chief Johnson stated it seems like every citizen in the community has done something to support the Brandt family and FPD. He offered a special thank you to the Alaska State Troopers and the Anchorage Police Department for all the support they have given to the Brandt family.

Mayor Matherly thanked Acting Chief Johnson for his leadership and steady command during the tough loss of Sgt. Brandt. He commended FPD staff for the beautiful ceremony they put together to honor Sgt. Brandt. **Mayor Matherly** stated that everything Johnson has done has been done with a caring heart and class. Deputy Chief Johnson stated everyone at FPD was involved and the ceremony was a team effort.

Ms. Rogers stated she did not want the evening to go by without thanking Brenda Riley for the help she provided Sgt. Brandt then night he was attacked.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

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

Ms. Rogers pulled Resolution No. 4768 from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Cleworth pulled Resolution No. 4769 from the Consent Agenda.

City Attorney Ewers stated that there is nothing to report regarding AFL-CIO Labor Negotiations. **Mayor Matherly** requested that the item be removed from the agenda under Executive Session.

Ms. Huntington stated that she would like to see more information before voting on the PSEA appeal. She urged the Council to postpone the item until the next meeting.

Ms. Huntington, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to POSTPONE the Motion on the Floor regarding the PSEA Appeal (Item 17) to the Regular Meeting of November 21, 2016, under Unfinished Business.

Mr. Norum stated he did not want to postpone the PSEA Appeal discussion because the officers deserve an answer.

Mr. Pruhs stated that the Council will receive new information during the Executive Session and that they should have time to review that information.

Ms. Therrien echoed Mr. Pruhs' statement.

Ms. Huntington stated that over the past few weeks all attention has been on supporting Sgt. Brandt and putting on his ceremony. She stated that the Council should have adequate time to review the information that will be presented in Executive Session.

Mr. Cleworth asked City Attorney Paul Ewers if the issue was time sensitive. Mr. Ewers stated there is no rush to make a decision on the appeal.

Ms. Huntington stated that the numbers presented to the Council changed significantly over the weekend, and not all Council Members have had the opportunity to review the changes.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE THE MOTION ON THE FLOOR REGARDING THE PSEA APPEAL (ITEM 17) TO THE REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 21, 2016, UNDER UNFINISHED BUSINESS AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien, Rogers, Pruhs, Huntington

NAYS: Norum, Cleworth

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Ms. Therrien pulled the 2017 City Council Meeting Schedule from the Consent Agenda.

Mayor Matherly called for objection to APPROVING the Agenda, as Amended, 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 August 8, 2016.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

SPECIAL ORDERS

- a) The Fairbanks City Council, Sitting as a Committee of the Whole, considered the following Appeal of Denied Public Records Request No. 2016-67. POSTPONED from the Regular Meeting of October 24, 2016.

Appellant: Terry Rahlfs

The motion to GRANT the Appeal was made at the Regular Meeting of October 24, 2016 by Mr. Pruhs and was seconded by Mr. Gatewood.

City Attorney Ewers stated that Mr. Rahlfs' request for autopsy photos and results is under the medical examiner's control, not the City's. He stated that according to State Statute, medical records are not public records. Mr. Ewers stated that requests for body and dash camera footage are not available because the State will not allow it to be released with a pending investigation. He explained that the Office of Special Prosecution and Appeals (OSPA) has stated that the images are not to be released because of the exception in the Alaska Public Records Law. He stated it is a serious matter regarding the use of deadly force by a Fairbanks police officer. He stated that after the investigation is complete the footage may be made public.

Ms. Therrien asked Mr. Ewers how long he believes the investigation will take. Mr. Ewers replied that it may take another month.

Mr. Pruhs asked Mr. Ewers if he has met with Mr. Rahlfs to discuss the reasons behind his decision on the appeal. Mr. Ewers stated he had spoken with Mr. Rahlfs.

Ms. Huntington asked if the City would be able to share the requested records when the OSPA investigation is over. Mr. Ewers stated that the release of the footage would be FPD's decision.

Mr. Norum asked if the District Attorney's (DA) Office was involved in the investigation. Mr. Ewers stated that OSPA specifically handles these types of investigations. He stated that if wrongdoing is found, the case would be sent to the DA for possible criminal charges.

Mr. Rahlfs stated that he understands the law prohibiting public release of the autopsy results. He stated that releasing the images is about transparency. He stated that when wrongdoing occurs in City government, it is sometimes covered up. Mr. Rahlfs used the bleeping out of expletives from the Council Meeting audio posted to the City website as an example. He cited the shooting of Sgt. Brandt as a good reason for transparency, alleging the shooter acted in vengeance on the FPD. He stated that some jurisdictions put out footage to quell potential uprising. He stated that citizens can only help government if they know what is going on.

Ms. Therrien asked Mr. Rahlfs if he would be willing to wait for the footage to be released. Mr. Rahlfs stated he would like the Council to make a decision that evening.

Ms. Rogers cautioned on quoting hearsay as fact on the record. She requested that unless a statement comes directly from the source, it should not be spoken into the record as fact. **Ms. Rogers** stated that she is specifically speaking about the hearsay about why Sgt. Brandt was shot.

Mayor Matherly stated that he respects the City Attorney's decision because it is such a serious issue. He expressed his belief that the City should wait until OSPA has signed off on the investigation before releasing footage.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to DIVIDE THE QUESTION by voting separately on whether to grant the request to view the autopsy results (request #3).

Mr. Ewers stated that if Mr. Rahlfs would withdraw his request to view the results of the autopsy, there would be no reason to divide the question. Mr. Rahlfs agreed to withdraw his request to view the autopsy results.

Mr. Cleworth thanked Mr. Rahlfs for allowing the Council to postpone his appeal from the last Regular meeting. He stated that he supports Mr. Ewers' concerns and that the Council should wait for OSPA to release the information.

Mr. Rahlfs stated that he understands that the information will be released, but that he has a concern with setting a precedent of non-transparency.

Mr. Pruhs called a Point of Order. He stated that it is the Council's time for discussion.

Ms. Huntington asked Mr. Rahlfs if he has taken up the issue with OSPA. She expressed agreement with Mr. Ewers and stated that the Council should follow State law. Mr. Rahlfs stated that he spoke with the AG's office, and they would not release the information. He stated that the AG told him that the City could release information but that they advise against it.

Ms. Therrien, with the concurrence of the Second, WITHDREW the motion to Divide the Question.

Mr. Norum stated that Mr. Ewers' advice should be backed up by the Council.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO GRANT THE APPEAL OF DENIED PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST NO. 2016-67, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien
NAYS: Rogers, Norum, Pruhs, Cleworth, Huntington
Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION FAILED.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

Mayor Matherly stated he has never experienced anything like the last two weeks, and it has been a blessing and honor to serve as Mayor. He stated the day he was sworn in he immediately started working on the budget and that he has been working with an open door as promised in his campaign. He spoke to the fun had at the open house for trick-or-treaters on Halloween. **Mayor**

Matherly spoke to how professionally everything was done for Sgt. Brandt. He stated he was honored to ride in the processional and to speak at the memorial ceremony. He stated the service is online for public viewing. **Mayor Matherly** stated Chief of Police Randall Aragon resigned, and that he is unsure who he will recommend for appointment to the position. **Mayor Matherly** stated that Mike Meeks has accepted Chief of Staff position and that Jeff Jacobson is the new Public Works Director. He read aloud a letter from Kip Harmon rescinding his acceptance of the position as the City's Communications Director. **Mayor Matherly** thanked Ms. Rogers for accepting the chair position on the Hotel/Motel Discretionary Fund Committee. He thanked City employees for the wonderful welcome to City Hall and stated that he would like to be accessible and approachable to all employees and citizens.

Mayor Matherly called for a five-minute recess.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6032 – An Ordinance Amending the 2016 Operating and Capital Budgets for the Third Time. Introduced by former Mayor Eberhart. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Huntington**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6032.

Mr. Pruhs, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to SUBSTITUTE Ordinance No. 6032, as Amended, for Ordinance No. 6032.

Mayor Matherly called for objection to the SUBSTITUTION and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

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

Mr. Cleworth stated that the budget ordinance includes the cost of medical coverage for the Brandt family through the end of 2016.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6032 by striking the language, "\$683,409 increase due to claims processing in 2016. All claim costs are recovered through property taxes in the following year." from page seven.

Mr. Cleworth asked Chief Financial Officer Carmen Randle for a staff report. Ms. Randle stated that she is responsible for making sure that City revenues exceed expenditures, and she added that the claims and judgements line item has the potential to make expenditures greater than revenues. Ms. Randle explained that claims and judgments are recovered in the following year through the property tax, but that the expenditure causes a liability issue in the meantime. Ms. Randle suggested the creation of a new, multi-year Fund separate from the General Fund as a solution to the problem.

Mr. Pruhs stated he agrees with creating a new, multi-year Fund.

Mr. Norum asked if Risk Management is going to be part of the Mayor's Office. **Mayor Matherly** stated that it will be. **Mr. Norum** spoke against Risk Management being absorbed by the Mayor's Office. **Mayor Matherly** asked Ms. Randle to speak to Mr. Norum's concern because the change occurred before he became Mayor. Ms. Randle stated that the former mayor did not like that Risk Management was a department of one employee, so he absorbed that position into the Mayor's budget. She stated it was done so the Risk Manager would have departmental support. **Mr. Norum** stated that the Risk Manager should not be part of the Mayor's Office because the Mayor's Office is subject to politics.

Ms. Therrien asked Mr. Cleworth to clarify the amendment he is proposing. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that adopting the budget ordinance as-is would make it very hard for the City to operate within the budget; he added that the line item is a refundable expense.

Ms. Therrien asked Mr. Ewers if the City Council could create a new Fund at the meeting without having notified the public. Mr. Ewers stated he would advise against it until the next Regular meeting so the item could be properly noticed.

Mr. Cleworth, with the concurrence of the Second, WITHDREW his motion to amend Ordinance No. 6032, as Amended.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to POSTPONE Ordinance No. 6032, as Amended, until the Regular Meeting of November 21, 2016.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE ORDINANCE NO. 6032, AS AMENDED, UNTIL THE REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 21, 2016 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- b) Ordinance No. 6033 – An Ordinance Authorizing a Lease to the Chinook Montessori Charter School to Build a Ski Trail on City Property Adjoining the City Fire Training Center. Introduced by former Mayor Eberhart. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mr. Norum, seconded by **Ms. Huntington**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6033.

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

Mr. Pruhs commended Development Manager Pat Smith for his thorough description of the proposed project.

Mr. Norum echoed Mr. Pruhs' commendation.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6033 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6033 ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 4767 – A Resolution Designating Check Signing Authority for Banking and Investment Accounts of the City of Fairbanks, Alaska. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Resolution No. 4768 – A Resolution to Adopt a City of Fairbanks Diversity Action Plan. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

Mr. Norum, seconded by **Ms. Rogers**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 4768.

Ms. Rogers requested that Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC) members Ana Richards and Jeff Walters come forward to speak to the proposed Diversity Action Plan (DAP).

Ana Richards, 1244 Viewpointe Drive, Fairbanks – Ms. Richards stated she is honored to be the Vice Chair of the FDC. She stated that the purpose of the FDC is to give people a platform so they can speak their mind in a non-intimidating way. Ms. Richards shared her hope that the Council would approve Resolution No. 4768.

Jeff Walters, 2454 Killarney Way, Fairbanks – Mr. Walters thanked Mayor Matherly for introducing the resolution. He stated it has taken the FDC two years to put together the DAP. Mr. Walters stated that many of the items in the DAP have already been implemented. He thanked City staff for all the help they offered in drafting the DAP.

Mr. Norum commended Ms. Richards and Mr. Walters on all of the work done on the DAP.

Mr. Pruhs stated that the DAP states that all employment interview panels will contain an FDC member. He asked Ms. Rogers if an FDC member would be a part of the decision-making process to make a final selection. **Ms. Rogers** stated that the member would be involved in the interview and scoring process but not in the final decision. She asked Jeff Jacobson to speak to the issue. Mr. Jacobson stated that FDC members will participate in scoring and will make recommendations but that they are not a part of the final decision. City Attorney Ewers clarified that the Mayor is the hiring authority for most of the positions at the City.

Mr. Cleworth stated that when he was Mayor, the Police Department received over 40 applications for a position but were unable to hire a single individual from that applicant pool. He stated he asked the Police Chief if the department's standards were too high. **Mr. Cleworth**

stated that the Chief's response was that the Department could not lower their standards because everyone hired is a potential liability to the City. **Mr. Cleworth** stated that Department Heads need to have the opportunity to review the DAP and weigh in before Council approval.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mr. Norum**, moved to POSTPONE Resolution No. 4768 until the next Regular Meeting.

Ms. Huntington expressed support for Mr. Cleworth's motion to postpone. She commended the FDC for their work in preparing the DAP.

Mayor Matherly stated that City Department Heads should have the opportunity to weigh in on the DAP. Then the FDC should have the opportunity to approve any changes before the resolution comes back before the City Council.

Mr. Cleworth, with the concurrence of the Second, MODIFIED the motion to POSTPONE by postponing Resolution No. 4768 to the second Regular Meeting in January of 2017.

Ms. Richards spoke in favor of postponing the DAP; she stated that diversity takes time.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE RESOLUTION NO. 4768 TO THE SECOND REGULAR MEETING IN JANUARY OF 2017 AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

- c) Resolution No. 4769 – A Resolution Supporting the Fairbanks North Star Borough's Grant Application to the U.S. Geological Survey 3D Elevation Program. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

Mr. Pruhs, seconded by **Mr. Norum**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 4769.

Mr. Cleworth spoke against the resolution. He stated that the City's Capital Fund is steadily declining and some of Public Works' heavy equipment may need to be replaced in a moment's notice. He stated that the City should not curtail infrastructure and that the Borough has the money to move forward with the project without the support of the City.

Mr. Norum stated that City residents are also Borough residents and that the City should not have to fund the Borough's program.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4769 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: None

NAYS: Cleworth, Pruhs, Rogers, Huntington, Norum, Therrien

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION FAILED.

- d) Resolution No. 4770 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Funds from the United States Department of Homeland Security to Upgrade the Aerial Platform. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a) Council Committee Appointments

City Clerk Danyielle Snider shared with the new Chair of the Hotel/Motel Discretionary Fund Committee that a meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 10.

Mr. Pruhs requested to be transferred from the FMATS Policy Review Committee to the Permanent Fund Review Board. **Mayor Matherly** stated he had asked Mr. Cleworth to be on the Permanent Fund Review Board, and **Mr. Cleworth** stated that he would be willing to sit on the FMATS Policy Review Committee instead.

Ms. Therrien stated that she would like to serve on the Permanent Fund Review Board. **Mr. Pruhs** conceded to Ms. Therrien; he stated that his involvement with the Polaris Group keeps him busy.

Ms. Huntington stated that she would like to remain on the Public Safety Commission.

Mayor Matherly asked Mr. Norum if he would be willing to take the position as the City representative to the Explore Fairbanks Board of Directors; **Mr. Norum** concurred.

- b) Committee Reports

Polaris Group – **Mr. Pruhs** stated that the Polaris Group is going to apply for Brownfield Funding through the State of Alaska and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He stated that he met with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) about what to do with buildings like the Polaris Building. **Mr. Pruhs** stated that the next Polaris Group meeting would be the following Thursday at 3 p.m. in the Explore Fairbanks board room.

COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

- a) Approval of the 2017 City Council Meeting Schedule

Mr. Pruhs, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to APPROVE the 2017 City Council Meeting Schedule.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to AMEND the Schedule by changing the April 10, 2017 Regular meeting to April 3, 2017.

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

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2017 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE AS FOLLOWS:

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

NAYS: None

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

b) Reappointment to the Permanent Fund Review Board

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

c) Appointment to the Clay Street Cemetery Commission

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

d) Appointment to the Clay Street Cemetery Commission

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

e) Reappointment to the Chena Riverfront Commission

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

f) Reappointment to the Landscape Review & Appeals Commission

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Huntington spoke to the heavy weight in the community's heart following the death of Sgt. Brandt, and she thanked the Mayor for his comments at Brandt's service. She thanked the Council for postponing the decision on the PSEA appeal. She stated that it is important for the Council to take the time to make an informed decision.

Ms. Rogers stated that it was her first time going through the City budget process and that it felt somewhat rushed; she stated that important decisions should not be rushed. She spoke to the tragic loss of Sgt. Brandt and to the outpouring of support from the community for the Brandt family. **Ms. Rogers** thanked Brenda Riley for the courage she showed in helping Sgt. Brandt the night that he was shot. She stated that she is proud to know Ms. Riley.

Ms. Therrien stated that she would like to see the new figures from Finance relating to the PSEA contract. She asked Mr. Ewers when the investigation of former Police Chief Randall Aragon was going to be completed. Mr. Ewers stated it should be done the following week. **Ms. Therrien** asked if the FDC would be participating in the hiring of a new Police Chief. She reminded everyone to vote the following day.

Mr. Norum reminded everyone how much they have to be thankful for in light of Sgt. Brandt's passing. He spoke highly of emergency first responders. He stated he would like to know the cost of delaying the PSEA appeal.

Mr. Cleworth requested there be an Executive Session on the Fairbanks Firefighters Union Labor Negotiations at the next Council meeting. He spoke to the difficulties the City has had in keeping snow dumps. He asked Mr. Ewers about the funds from the sale of City property that the Council wanted to use to expand a snow dump. **Mr. Cleworth** expressed concern that the funds from the sale would go into the Permanent Fund. City Attorney Ewers stated that he believes the funds from the sale would need to go into the Permanent Fund. Mr. Ewers stated that the sale has not happened yet and that the contract will require Council approval after it is revised. **Mr. Cleworth** gave a brief history of the need for City snow dump property. He spoke to the logistics in planning and putting on Sgt. Brandt's memorial service. **Mr. Cleworth** asked Public Works Director Jeff Jacobson if the trees along Cushman Street would be moved to Public Works for the winter for ease of snow plowing.

Mr. Jacobson stated that moving the trees may cause them damage, so they will not be moved. He stated that the City is waiting to see what kind of winter it is going to be. **Mr. Cleworth** recommended that the tree boxes be moved if the snow starts to pile up. He asked the Clerk if the Interior Delegation had a mandate requiring the legislative priorities meeting for local governments had to be a joint meeting. **Mr. Cleworth** stated he did not like having a joint meeting with the Borough and the City of North Pole because the City's business gets buried. Ms. Snider stated that she did not believe the meeting had to be a joint one. **Mr. Cleworth** asked if the City could have its own meeting with Interior Delegates in the future. **Mr. Cleworth** spoke in support of Ms. Snider's decision to not publically post the audio of an expletive at the last Council meeting.

Mr. Pruhs echoed Mr. Cleworth's thoughts on having an independent meeting with the Interior Delegation. He stated that he stood with Ms. Huntington and her family at Sgt. Brandt's procession with tears in his eyes. **Mr. Pruhs** shared how proud he is of the Council for taking care of healthcare costs for Sgt. Brandt's family. He stated that Deputy Chiefs Eric Jewkes and Brad Johnson should decide between themselves who the next Police Chief should be. **Mr. Pruhs** stated that the News Miner should not have called Ms. Snider's ethics into question regarding her decision not to post the audio of an expletive to the City website.

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Ms. Huntington**, moved to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the City v. PSEA Appeal, Case No. 4FA-15-2868CI.

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

Mayor Matherly called for a five minute recess.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) City v. PSEA Appeal, Case No. 4FA-15-2868CI

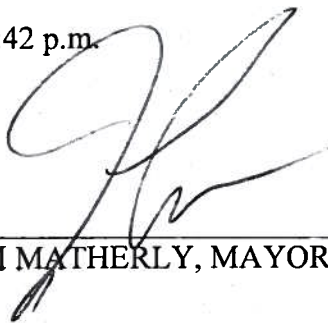
The City Council met in Executive Session to discuss the City v. PSEA Appeal, Case No. 4FA-15-2868CI. Direction was given to staff and no action was taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Pruhs, seconded by **Mr. Norum**, moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

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

Mayor Matherly declared the meeting adjourned at 11:42 p.m.



JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, CMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: EB