



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 8, 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: Perry Walley, Seat B  
Bernard Gatewood, Seat C  
Jim Matherly, Seat D  
Jerry Cleworth, Seat E  
David Pruhs, Seat F

Absent: Joy Huntington, Seat A (out sick)

Also Present: Clem Clooten, Building Official  
Ernie Misewicz, Assistant Fire Chief  
Margarita Bell, Grants Administrator  
Paul Ewers, City Attorney  
D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk  
Emily Braniff, Deputy City Clerk  
Stephanie Johnson, Dispatch Center Manager  
Carmen Randle, Chief Financial Officer  
Ben Barrio, IT Director  
Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director  
Pat Smith, Development Manager  
Randall Aragon, Police Chief  
Verg Scott, Public Works General Foreman  
Bob Pristash, City Engineer  
Shannon Kumpula, Purchasing Agent/Risk Manager

### **INVOCATION**

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

### **FLAG SALUTATION**

Mayor Eberhart led the Flag Salutation.

### **CITIZEN'S COMMENTS**

Victor Buberger, P.O. Box 58192, Fairbanks – Mr. Buberger thanked the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) and Police Chief Randall Aragon for helping his friend who was burglarized twice by the same people. He stated that the thieves were apprehended quickly and that 90-95% of the property was returned to his friend. He stated that it is now political season and all the

republican and democratic candidates are making promises to the public. Mr. Buberger stated that the candidates running for Mayor should make a promise to get public restrooms inside City limits. He stated that there are pre-fab restrooms that are relatively vandal-proof that could be placed throughout the City. He stated that Executive Sessions should be open to the public.

Frank Turney, 329 6th Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Turney welcomed the group from Fanano, Italy and invited them all to visit Mary Pedro's grave at the Clay Street Cemetery. He spoke to the controversial death of Felix Pedro and stated that he was not poisoned. He requested that the City send a laborer over to the Clay Street Cemetery to snow blow a path to Mary Pedro's grave. Mr. Turney asked if there was a Fairbanks Diversity Council (FDC) Meeting the following evening, and **Mayor Eberhart** confirmed that there would be a meeting. He applauded Mayor Eberhart for bringing the FDC to the City and that the healing meetings regarding the Fairbanks Four/John Hartman case have been helpful to the community. Mr. Turney stated he will continue to encourage the Mayor to organize an independent investigation of the FPD in the handling of the murder case. He shared the importance of updating the Manual of Directives for FPD officers.

Scott McCrea, 2965 Westgate Place, Fairbanks – Mr. McCrea stated he is attending the meeting as a representative of Explore Fairbanks and reported on tourism in 2015. He stated that two international charters were added in 2015 which brought a total of 1,300 visitors to the Interior in December. He reported how pleased the tourists were with the great display of northern lights and that they appreciated Explore Fairbanks' welcome party at the airport. Mr. McCrea stated that Anchorage is hosting the 2016 Annual Go West Conference which has never been held in Alaska. He shared that the conference is attended internationally and that it will bring tour operators from all over the world. He welcomed the Italian visitors to Fairbanks and thanked the Council for reinvesting bed tax dollars into destination marketing.

Darlene Herbert, 906 Woodlawn Road, Fairbanks – Ms. Herbert asked if she could make comments on the Unfinished Business on the agenda. **Mayor Eberhart** stated that she could speak to New Business but that she would have to wait until the Unfinished Business items came up during the meeting to speak to them. Ms. Herbert spoke to Resolution No. 4015 relating to garbage collection fees and asked why the fees go up every month. She stated that it would be cheaper for her to haul her own garbage because every month the cost goes up a dollar. She asked why it keeps going up and asked if the City needs more money or if the drivers need more money. She stated that she would comment later on Ordinance No. 6005.

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 Resolution No. 4715 and Ordinance No. 6006 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 October 19, 2015.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Regular Meeting Minutes of November 9, 2015.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

**MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT**

**Mayor Eberhart** stated that the City retained some engineers last year and had them look at Bjerremark Subdivision to suggest some improvements. He stated that there have been a number of community meetings and there has been a lot of feedback on their suggestions. **Mayor Eberhart** reported that Fairbanks is the only municipality in the State that has a high school work study program and that this is the fifth semester the City has put on the program. He introduced Jennifer Campbell from West Valley High School and reported that she will be working in the Human Resources (HR) Department. He introduced Denzel Harris and Olivia James from Lathrop High School and reported that they would be working in the Mayor's Office. He stated that the other interns were not able to make it to the Council meeting. **Mayor Eberhart** stated that Fanano, Italy is Fairbanks, Alaska's Sister City; he stated that Felice Pedroni ("Felix Pedro") came from Fanano and discovered gold in Fairbanks, putting Fairbanks on the map. He stated that Mayor Strle was the first Mayor to make a Sister City trip in 2003 and that he was happy he was able to visit Fanano the past summer. **Mayor Eberhart** reported on some of the activities he participated in while in Fanano and gave a brief history of the town. He stated the Sister City relationship has become stronger in recent years and he introduced the Mayor of Fanano, Stefano Muzzarelli and his interpreter, as well as the other members of the Italian group. **Mayor Eberhart** presented Mayor Muzzarelli with a City of Fairbanks gold pan.

Mayor Muzzarelli stated he is happy to be in Fairbanks and thanked everyone who volunteered to help with the visit. He stated that Fanano is a small place and invited Fairbanksans to come and visit again. Mr. Muzzarelli stated Mayor Eberhart's visit strengthened the relationship of the two cities. He presented Mayor Eberhart with some photos from his September visit to Fanano; he presented Police Chief Randall Aragon with a flag and State Trooper Wall with a plaque. Trooper Wall presented the Fanano group with some patches and State Trooper stickers.

**Mayor Eberhart** stated that Council Member Pruhs is an Italian chef and stated that maybe next trip they could have a cook-off. He thanked all those who contributed to the success of the visit for their efforts. He asked for a round of applause for the volunteers who helped. **Mayor Eberhart** reported the many activities of his office since the last Regular City Council Meeting. He spoke to the possibility of the City establishing a sleep-off center and to his fear that the State will stop allowing officers to take inebriates to the jail to sober up. **Mayor Eberhart** spoke

about the Fairbanks Economic Development Commission (FEDC) retreat he attended at Chena Hot Springs and stated it was a very productive event.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- a) Ordinance No. 6003 An Ordinance Amending the 2016 Operating and Capital Budgets for the First Time. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Mr. Matherly**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6003.

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

**Mr. Pruhs**, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to SUBSTITUE Ordinance No. 6003, as Amended, for Ordinance No. 6003.

**Mr. Cleworth** explained that the substituted version introduced by him, Matherly and Pruhs is identical to the original ordinance except for the transfer of \$500,000 into the Permanent Fund and \$2.2 million into the Capital Fund. He stated the substituted ordinance restores \$600,000.00 to the Public Works 2016 budget and another \$60,000.00 for the Police budget in case they replace vehicles. **Mr. Cleworth** stated these changes were discussed at the Finance Committee meeting and would leave a good cushion in the General Fund of \$10 million.

**Mr. Matherly** stated putting money into the Permanent Fund is a wise investment in the future of the City.

**Mr. Gatewood** asked if the numbers in the ordinance were based on the true up.

**Mr. Cleworth** stated that the audit is not yet complete but that the numbers should not change in a dramatic way after completion.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO SUBSTITUTE ORDINANCE NO. 6003, AS AMENDED, FOR ORDINANCE NO. 6003 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Gatewood, Walley, Pruhs, Matherly, Cleworth  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Huntington  
**Mayor Eberhart** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked Ms. Randle to report on the temporary hire numbers. Ms. Randle stated that Public Works' approved 2016 budget for temporary hire was \$776,000.00.

**Mr. Cleworth**, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6003, as Amended, by adding \$50,000.00 to the Public Works temporary hire budget.

Ms. Randle clarified that the \$2.2 million dollars being transferred from the General Fund to the Capital Fund cannot be used for expenditures after it is transferred without a budget amendment.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 6003, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Matherly, Cleworth, Walley, Gatewood, Pruhs  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Huntington  
**Mayor Eberhart** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6003, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS;

YEAS: Pruhs, Gatewood, Cleworth, Matherly, Walley  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Huntington  
**Mayor Eberhart** declared Ordinance No. 6003, as Amended, ADOPTED.

- b) Ordinance No. 6004 – An Ordinance Ratifying a Labor Agreement Between the City of Fairbanks and IBEW Local 1547. Introduced by Council Member Pruhs. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING..

**Mr. Gatewood**, seconded by **Mr. Pruhs**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6004.

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

**Mr. Cleworth** asked if another ordinance would be presented to amend the budget if the IBEW ordinance was adopted. **Mayor Eberhart** confirmed that another ordinance would be presented.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6004 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Walley, Matherly, Gatewood, Pruhs, Cleworth  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Huntington  
**Mayor Eberhart** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6004 ADOPTED.

- c) Ordinance No. 6005 – An Ordinance Establishing an Incentive Bonus Program with Fairbanks Police Department for Recruitment, Hiring and Retention. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

**Mayor Eberhart** shared that after the ordinance was introduced, the Public Safety Employees Association (PSEA) indicated that the issue was a mandatory subject of bargaining and

demanded negotiations on the item. He recommended that Ordinance No. 6005 be postponed until the City could negotiate with the PSEA.

**Mr. Matherly**, seconded by **Mr. Walley**, moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6005.

**Mayor Eberhart** called for Public Testimony.

Darlene Herbert, 906 Woodlawn Road, Fairbanks – Ms. Herbert stated she did not understand the ordinance and she did not understand why an active employee would get a bonus. She stated the police officers are already being paid high wages and that she did not understand the bonus plan. Ms. Herbert stated that there are lots of people looking for work and that she does not support giving officers more money. She stated that everyone is having problems and throwing more money at officers is not a good solution for retention. She stated that the cold case victims deserve dignity and the bonus money should go toward hiring another cold case officer. Ms. Herbert asked why an administrative week off would be awarded to an officer and commented they already get enough time off. She stated that if the Council keeps throwing money at officers that they will never leave FPD which will not allow the City to hire new, fresh officers. Ms. Hebert stated that there is something is wrong with the ordinance and that she will study it more and get others community members' perspectives on the issue.

Frank Turney, 329 6th Avenue, Fairbanks – Mr. Turney requested that a Council Member give an honest break down of the ordinance.

Victor Buberger, P.O. Box 58192, Fairbanks – Mr. Buberger stated that the Council should give him a \$5,000.00 bonus to not attend a Council meeting for the rest of the year. He stated that the police officers are getting paid well enough and that they do not need bonuses. He asked exactly what the ordinance means and requested that someone give him an explanation. He stated the Council should put together money to build public restrooms. Mr. Buberger suggested that the City use the bonus money to lower the cost of garbage collection service. He stated officers make enough money and do not even work 40-hour weeks. He stated that next officers are going to ask to work 20 hour weeks, and then ask to work from home and have the City mail them paychecks. Mr. Buberger stated the Council needs to quit throwing so much money at the Police and Fire Departments.

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

**Mr. Gatewood** asked why the bonus ordinance is an item that needs to be negotiated with the union.

City Attorney Paul Ewers stated that he is not sure that it is an item that needs to be negotiated but that the City does not wish to put something forward that could cause an unnecessary dispute.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked whether Ordinance No. 6005 should be defeated or postponed.

**Mayor Eberhart** directed Mr. Cleworth's question to City Attorney Ewers. Mr. Ewers recommended that the ordinance be postponed to the March 7, 2016 meeting. He stated that should give the union enough time to review the proposed bonus program.

**Mr. Cleworth** stated that he would like to see the items discussed by the Council incorporated into an "as Amended" version when the ordinance comes back up for adoption.

**Mr. Pruhs**, seconded by **Mr. Gatewood**, moved to POSTPONE Ordinance No.6005 to the Regular City Council Meeting of March 7, 2016.

**Mayor Eberhart** asked Police Chief Randall Aragon to give a staff report on Ordinance No. 6005.

Chief Aragon stated that FPD is short staffed by six officers which makes up for 14% of FPD's staff. He stated that in 2016 he will lose three more officers to retirement, relocation and continued education. He stated that in 2017 there are five individuals scheduled for retirement and that FPD needs to attract veteran police officers. Chief Aragon stated that other agencies are paying \$10,000.00-\$15,000.00 bonuses to attract veteran officers and that the City of Fairbanks cannot afford that. He spoke to the importance of hiring experienced officers because new hires need extensive training; he added that it is not safe to have an entirely fresh police force. He stated that HR is working very hard to attract veteran officers by advertising everywhere they can. Chief Aragon stated that bonuses would come out of an unspent salary account from all the vacant positions. He pleaded for help in attracting applicants to FPD. He spoke to the difficulty in training new officers and explained how many candidates are eliminated through the background and drug testing process.

**Mr. Walley** stated that the State Troopers and Anchorage Police Department are in the same boat as the City and that they will be aggressively recruiting.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO POSTPONE ORDINANCE NO.. 6005 UNTIL THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 7, 2016 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Pruhs, Walley, Matherly, Gatewood

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Huntington

**Mayor Eberhart** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Resolution No. 4715 – A Resolution Amending the Schedule of Fees and Charges for Services by Adjusting Garbage Collection Rates. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

**Mr. Matherly**, seconded by **Mr. Gatewood** moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 4715.

**Mr. Cleworth** spoke to the Fairbanks General Code requirement to review costs yearly for services the City provides. He stated that the cost change associated with garbage service would only be going up \$0.81 per customer; he suggested not changing garbage rates in 2016.

**Mr. Pruhs** echoed Mr. Cleworth's thoughts on not raising the garbage collection rates for 2016. He stated that the Council just re-appropriated a significant amount of money from the General Fund and that it would not be right to raise each customer's garbage rate by \$1.00.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4715 AS FOLLOWS;

YEAS: None  
NAYS: Pruhs, Gatewood, Cleworth, Matherly, Walley  
ABSENT: Huntington  
**Mayor Eberhart** declared the MOTION FAILED.

- b) Resolution No. 4716 – A Resolution Re-Designating Check Signing Authority for Banking and Investment Accounts of the City of Fairbanks, Alaska. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Resolution No. 4717 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Funds from the Alaska Division of Homeland Security for the FFY2016 State Homeland Security Program. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- d) Resolution No. 4718 – A Resolution Regarding Appointments to the Deferred Compensation Committee. Introduced by Mayor Eberhart.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- e) Ordinance No. 6006 – An Ordinance Ratifying a Labor Agreement Between the City of Fairbanks and the AFL-CIO Crafts Council. Introduced by Council Member Pruhs.

**Mr. Pruhs**, seconded by **Mr. Cleworth**, moved to ADVANCE Ordinance No. 6006.

**Mr. Cleworth** asked City Attorney Ewers to clarify the effective dates of the labor contract.

Mr. Ewers explained that part of the reason for extending the contract through the end 2017 was to help the Crafts Council with the Laborer's Pension Fund rehab plan. He stated that everything will be open for discussion with the bargaining unit in the fall but that the contract would be good through December of 2017.

**Mr. Cleworth** stated he did not understand why the ordinance needs to be adopted if there is an Evergreen Clause in the contract.

Mr. Ewers stated that the agreement would help the AFL-CIO without any cost to the City.



A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADVANCE ORDINANCE NO. 6006 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Gatewood, Walley, Pruhs, Matherly, Cleworth  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Huntington  
**Mayor Eberhart** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

**COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL**

- a) Permanent Fund Review Board Meeting Minutes of November 4, 2015

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of November 4, 2015

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Re-appointment to the Building Code Review & Appeals Commission

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

**COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

**Mr. Pruhs** complimented the City Clerk's staff on dealing with a difficult member of the public and commended the Police Department for their prompt response to the call for assistance. He stated that Deputy Chief Eric Jewkes suggested to the gentleman that he come and speak at the next Regular Council Meeting about his issues. **Mr. Pruhs** stated that he worries about building security after witnessing the incident and suggested that the City get updated cameras. He commended Mayor Eberhart for the wonderful job he did of hosting the Fanano group and complimented Chief of Staff Jeff Jacobson for rapidly coming up to speed in his new position.

**Mr. Cleworth** sent well wishes to Council Member Joy Huntington and stated he hopes to see her back in action soon. He stated that he received a complaint that a City vehicle was seen at Harding Lake; he requested that the new Fire Chief not allow staff to do that. **Mr. Cleworth** spoke to the restoration of City Hall and requested that the downstairs hallway and corridor be overhauled. He requested that it be put on the Finance Committee agenda as an item of importance. He commended FPD for their negotiating abilities in tough situations and for their grace under pressure.

**Mr. Matherly** stated that he had no comments.

**Mr. Walley** stated that he had no comments.

**Mr. Gatewood** shared his appreciation for the student interns and thanked them for attending the meeting. He shared that the program will pay dividends down the road and suggested that law enforcement come up with a similar "farming" system for future recruits. **Mr. Gatewood** stated

that he is happy to hear discussion about the possibility of building a much needed sleep-off center. **Mr. Gatewood** stated Fairbanks is the only major city in Alaska that does not have a sleep-off center and that it is a community issue that needs a solution.

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

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

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

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

a) IBEW Labor Contract Negotiations

*NOTE: During the Approval of Agenda, Mr. Cleworth asked whether the Executive Session for IBEW Negotiations was necessary. City Attorney Ewers advised that the session would not be necessary unless the Ordinance No. 6004 failed. Since the ordinance was adopted, the Council did not hold an Executive Session on this item.*

b) FFU Labor Contract Negotiations


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

### ADJOURNMENT

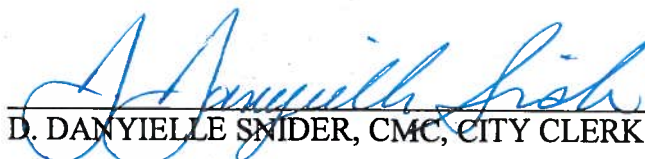
**Mr. Matherly**, seconded by **Mr. Walley**, moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

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

**Mayor Eberhart** declared the Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
JOHN EBERHART, MAYOR

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
D. DANYIELLE SMIDER, CMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: EB