



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, NOVEMBER 19, 2018  
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

---

The City Council convened at 6:30 p.m. on the above date, following a 5:30 p.m. Work Session for the Fairbanks Economic Development Corporation Annual Report & Presentation, 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:        Shoshana Kun, Seat A  
   June Rogers, Seat B  
   Kathryn Ottersten, Seat D  
   David Pruhs, Seat F

Absent:                                    Valerie Therrien, Seat C (excused)  
   Jerry Cleworth, Seat E (excused)

Also Present:                            Danielle Pensley, Deputy City Attorney  
   D. Danyielle Snider, City Clerk  
   Jeff Jacobson, Public Works Director  
   Mike Meeks, Chief of Staff  
   Patsy Bernier, Accounting Specialist  
   Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director  
   Jeff Whipple, Engineer II  
   Eric Jewkes, Police Chief  
   Mike Sanders, Housing & Homeless Coordinator  
   Ron Templeton, Assistant Fire Chief

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

**INVOCATION**

The Invocation was given by City Clerk Danyielle Snider.

**FLAG SALUTATION**

**Mayor Matherly** asked **Mr. Pruhs** to lead the Flag Salutation.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS**

Victor Buberger, P.O. Box 58192, Fairbanks – Mr. Buberger complimented Public Works for the decent job they did on snow removal. He asked why the planter boxes along Cushman Street were moved to Public Works. He asked why there are no public restrooms in the City. Mr. Buberger stated other towns have issues with alcoholism, and they have public restrooms.

Frank Turney, 1734 Lacey Street, Unit B, Fairbanks – Mr. Turney stated he was glad the planter boxes were taken off the sidewalk, and he asked how much they cost. He reported he would be having Boy Scout Troop 94 attend the next Council meeting to read the Bill of Rights, and he would bring a cake.

**Mr. Pruhs** questioned Mr. Turney about what he had read in the Clay Street Cemetery Commission meeting minutes in regard to someone having left remains on Mr. Turney’s porch. Mr. Turney stated that apparently the “cardboard man” left three bags on his porch, and it turned out that a woman’s remains were in there. He stated that the police got involved, and the remains had been stolen. He stated he hopes the remains would be returned to the family.

Hearing no more requests for comment, **Mayor Matherly** declared Citizens’ Comments closed.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA**

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

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

City Clerk Snider read the Consent Agenda into the record.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

a) Regular Meeting Minutes of July 23, 2018.

APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

**SPECIAL ORDERS**

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

Lic. #	DBA	License Type	Licensee	Premises Address
4464	Fred Meyer #224	Package Store	Fred Meyer Stores, Inc.	930 Old Steese Hwy
328	Drop In Lounge	Beverage Dispensary	N & P Enterprises, LLC	1420 S. Cushman Street

**Mr. Pruhs**, seconded by **Ms. Ottersten**, moved to WAIVE PROTEST on the Liquor License Applications for Renewal.

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

**Mayor Matherly** asked Police Chief Eric Jewkes to come forward for a staff report. Chief Jewkes stated the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD) is not recommending protest of either liquor license application for renewal. He stated that calls to Fred Meyer are not always related to the liquor license.

**Ms. Rogers** asked if they do regular checks at both locations; Chief Jewkes replied that they will continue to do regular checks at both properties.

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

YEAS: Rogers, Pruhs, Ottersten  
NAYS: Kun  
ABSENT: Therrien, Cleworth  
**Mayor Matherly** declared to MOTION CARRIED.

### **MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT**

#### a) Special Reports

**Mayor Matherly** asked Public Works Director Jeff Jacobson to come forward for a staff report on snow removal and the planter boxes. Mr. Jacobson stated the planters are not conducive to snow removal, so he has them taken to the Public Works facility during the winter. He stated there are extra planters, and they use them for a variety of reasons. Mr. Jacobson gave an update on City snow removal; he explained that there was a slow start because three laborers were not properly dispatched and started behind schedule. Mr. Jacobson distributed the 2019 plow schedule and emergency plow schedule. He stated he is available if anyone has any questions.

**Mr. Pruhs** encouraged Mr. Jacobson to keep up the good work.

Chief of Staff Mike Meeks stated he would like to finalize the legislative priorities list and have it sent out to everyone in the upcoming week.

**Mayor Matherly** spoke of his vacation and stated that he is happy he lives in a community that is working to engage homeless folks. He spoke of the good that is being done by Mike Sanders, the Housing & Homeless Coordinator. **Mayor Matherly** wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving and mentioned that Costco would be opening the following day.

Chief Jewkes stated that there would be a police presence for the Costco opening and that Costco has been very engaging. He stated that they are covering the bill for FPD services.

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

**Ms. Ottersten** stated she had no comments.

**Mr. Pruhs** stated he had no comments.

**Ms. Rogers** stated she had no comments.

**Ms. Kun** stated she had no comments.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6089 – An Ordinance to Amend Fairbanks General Code Chapter 46, Article IV, Offenses Involving Nuisances, by Enacting Division 4, Illegal Campsites. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

**Mr. Pruhs**, seconded by **Ms. Ottersten**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6089.

Frank Turney – Mr. Turney asked how many illegal campsites there are in the City of Fairbanks. He wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving. He stated he has spent some time with local homeless people and that the community of Fairbanks has a big, welcoming heart.

Victor Buberger – Mr. Buberger stated he has a friend who lives in one of the homeless camps, and he has told him stories about all his stuff getting stolen. Mr. Buberger stated he is thankful that he is not homeless and having to find shelter.

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

**Mayor Matherly** asked Mike Sanders to come forward and speak about the homeless campsites. Mr. Sanders stated there are many campsites around Fairbanks and that in January 2018 there were reportedly 48 people living in campsites. Mr. Sanders stated the purpose of the ordinance is to ensure public safety. He stated that some people do not want any assistance with housing, and they choose to stay at the campsites.

**Mayor Matherly** stated he did a ride along with an FPD officer, and they encountered a man who burrowed a hole into the ground to use for a bed. **Mayor Matherly** stated the cold weather makes it very dangerous for those staying in campsites. Mr. Sanders reported there are typically multiple people sleeping in tents when it gets cold.

**Ms. Kun** asked Mr. Sanders about the reasons people give for refusing help and resources. Mr. Sanders stated it is an individual choice, but often times addiction or mental illness is a factor.

**Ms. Rogers** asked Mr. Sanders to share the story Rodney Gaskins shared at a recent meeting. Mr. Sanders told the story of how Mr. Gaskins visited a homeless camp, announced his presence, and left food, supplies, and business cards there. He shared that the next day the person from the camp returned the supplies to Mr. Gaskins and told him not to return to his campsite.

Public Works Director Jeff Jacobson stated that his department works very closely with the homeless population. He spoke to key elements of the ordinance relating to the timeframe for providing notice at a campsite.

Chief Jewkes stated he is available for questions and that his officers have been dealing with campsites for years. He stated that now there will be legal backing for such dealings. He stated his office does not go looking for campsites, but when one is reported to them they investigate.

**Ms. Ottersten** asked if the FPD has problems with people leaving their pets behind at campsites. Chief Jewkes stated that is not a problem they have encountered, but there was a man camping

near the Rescue Mission who had a service animal. He stated it was an unsafe situation that had to be dealt with.

**Ms. Kun**, seconded by **Ms. Ottersten**, moved to AMEND the fourth whereas of Ordinance No. 6089 by changing the word “designed” to “designated” and by striking the words “drug and alcohol use and other”.

**Ms. Ottersten** thanked Mayor Matherly and the preparers of the ordinance.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND THE FOURTH WHEREAS OF ORDINANCE NO. 6089 BY CHANGING THE WORD “DESIGNED” TO “DESIGNATED” AND BY STRIKING THE WORDS “DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE AND OTHER” AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Rogers, Ottersten, Pruhs, Kun  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Therrien, Cleworth  
**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6089, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Ottersten, Rogers, Kun, Pruhs  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: Cleworth, Therrien  
**Mayor Matherly** declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6089, as Amended, ADOPTED.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- a) Resolution No. 4853 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Apply for Funds from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant Program. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

- a) Committee Reports

Hotel/Motel Discretionary Fund Committee – **Ms. Rogers** stated there was a meeting earlier in the day, and the calendar has been set for the season. She thanked Controller Margarita Bell for all the work she has done for the Committee.

Polaris Work Group – **Mr. Pruhs** stated the group met at Senator Lisa Murkowski’s office, and they are pressing forward with avenues to fund the project.

## WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL

- a) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of September 5, 2018

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Clay Street Cemetery Commission Meeting Minutes of October 3, 2018

ACCEPTED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

## COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

**Ms. Kun** encouraged everyone to look into the history of Thanksgiving and to shop local for the holidays. She asked people to be mindful of others during the holidays as suicide rates increase.

**Ms. Rogers** reported that she attended the AML Conference where she heard good things about the things happening in Fairbanks with regard to homelessness. She spoke to issues of homelessness and to the perception that living with a large family is a cultural thing. She stated she grew up in a home where many of her family members lived together, and when family came to visit they were always welcome too. **Ms. Rogers** stated she is glad to welcome Costco to town and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving. She thanked Mayor Matherly for his sincere letter to the editor in the newspaper.

**Mr. Pruhs** shared how thankful he is for what the Rescue Mission does for the community. He stated he will be washing dishes for two hours on Thursday at the soup kitchen at the Immaculate Conception Church.

**Ms. Ottersten** stated that November 20 is Transgender Day of Remembrance and spoke to the high rate of murders and suicides that occur in that community. She shared that she recently lost a friend in New York to suicide.

**Mr. Pruhs**, seconded by **Ms. Kun**, moved to ENTER Executive Session for the purpose of discussing PSEA, FFU, and IBEW Labor Negotiations.

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

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

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Ms. Kun**, seconded by **Ms. Ottersten**, moved to ADJOURN the meeting.

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

**Mayor Matherly** declared the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.



---

JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



---

D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, CMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: EB