



FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES, MAY 20, 2019
FAIRBANKS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
800 CUSHMAN STREET, FAIRBANKS, ALASKA

The City Council convened at 6:30 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 Jim Matherly presiding and with the following Council Members in attendance:

Council Members Present: Shoshana Kun, Seat A
 June Rogers, Seat B
 Valerie Therrien, Seat C
 Kathryn Ottersten, Seat D
 Jerry Cleworth, Seat E

Absent: David Pruhs, Seat F (excused)

Also Present: Paul Ewers, City Attorney
 Emily Braniff, Deputy City Clerk
 Jeff Jacobson, Public Works Director
 Mike Meeks, Chief of Staff
 Kristi Merideth, Dispatch Center Manager
 Angela Foster-Snow, HR Director
 Dan Welborn, Acting Police Chief

Deputy City Clerk Emily Braniff read the Mission Statement of the City of Fairbanks.

INVOCATION

The Invocation was given by Deputy Clerk Braniff.

FLAG SALUTATION

Mayor Matherly asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Frank Turney, 1434 Lacey Street, Unit B, Fairbanks – Mr. Turney stated he had hoped the new Police Chief would be present. He stated he hopes there will be a Council Work Session with the Chief on non-lethal weapon use at the Fairbanks Police Department (FPD). He stated FPD was called a couple weeks ago to the AK Buffet, and in correspondence from the City, the person involved in the incident was referred to as a “sovereign citizen.” He stated that the term “sovereign citizen” has been used to refer to terrorists, and he stated the man involved with the AK Buffet incident is not a terrorist. He stated he was happy to see volunteers at both the Birch Hill and Clay Street cemeteries. He spoke to the possibility of running for office in the upcoming local election.

Victor Buberger, PO Box 58192, Fairbanks – Mr. Buberger asked about the number of FPD officers who have relatives within the department. He suggested that may be a reason why the department

struggles to become fully-staffed. He spoke to other police departments years ago that did not allow a husband and a wife to work within the same department. He spoke to the need for public restrooms in the City of Fairbanks and stated it would benefit tourism. He mentioned the clean and safe service that used to tend to downtown Fairbanks.

David van den Berg, Downtown Association of Fairbanks – Mr. van den Berg stated he is the Executive Director of the Downtown Association. He stated that Festival Fairbanks managed the Clean Team, the former downtown service Mr. Buberger referred to. He offered support for Resolution No. 4879 and expressed hope that the project would include a traffic study to look at the feasibility of 5th Avenue as a two-way street. He spoke in support of Resolution Nos. 4880 and 4881. He reported on the success of the recent block party downtown.

Mr. Cleworth stated his recollection from the tour of 5th Avenue the prior year is that, because parts of 5th Avenue are narrow, the street would be only one lane with widened sidewalks; he asked Mr. van den Berg if that was his recollection also. Mr. van den Berg replied that the idea of the traffic study came out at that meeting, and because the street is currently two, one-way lanes, it may be a good idea to see whether it is feasible to make it a two-way street.

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Cleworth, seconded by **Mx. Ottersten**, moved to APPROVE the Agenda and Consent Agenda.

Mx. Ottersten, seconded by **Ms. Rogers**, moved to AMEND the Agenda by adding Hand-carried Resolution No. 4881 to New Business.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA BY ADDING HAND-CARRIED RESOLUTION NO. 4881 TO NEW BUSINESS AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien, Kun, Cleworth, Ottersten, Rogers

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Pruhs

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED.

Mayor Matherly called for objection to APPROVING the Agenda, as Amended, and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

Deputy Clerk Braniff read the Consent Agenda into the record.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS AND REPORT

a) Special Reports

Scott McCrea, Director of Tourism at Explore Fairbanks – Mr. McCrea spoke to the various markets Explore Fairbanks works in and to their working relationship with travel agents. He

reported on the growth of winter domestic travel and to various tour activities in Fairbanks during the winter months. He stated Explore Fairbanks recently hosted travel agents and tour operators from out-of-state, and a follow-up survey of their time spent in Fairbanks was positive and reflected an appreciation for the people they met. He thanked the partners involved with the tour. He stated that more tours will occur this summer with folks in the European market.

Mayor Matherly acknowledged the police Memorial Day event that occurred on the previous Friday. He stated Firehouse Subs recently presented the City with \$33,880 in grant dollars for Fire Department equipment. He congratulated all the high school graduates in the area. **Mayor Matherly** encouraged folks to download a new life-saving mobile app called PulsePoint.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Ms. Therrien stated she had no comments.

Ms. Rogers stated she had no comments.

Ms. Kun thanked Mr. van den Berg for giving an update, and she thanked Mr. Buberger for speaking again about public restrooms.

Mx. Ottersten stated they have discussed non-lethal weapons with Council Member Kun, and they intend to have the same conversation with Chief Reeder.

Mr. Cleworth stated there was a presentation some time ago by former Chief Jewkes to the City Council regarding non-lethal weapons. He expressed interest in having another presentation about the issue soon with the new Chief. **Mr. Cleworth** stated, in reference to the 5th Avenue project, there are compromises in street design. He stated that streets in Fairbanks can be challenging because they are not always uniform in width. He stated he is happy that 5th Avenue is being addressed because the sidewalks are horrible, and it is not accessible.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance No. 6103, as Amended – An Ordinance Authorizing and Directing Retention for Public Purpose Upon Tax Foreclosure Lots 8 and 9, Block 3, Charles Slater Subdivision. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. POSTPONED from the Regular Meeting of May 13, 2019. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

The motion to ADOPT was made by Ms. Therrien, seconded by Mx. Ottersten, at the Regular Meeting of May 13, 2019. The motion is on the floor.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Mx. Ottersten**, moved to AMEND Ordinance No. 6103, as Amended, by substituting the amended fiscal note to the ordinance.

Mayor Matherly called for objection to the motion to SUBSTITUTE the fiscal note and, hearing none, so ORDERED.

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

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6103, AS AMENDED, AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Therrien, Rogers, Ottersten, Kun, Cleworth

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Pruhs

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6103, as Amended, ADOPTED.

- b) Ordinance No. 6106 – An Ordinance Amending the 2019 Operating and Capital Budgets for the Second Time. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Mx. Ottersten, seconded by **Ms. Kun**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6106.

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

Mr. Cleworth spoke to the change to the salary of the Chief of Police. He explained that the City can make offers within a range of 90% – 110% of the regular wage for a position, depending on the qualifications and experience of the candidate. He expressed frustration that the amount in the budget amendment exceeds that range, and the amendment is coming after the Chief has already been hired. He stated that he will still support the ordinance.

Ms. Rogers acknowledged and agreed with Mr. Cleworth’s comments. She stated, however, that she feels it is necessary to demonstrate the City’s confidence in the new Chief. She indicated that the community is fortunate to have her.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6106 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Rogers, Ottersten, Therrien, Cleworth, Kun

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Pruhs

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6106 ADOPTED.

- c) Ordinance No. 6107 – An Ordinance Amending Fairbanks General Code Chapter 26, Article II, Alarm System. Introduced by Mayor Matherly. SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING.

Ms. Therrien, seconded by **Ms. Kun**, moved to ADOPT Ordinance No. 6107.

Frank Turney – Mr. Turney questioned whether there is a lot of citizen abuse of the alarm system. He wondered what type of notification systems would be available in Fairbanks in an emergency situation similar to the recent Anchorage earthquake.

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

Ms. Therrien explained that the ordinance does not pertain to citizens making false alarms.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 6107 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Kun, Ottersten, Therrien, Cleworth, Rogers

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Pruhs

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Ordinance No. 6107 ADOPTED.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Resolution No. 4879 – A Resolution Authorizing Matching Funds and Execution of the Maintenance Agreement for the 5th Avenue Reconstruction Project. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- b) Resolution No. 4880 – A Resolution Authorizing the City of Fairbanks to Accept Funds from the Alaska DOT&PF for the Alaska Transportation Alternative Grant Program. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

PASSED and APPROVED on the CONSENT AGENDA.

- c) Hand-Carried Resolution No. 4881 – A Resolution Awarding a Contract to NC Machinery to Provide Snow Blowers in the Amount of \$314,345. Introduced by Mayor Matherly.

Mx. Ottersten, seconded by **Ms. Therrien**, moved to APPROVE Resolution No. 4881.

Public Works Director Jeff Jacobson stated his department has been working with the manufacturer for several months trying to finalize and price out the modifications. He indicated that the issue is time-sensitive because they need to receive the equipment before the winter season. He explained that some of the modified components were used by the department by way of equipment rental the prior season. He briefly reviewed the cost breakdown of the equipment.

Mx. Ottersten asked about warranty coverage. Mr. Jacobson replied that there is a one-year, bumper-to-bumper warranty on the blower, and a two-year warranty on the engine from the flywheel to the radiator.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN ON THE MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION NO. 4881 AS FOLLOWS:

YEAS: Cleworth, Rogers, Kun, Ottersten, Therrien

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Pruhs

Mayor Matherly declared the MOTION CARRIED and Resolution No. 4881 APPROVED.

COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Mr. Cleworth thanked Deputy Clerk Braniff for sitting in for the Clerk.

Mx. Ottersten stated they had no comments.

Ms. Kun thanked service members and first responders with the approach of Memorial Day. She stated it is a time to be with family and keep one another safe. She spoke briefly to the sense of community that Fairbanks offers. She mentioned some upcoming community events.

Ms. Rogers referenced a recent Letter to the Editor in the Fairbanks Daily News Miner which encouraged drivers to drive safely. She asked drivers to be cautious and considerate of pedestrians, especially children.

Ms. Therrien reminded everyone of the Hospice plant sale and fundraiser on Saturday, May 25 at 8:30 a.m. She acknowledged the sacredness of Memorial Day.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Ewers stated that, as a bicycle rider, he would advise other bicyclists to obey the rules and be doubly cautious.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor Matherly declared the meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.



JIM MATHERLY, MAYOR

ATTEST:



D. DANYIELLE SNIDER, CMC, CITY CLERK

Transcribed by: DS